

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WEEKLY REPORT

Weekly Highlights At-A-Glance

FEDERAL – Legislative

Leasing Royalty Relief. On May 21, dozens of U.S. House of Representatives Republicans, including top GOP leaders, urged the Interior Department to accelerate royalty relief for oil and gas companies operating on federal land and waters, arguing that the agency's current case-by-case approach is insufficient. "We appreciate the work you have done to encourage energy producers, both onshore and offshore, to apply for royalty relief on a lease-by-lease basis. However, we encourage you to take additional action to streamline and expedite this process as soon as possible. We are concerned that the current process is unnecessarily onerous and lacks the clarity needed to provide swift relief," wrote the legislators. The group also calls on the Interior Department to allow companies to apply for several leases in a single application, impose a timeline for agency action on those petitions and change its calculations for determining if royalty relief is warranted. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Regulatory

BLM Onshore Suspension of Operations and Royalty Reductions Guidance. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released guidance for oil and gas companies seeking royalty reductions or suspension of operations related to COVID-19 impacts. The announcements include *Steps for Lessees to Apply for Oil and Gas Suspensions under "force majeure" due to COVID-19* ([Read more](#)); and *Steps for Operator to Apply for Temporary Oil and Natural Royalty Rate Reduction (RRR) due to COVID-19* ([Read more](#)). The BLM guidance comes on the heels of outreach by federal legislators seeking this relief for the oil and gas industry. [Read more.](#)

BLM Royalty Reductions – Utah. In keeping with the above, the BLM has already granted at least 76 petitions to cut royalty payments for oil and natural gas produced on public land in Utah. The approvals temporarily lower royalty rates so that oil and gas companies can pay the federal government as little as 2.5% of the value of oil and natural gas extracted from the tracts, instead of the usual 12.5% rate. The BLM has promised to expedite reviews of royalty relief petitions for onshore leases, especially for companies arguing production from existing wells would be halted without it. "Because of the pandemic, operators are not able to maintain sufficient employees at drilling sites to allow for continuing drilling operations," according to a BLM memo issued to explain [the new royalty reduction guidelines](#). "As a result of these considerations, many operators are not able to operate wells economically or as a practical matter and may find it necessary to simply plug and abandon a significant number of producing wells unless they receive financial relief." [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Judicial

Delaware River Basin Hydraulic Fracturing Ban – Third Circuit (Pennsylvania). On May 19, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, on appeal from the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, tossed a lower court ruling which prohibited three Republican state senators from intervening in a dispute over natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin. In the case, *Wayne Land and Mineral Group, LLC v. Delaware River Basin Commission* (Case No. 19-2354), Wayne – which owns approximately 180 acres in the region, some in the Basin, and intended to drill for natural gas – sued the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) in 2016, claiming the agency which placed a

moratorium on drilling in the Basin doesn't have the authority to assert control over natural gas drilling there. The DRBC, which includes the governors of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, has been moving to permanently ban hydraulic fracturing in the Basin. In this matter, the lower court rejected a bid by Republican state Senators Joseph B. Scarnati III, Lisa Baker, and Gene Yaw to intervene on behalf of Wayne, saying the lawmakers failed to show a "significantly protectable interest in the litigation." But, according to the appellate court, the lower court failed to determine whether the senators had standing to intervene and has thus sent the case back to the district court to resolve the issue instead of dismissing the legislators' petition out of hand. [Read more.](#)

BLM and NPS Appointments – Washington, DC.

On May 11, environmentalists filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the temporary appointments of acting leaders at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS). The complaint in [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility v. Bernhardt](#) (Case No. not yet docketed) argues that repeated tenure extensions of William Perry Pendley as Acting BLM Director and David Vela as Acting NPS Director are unconstitutional and violate applicable federal statutes. The suit adds that Pendley, in particular, "lacks the qualifications" to lead the BLM. Although the Interior Department has yet to file a formal answer to the complaint, an agency spokesman called the lawsuit "baseless." [Read more.](#)

Leasing – Kentucky. On February 18, in *Back v. Chesapeake Operating, LLC* (Case No. 7:16-192-KCC), the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky addressed a dispute over whether Chesapeake was required to pay royalties based on the sale price of gas at the time it is sold or a fixed 1/8 royalty. Chesapeake moved to dismiss the case on the grounds that the written lease agreement of its predecessor provided for the 1/8 royalty and also Kentucky law forbids any side agreements as supported by the lease's integration clause. The Court denied the motion at this early stage and held,

"It is true that the complaint does not state who modified the leases, when they were modified, or how. Nor does it state whether there was any consideration for the modified royalty rate or what that consideration was. Back will have to prove all of these facts at some point in this litigation." [Read more.](#)

STATE – Legislative

Notaries – Louisiana. (Update to 4/12/20 Weekly Report) On May 14, SB 472 was referred to the House after passing the Senate. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Jay Luneau (D), provides for electronic notarial acts and the recognition of such instruments. [Read more.](#)

Trusts; Mineral Interests – Louisiana. (Update to 3/2/20 Weekly Report) On May 11, HB 123 was referred to the Senate after passing the House. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Gregory Miller (R), provides for the allocation of receipts and expenses to income and principal in trusts, and specifically regarding mineral interests, current law provides for the allocation of proceeds of mineral interests and allocates the royalty payments associated with oil and gas leases in the amount of 27.5% to principal and 72.5% to income. The bill changes current law by providing that royalty payments shall be allocated in accordance with what is reasonable and equitable. The proposed law further provides that allocation of 90% to principal and 10% to income is presumed to be reasonable and equitable but clarifies that other allocations are not necessarily unreasonable or inequitable. The proposed law also abolishes the open mines doctrine as it relates to a trust. [Read more.](#)

Partition Actions – Louisiana. (Update to 3/16/20 Weekly Report) On May 21, HB 594 passed both chambers. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Alan Seabaugh (R), amends existing law to provide for partitions by private sale; provides for absentee co-owners, and provides other guidance relative to these partition actions. [Read more.](#)

Energy Industry Support – Louisiana. *(Update to 3/16/20 Weekly Report)* On May 11, SB 386 was referred to the House after passing the Senate. The bill, introduced by Sen. R.L. Allain (R), would create the Commission for Louisiana's Energy, Environment, and Restoration within the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of supporting programs designed to demonstrate to the general public the importance of Louisiana oil and natural gas exploration, production, and the service industry; encouraging the wise and efficient use of energy; promoting environmentally sound production methods and technologies; developing existing supplies of Louisiana's oil and natural gas resources; supporting research and educational activities concerning the oil and gas exploration and production industry; and causing remediation of historical oilfield environmental problems. [Read more.](#)

Tax Filing – Louisiana. *(Update to 4/12/20 Weekly Report)* On May 12, SB 498 was referred to the House after passing the Senate. The bill, sponsored by Sen. R.L. Bret Allain (R), would provide extensions for tax filing and payments in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

State Natural Resources and Lands – Michigan. On May 19, Rep. Gary Howell (R) introduced HB 5777. The bill would amend existing law regarding the number of days required for certain procedures regarding surplus land transactions and changes some of the text regarding disposing of, leasing, acquiring, or developing lands more than 80 acres in size. [Read more.](#)

Notarial Acts – Mississippi. *(Update to 2/24/20 Weekly Report)* On May 11, HB 1156 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee after passing the House. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Shane Aguirre (R), would revise notarial law to define certain terms, set electronic documents provisions, and provides for the procedures and processes related to the performance of notarial acts. [Read more.](#)

Severance Tax Payments – Mississippi. *(Update*

to 3/2/20 Weekly Report) On May 12, HB 977 was referred to the Senate Energy and Finance Committees after passing the House. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Brent Powell (R), amends existing law to change the severance tax payment due date. This bill mirrors Senate companion bill [SB 2761](#), which was introduced in February by Sen. Joel Carter, Jr. (R). [Read more.](#)

Partition Actions; Future Interests; Cotenants; Joint Tenants – North Carolina. On May 14, bipartisan bill SB 729 passed its first reading following introduction. The bill makes certain conforming amendments to existing partition law and also provides that when title to oil, gas or mineral interests in real property has been separated in ownership from the title to the surface of the property, a tenant could partition the oil, gas or mineral interests, distinct from the surface without joining the owner of the surface. A tenant in common or joint tenant of the surface of the property would be able to partition surface distinct from the mineral interest without joining the owner of the surface. Further, in "a partition of oil, gas, or mineral interests of real property, when the court determines any of the following, the court shall order a sale of the oil, gas, or mineral interests and allocate the proceeds according to the interests of the tenants in common or joint tenants: (1) It is in the best interest of the cotenants of the oil, gas, or mineral interests to sell the interests. (2) Actual partition of the oil, gas, or mineral interests would cause injury to some or all of the cotenants of the oil, gas, or mineral interests." [Read more.](#)

Tax Amnesty – Ohio. On May 20, the House unanimously passed [HB 609](#), a bipartisan tax amnesty bill. The measure establishes a three-month amnesty period from January 1 through March 31, 2021 during which taxpayers owing past-due state taxes and certain fees may discharge the debt by paying the delinquent tax or fee without having to pay the penalty and accrued interest normally due. Under the bill, amnesty from additional fees and interest for unpaid taxes would be granted for those coming forward with unpaid bills between January 1

and March 31 in 2021. The program applies to a slate of tax types including personal income taxes, commercial activity taxes; state sales and use taxes; institutions taxes; public utility excise taxes; and natural gas consumption taxes, among others. The proposed amnesty program would apply only to unpaid taxes that the Department of Taxation is not already pursuing, said Rep. Derek Merrin (R) during last week's floor debate. He added that any tax debt currently covered by a letter of assessment, investigation, or audit "can't escape." [Read more.](#)

Produced Water; Wells – Oklahoma. (*Update to 3/30/20 Weekly Report*) On May 19, SB 1875 was signed into law by Gov. Kevin Stitt (R). The Act, sponsored by Sen. Dave Rader (R), creates the Oil and Gas Water Recycling and Reuse Act. The measure declares that the operator and nonoperators of the well are the sole owners of the produced water and waste as it relates to oil and gas production. Owners of the produced water shall be entitled to proceeds for any of the uses of the produced water and waste. Owners are also responsible for storing, transporting, and handling produced water. If the owners transfer the water to a person or entity to process the water, such water will be the property of the transferee until such time as the water is disposed of or transferred to another person. Current owners of the water are not liable in tort for consequences of subsequent use of recycled water or treated constituents if they follow procedures outlined in the measure. The Act is effective November 1, 2020. [Read more.](#)

STATE – Regulatory

Economic Recovery – Louisiana. On May 8, the Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force – a private sector group created by the Louisiana legislature to advise on economic recovery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic – [presented its recommendations in its Phase 1 Report](#) to the Louisiana House Ways and Means Committee for lawmakers to consider in the regular session that ends June 1. Those recommendations include multiple tax incentives as well as protecting businesses and healthcare

providers from being held liable when people might be exposed to the coronavirus, except when there is "gross negligence or willful misconduct." It also would postpone businesses' contributions to the state's unemployment fund, and it would prohibit "unfunded mandates" such as requiring businesses to supply employees with personal protective equipment. The recommendations also include measures desired by business groups before the pandemic, such as ending lawsuits by coastal parishes against oil and gas companies, enacting measures discouraging "frivolous" lawsuits to bring down car insurance rates, and reversing changes made by Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) to the state's largest tax incentive, the Industrial Tax Exemption Program. For background, on April 17, 2020, Louisiana Speaker of the House Clay Schexnayder (R) and Senate President Patrick Page Cortez (R) announced the establishment of the Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force, which is comprised of more than sixty members of the private sector representing a multitude of industries and interests, including healthcare, hospitality, food and beverage, oil and gas, construction, trucking, manufacturing, banking, utilities, and a wide variety of small business owners, as well as leaders from economic development organizations across the state. [Read more.](#)

Production Cuts; Well Shut-Ins – Oklahoma.

(*Update to 4/27/20 Weekly Report*) On May 11, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) [held a public meeting](#) to consider a call for production cuts amidst the COVID-19 oil slump. ([You may view the archived meeting here](#)) The meeting came at the request of the Oklahoma Energy Producers Alliance and supporting companies who filed an application seeking production controls. The application argues there is no correlation in Oklahoma between what producers in the state are getting and its actual value, and further asserts the cost to recover crude oil for many operators exceeds current value, which statutorily constitutes waste under Oklahoma law. "Crude oil waste, the application states, adversely impacts royalty owners, working interest owners, the operators themselves and Oklahoma, which gets

much of its revenue from gross production taxes and is the state's largest mineral owner. The organization and its supporting companies ask in their application that the commission adjust, modify, amend, set or establish allowables for Oklahoma crude oil production or to take other steps it deems appropriate to prevent its waste." However, ["opponents of prorationing"](#), including the American Petroleum Institute, Marathon, Occidental and Chevron, argue that the government should let the marketplace determine oil production, and not try to manipulate output." [Read more](#). For background, on April 22, the OCC issued an emergency order allowing operators to shut-in or curtail oil production in wells to prevent economic waste. "There was no way for Oklahoma and other U.S. producers to anticipate and plan for up to 30 million barrels per day of consumption to disappear within just a few weeks," said OCC Commissioner Dana Murphy. The order allows oil companies to "consider their unprofitable production economic waste, allowing oil and gas producers with money-losing wells to retain leases that could otherwise be voided if they halted output." [Read more](#). Although the OCC heard more than five hours of testimony on May 11, the regulators have not yet taken any vote on the matter and "did not set a date or a plan for any future decisions." [Read more](#).

STATE – Judicial

Permitting; State Regulations – California. In a blow to environmental activists, on April 8, the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, on appeal from the Superior Court of Kern County, affirmed a lower court decision upholding well permits. In the case, the plaintiffs challenged the issuance of 213 permits to drill new oil wells within the South Belridge oil field by the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), now known as the Geologic Energy Management Division. According to the complaint, DOGGR failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when it issued each of the individual permits because, allegedly, no exemption was available and DOGGR failed in each instance to

conduct any environmental review. The court disagreed, holding, "Under the narrow facts of this case, including DOGGR's adoption of specific field rules applicable to drilling wells in the South Belridge oil field, we hold that DOGGR's approvals to drill the new wells in question were ministerial in nature. As will be seen, the field rules, understood in light of foundational regulatory provisions and supplemented by a technical manual referenced in the field rules themselves, constituted fixed objective standards that delineated the technical specifications for drilling new wells at that particular oil field. Thus, DOGGR's role in approving the subject new wells—wells that DOGGR acknowledged were 'routine'—was simply to confirm whether the proposals conformed to those fixed objective standards. As such, the unique scenario that was presented here fit the CEQA definition of what constitutes ministerial decision-making. Accordingly, the judgment of the trial court is affirmed." [Read more](#).

Oil and Gas Development Zones – Pennsylvania. (*Update to 12/9/19 Weekly Report*) On May 13, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court [denied an appeal](#) by an environmentalist group plaintiff over whether Westmoreland County township's zoning rules properly deemed the effects of drilling and hydraulically fracturing a gas well as "temporary" and thus required a different level of scrutiny over such a well. The appellate court held in part, "because evidence of stage duration and of modest impacts during long-term production provides a sufficient factual basis upon which to distinguish the temporary industrial-type impacts during the much shorter preproduction stages from the incremental impacts during the majority lifespan of a [fracking] well. There is no abuse of discretion in affording less weight to evidence of temporary impacts." Following their loss at both the trial and appellate stages, Protect PT then filed an appeal to the state Supreme Court. For background, on November 14, 2019, the appellate Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania issued its opinion in *Protect PT v. Pennsylvania Township Zoning Hearing Board* (Case No. 1632 CD 2018), in which the environmental group challenged the constitutionality of the Mineral

Extraction Overlay (MEO) District which permits unconventional natural gas development (UNGD) in specific areas. The Court upheld the trial court decision against the environmentalists finding that “the trial court rejected Protect PT’s argument that the MEO District allows for UNGD in the majority of the Township’s residential areas. The court noted the Township made a great effort to develop and refine the Zoning Ordinance to provide for UNGD only in specifically delineated areas. In considering the setbacks and other required considerations,” UNGD could properly take place in approximately 9.46% of the Township. “Given the Township’s thorough analysis of the particulars of oil and gas development evidenced by the Zoning Ordinance’s many drafts and revisions, and the countless public meetings from 2010 through 2016, the trial court determined that the Zoning Ordinance provides for an exceedingly heightened level of protection for neighboring property owners.” Further, the Court held “the Zoning Ordinance properly balances the rights of citizens to benefit economically from UNGD, which helps them sustain their agricultural-based livelihoods, with the interests of the general public by adopting an extensive regulatory scheme far beyond that imposed on any other use. The Zoning Ordinance addresses issues such as minimum lot size, required yards, setbacks, wastewater, health and safety, access routes, erosion and sediment control, security, site reclamation, road use, and compliance with the [Environmental Rights Amendment] ERA. Also, because the Zoning Ordinance regulates UNGD as a special exception, the Township can impose additional conditions.” In sum, the Court held that “Protect PT failed to establish that UNGD posed any substantial actual risk to the environment or health of Township residents.” [Read more.](#)

Rule Against Perpetuities; Overriding Royalties; Leasing – Texas. On May 15, the Texas Supreme Court issued its long-awaited opinion in [Yowell v. Granite Operating Company](#) (Case No. 18-0841) regarding whether an overriding royalty interest (ORRI) applied to new leases, rather than merely to extensions or renewals of existing leases and if so,

even if such a finding violated the Rule Against Perpetuities could it nevertheless be deemed valid in Texas by a court applying the state reformation statute. Specifically on appeal before the Texas Supreme Court was: (1) whether a reserved ORRI in a lease that includes an anti-washout provision extending the interest to new leases violates the Rule Against Perpetuities (the Rule); (2) whether Texas Property Code Section 5.043 mandates judicial reformation of a commercial instrument creating a property interest that violates the Rule; (3) whether an indemnity agreement covers a particular suit; and (4) whether sufficient evidence supports the appellate attorneys’ fees awarded. The appellate court held that the ORRI in new leases violated the Rule and was not subject to reformation under the Property Code. Here, the Texas Supreme Court reversed the appellate court regarding the validity of the ORRI and the applicability of the state reformation statute. While the Texas Supreme Court noted that the ORRI is a real property interest that violates the Rule because it was not certain to “vest, if at all, within twenty-one years after the death of some life or lives in being at the time of the conveyance” as a new lease may have never been executed, the ORRI shall be reformed by a court to conform with the creators’ intent to make it valid in accordance with [Section 5.043 of the Texas Property Code](#). On other grounds, the Texas Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court’s judgment on the issues of indemnity for successor assignees and attorneys’ fees. For background, on October 4, 2019, the Texas Supreme Court agreed to review this case addressing the extent to which “anti-washout” provisions can prevent ORRIs from lapsing when the lessee of an oil and gas interest enters into a new lease for the same assets. On July 26, 2018, the Texas Court of Appeals, Seventh District, addressed for the first time whether anti-washout provisions could extend existing ORRIs to completely new leases. The Court of Appeals rejected this argument, finding that anti-washout provisions cannot extend ORRIs to a completely new lease—which in this case contained materially different terms and different lessees—when there is any uncertainty as to when the interest in the new lease would vest. The Court of

Appeals rested its decision on the Rule Against Perpetuities which holds that “no interest is valid unless it must vest, if at all, within twenty-one years after the death of some life or lives in being at the time of the conveyance.” Because (1) the underlying lease was of indeterminate duration and (2) the time between the expiration of the underlying lease and the creation of a new lease was also an indeterminate period, the Court of Appeals held that the anti-washout provision at issue violated the Rule and was void. The ORRI owners then sought review from the Texas Supreme Court, which was granted. [Read more.](#)

State Leasing; Well Bonds – Wyoming. On April 2, in *Black Diamond Energy of Delaware, Inc. v. Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission* (Case Nos. S-19-0018; S-19-0128), the Wyoming Supreme Court addressed a dispute over the forfeiture of a blanket bond. The Commission argued that the challenge to the validity of the Commission’s order forfeiting the blanket bond was invalid because Black Diamond brought their claim in court and the Commission claimed the “only avenue of relief to challenge the Commission’s order was to file a petition for review with the district court within 30 days of the order under Wyoming Rule of Appellate Procedure 12.04(a). Because it did not do so, the Commission argued the district court lacked subject matter jurisdiction.” The district court granted the Commission’s motion to dismiss. It agreed with the Commission that it lacked jurisdiction over the matter. The Supreme Court affirmed the consolidated case dismissals under different grounds related to administrative procedures but clarified that for one of the cases, the dismissal was made without prejudice leaving open the possibility of a future complaint. [Read more.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

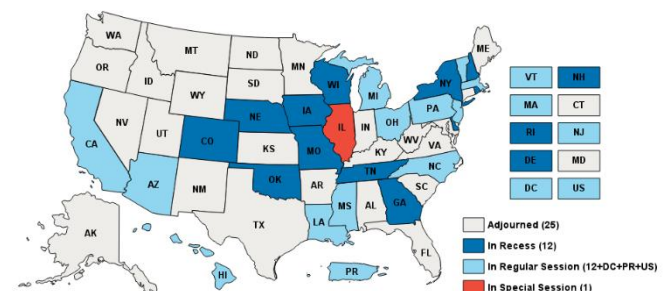
► **Industry experts are bullish on oil and gas.** In a recent *Forbes* article, Bill Gilmer, director of the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the University of Houston’s Bauer College of Business, says he “sees

an industry that’s poised to roar back to life as soon as demand returns and inventories clear. This is not a speculative bust like the 1980s or 2015-16, with the price of oil falling from \$110 per barrel,” according to Gilmer, who expects prices to return to near \$60 or \$65 per barrel by 2022. “It is a severe, but relatively short-lived, virus-driven event.” Echoing Gilmer’s predictions, analysts at some large financial institutions and banks agree. Goldman Sachs expects a “V-shaped” recovery in demand for oil. [Read more.](#)

► **Gasoline demand begins rebound as lockdowns ease.** On May 11, Bloomberg News reported gasoline demand is beginning to rebound as lockdowns ease and more travelers take to their cars since “driving has emerged as the socially distant transportation mode of choice and is offering some near-term relief to an oil market fresh off its worst crash in history and reeling from an unprecedented collapse in energy demand.” [Read more.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont are in regular session. The District of Columbia Council, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Congress are also in regular session.

The following legislatures are postponing their 2020 legislative sessions due to COVID-19 until the dates provided: Colorado, Delaware House and Rhode

Island (May 26), **Delaware** Senate and **New York** Senate (May 27), **Tennessee** (June 1), **Iowa** (June 3), **Georgia** and **New Hampshire** House (June 11), **Nebraska** (July 20) and **New Hampshire** Senate, **New York** Assembly and **Wisconsin** (TBD).

The **Illinois** legislature returned for a three-day special session beginning on May 20 to deal with legislation pending due to the coronavirus pandemic, reports [STLToday](#).

Missouri's House will stand adjourned until May 27 when it will meet for a technical session and will adjourn, along with the Senate, sine die on May 30. The Senate will convene for a technical session on May 22.

New Mexico Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced a special session beginning June 18. The agenda includes issues ranging from balancing the budget to coronavirus relief stimulus funding, reports the [Albuquerque Journal](#).

Oklahoma's legislature adjourned on May 15 after signing a resolution allowing them to return at any point before the constitutional adjournment on May 29.

South Carolina adjourned on May 12 and is expected to meet for a two-week special session starting September 15, reports [The News & Observer](#).

Wyoming concluded their special session on May 16. Committees will continue to meet and legislators are discussing a second special session for June, reports the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#).

The following states adjourned on the dates provided: **Alabama** and **Minnesota** (May 18), **Alaska** (May 20) and **Kansas** (May 22). The following states are scheduled to adjourn on the dates provided: **Oklahoma** (May 29) and **Missouri** (May 30).

Signing Deadlines: **Alabama** Republican Gov. Kay Ivey has until May 28 to act on legislation presented on or after May 14 or it is pocket vetoed. **Alaska**

Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy must act on legislation within 20 days of presentment, not including Sundays or it becomes law without signature. **Arkansas** Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson has 20 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Connecticut** Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont must act on legislation within 15 days of presentment or it becomes law without signature. **Florida** Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has 15 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Kansas** Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly has 10 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Kentucky** Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear has 10 days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to act or legislation becomes law without signature. **Maine** Democratic Gov. Janet Mills must act on legislation presented within 10 days of adjournment or it becomes law unless returned within three days after the next meeting of the same legislature. **Minnesota** Democratic Gov. Tim Walz has until June 3 to act on legislation presented on or before May 20 or it is pocket vetoed. **South Carolina** Republican Gov. Henry McMaster has until two days after the next meeting of the legislature to act on legislation or it becomes law.

Interim Committee Hearings: The following states are currently holding 2020 interim committee hearings: [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Indiana](#), [Kentucky](#), [Maryland](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oregon](#), [South Dakota](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#) and [Wyoming](#).

Bill Pre-Files: [Utah](#) is currently posting 2020 bill drafts, pre-files and interim studies. ■

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