

# Capitol Lingo<sup>SM</sup>

## **Taxes**

Prohibited “T” word in the Texas Legislature.

## **Revenue**

Fees, surcharges, assessments, enhancements, and penalties.

## **P.O.O.**

Point of Order. A procedural weapon used to defeat legislation. Pooing occurs in May.

## **Ghost Voting**

House members who vote even though they are not present.

## **Machine Malfunction**

A term used in the Texas House of Representatives to justify a vote change.

## **Chubbing**

A dilatory tactic designed to run out the clock and prevent the passage of legislation.

## **Tagging**

A practice in the Texas Senate that delays discussion of a bill in committee for at least 48 hours.

## **Poison Pill**

An amendment that is added to a bill to change its original intent.

## **The Pit / Shark Tank**

The area at the entrance of the House chamber where lobbyists meet lawmakers.

## **Century Club**

An unofficial designation for a House member who gets 100 yea or nay votes.

## **Flea**

A bill that died in committee but is attached as an amendment to a Big Dog. May is flea season.

## **Big Dog**

A bill that must pass during the legislative session.

## **Christmas Tree**

A bill with a broad caption that allows dead bills or other amendments to be added.

## **Hired Gun**

An independent lobbyist hired to address a special interest.

## **Assassin**

A lobbyist who kills a bill and does not get caught.

## **Cleaner**

A lobbyist that fixes legislation that has gone awry.

## **Sine Die**

Adios. No más. The party is over!