Policy Watch 2015
Session Wrap Up

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*Note: Some bills may appear in more than one category for the ease of tracking.

Each bill lists the following information:

- House and Senate Bill numbers along with the names of the sponsors (ie: SB00/HB00)
- A description of what the bill addresses
- The fiscal note (the projected fiscal impact of the bill)
- The current status of the bill as of the date of the report

The full text of bills can be found at the Tennessee General Assembly website:
http://www.capitol.tn.gov/
Abuse and Neglect
SB99 / HB88 Revising registry of abused, neglected, or misappropriated property.
- **Description**: Defines “abuse” and “neglect” as used for the registry of persons who have abused, neglected, or misappropriated the property of vulnerable individuals. Directs commissioner of health to create rules for the administration of maintaining the registry. Extends time to appeal inclusion on registry to 60 days after notification of inclusion on registry. Part of Administration Package.
- **Fiscal Note**: (Dated February 18, 2015) NOT SIGNIFICANT
- **Senate Status**: 02/23/2015 - Senate passed.
- **House Status**: 03/30/2015 - House passed.
- **Executive Status**: 04/14/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0094 effective April 10, 2015.

SB147 / HB736 Financial exploitation of an adult is a Class D felony.
- **Description**: Defines “adult,” “caretaker,” “exploit” and “relative” for purposes of establishing the offense of financial exploitation of an adult by a caretaker. Creates a Class D felony for financial exploitation of an adult by a caretaker. Allows a court to freeze the funds, assets or property of a defendant, who is charged with taking property valued at more than $5,000, until criminal proceedings are complete. Permits recovery via civil action for financial exploitation of an adult by a caretaker. Broadly captioned.
- **Fiscal Note**: (Dated February 17, 2015) NOT SIGNIFICANT
- **Senate Status**: 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.
- **House Status**: 04/09/2015 - House passed.
- **Executive Status**: 04/22/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB198 / HB123 Sunset - elder abuse task force.
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Rusty Crowe / Rep. Dale Carr
- **Description**: Extends the elder abuse task force from January 15, 2015, to January 15, 2016.
- **Fiscal Note**: (Dated February 9, 2015) Increase State Expenditures – $700/Each One-Day Meeting
- **Senate Status**: 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.
- **House Status**: 04/06/2015 - House passed.
- **Executive Status**: 04/20/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB457 / HB582 Required medical examinations during elder abuse investigations.
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Jim Coley
- **Description**: Gives law enforcement agencies, in addition to the department of human resources, the authority to require a medical examination of a person if the agency is not sure the adult is in imminent danger during the course of an elder abuse investigation. Broadly captioned.
- **Fiscal Note**: (Dated March 10, 2015) NOT SIGNIFICANT
- **Senate Status**: 03/23/2015 - Senate passed.
- **House Status**: 04/21/2015 - House passed.
- **Executive Status**: 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB881 / HB196 Fines imposed - abuse of person over 60 years old.
- **Description**: Requires a fine in an amount from $50 to $200 be imposed on a person convicted of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult if the victim was over 60 years of age. Requires such fines be appropriated by the general assembly to fund services and programs for senior citizens.
- **Amendment**: Senate amendment 1 (004910) authorizes rather than requires that fines credited to the general fund may be subject to appropriation by the general assembly for funding services and programs for senior citizens.
- **Fiscal Note**: (Dated February 25, 2015) NOT SIGNIFICANT
- **Senate Status**: 04/13/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/20/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB915 / HB741 Changes number of days for hearing on summary suspension order.**

- **Description** Requires a summary suspension order of an adult day care's license to be reviewed by a hearing officer appointed by the commissioner of human services within seven calendar days instead of the current five working days.
- **Fiscal Note** (Dated February 21, 2015) NOT SIGNIFICANT

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
**House Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

### Accessibility and Disability

**SB255 / HB333 Sunset - council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.**

- **Category** Government Organization
- **Sponsors**  Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Jeremy Faison
- **Description** Extends the Tennessee council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing to June 30, 2020.

- **Amendment** Senate amendment 1 (003434) ensures citizens placed on board are attending the meetings.

- **Senate Status** 03/09/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
- **House Status** 03/19/2015 - House passed.
- **Executive Status** 04/02/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0036 effective March 27, 2015.

**SB594 / HB672 Using interpreters to interview children during abuse investigations.**

- **Category** Judiciary
- **Sponsors**  Sen. Ferrell Haile / Rep. Courtney Rogers
- **Description** Requires an investigator or law enforcement officer investigating a possible domestic or child abuse case involving a hearing impaired child to use an interpreter outside the presence of child's parent or family member to interview the child. Authorizes interpretation to occur using electronic means.

- **Amendment** Senate amendment 1 (003636) specifies that the interpreter be trained as a sign language interpreter rather than in American sign language. Adds potential abusers to the group of people outside of whom the child should be questioned. Senate amendment 2 (005544) deletes subdivision (3) of Section 1 and substitutes instead: Law enforcement agencies shall maintain a list of interpreters developed from a list provided by the Tennessee council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

- **Senate Status** 04/08/2015 - Senate passed with amendments 1 and 2.
- **House Status** 04/08/2015 - House passed.
- **Executive Status** 04/21/2015 - Signed by governor.

**SB836 / HB477 Requirements for steps into public buildings.**

- **Category** Health Care
- **Description** Requires that all public buildings constructed, purchased, or leased by the state or its political subdivisions on or after July 1, 2015, have certain stair step entrances marked with yellow paint to assist persons with vision impairment.

- **Amendment** House State Government Committee amendment 1 (004656) revises language to say "width" instead of "thicknes." 

- **Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.
- **House Status** 03/24/2015 - House State Government Committee referred bill to TACIR after adopting amendment 1.

**SB1019 / HB1061 Verification that person issued disable parking placard has not died.**

- **Category** Transportation General
- **Sponsors**  Sen. Ferrell Haile / Rep. Darren Jernigan
- **Description** Requires the department, beginning on January 1, 2016, to verify that owners of disabled parking placards have not died. Requires the department to invalidate the placard if the person is deceased.

- **Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Transportation & Safety Committee.
- **House Status** 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Transportation Subcommittee.

**HJR57 Technology and information access for Tennesseans with disabilities.**

- **Category** Family Law
Sponsors: Rep. Gerald McCormick
Description: Affirms commitment to equal right to technology and information access for Tennesseans with disabilities.

Senate Status: None
House Status: 04/01/2015 - House adopted.

Budget and Appropriations
SB1399 / HB1374 Appropriations and expenses of the state.
Category: Public Finance
Description: Makes appropriations for the purpose of defraying the expenses of state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, in the administration, operation and maintenance of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the various departments, institutions, offices and agencies of the state, and for certain state aid and obligations and for capital outlay; for the service of the public debt, and for emergency and contingency.

Amendment: HOUSE AMENDMENT 2 (006000) is the Administration Amendment. HOUSE AMENDMENT 3 (006585) prohibits state funds received by a local government unit to be expended to pay any expenses attributable to a lawsuit filed against a state, state agency, or state official in which the local government unit is named as a plaintiff. Requires the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) to deduct from the local government unit's allocation of state-shared taxes or funds a sum to recover such expenses attributable to defending the state in the lawsuit, if the state, agency, or official prevails in the lawsuit. Requires $250,000 to be transferred annually from the State Land Acquisition Fund to the Tennessee Civil War or War Between the States Site Preservation Fund (PF). HOUSE AMENDMENT 3 - 1 (006655) appropriates the sum of $6,079,500 to the Bureau of TennCare for the sole purpose of restoring a reimbursement reduction for pharmaceuticals.

Senate Status: 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status: 04/16/2015 - House passed with amendments 2 and 3, as amended.
Executive Status: 04/16/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB1401 / HB1376 Annual appropriations act - statutory revisions required.
Category: Public Finance
Description: Makes various statutory revisions required for implementation of the annual appropriations act.

Amendment: House amendment 1 (006585) prohibits state funds received by a local government unit to be expended to pay any expenses attributable to a lawsuit filed against a state, state agency, or state official in which the local government unit is named as a plaintiff. Requires the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) to deduct from the local government unit's allocation of state-shared taxes or funds a sum to recover such expenses attributable to defending the state in the lawsuit, if the state, agency, or official prevails in the lawsuit. Requires $250,000 to be transferred annually from the State Land Acquisition Fund to the Tennessee Civil War or War Between the States Site Preservation Fund (PF).

Senate Status: 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status: 04/16/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status: 04/16/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Children and Juvenile Justice
SB75 / HB65 Regulations involving the rights of adoptive and foster families.
Category: Family Law
Description: Adds new section that requires the department to release certain information, about children adopted from the department's guardianship, to the adoptive family. Establishes regulations, involving child abuse/neglect, for the foster parent or parents. Part of Administration Package.

Senate Status: 03/09/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status: 04/06/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status: 04/20/2015 - Signed by governor.
SB76 / HB66 Annual reports on foster children and child care agencies.
Category Family Law
Description Consolidates department of children's services annual reports for commitment data, foster care, and child care agencies into one report. Specifies that report shall be provided to the judiciary committee of the senate and civil justice committee of the house of representatives every year on or before January 31. Removes the requirement that the department report on the shifting responsibility for children moving from one placement to another. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status 04/06/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 03/16/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0178 effective April 16, 2015.
SB182 / HB174 Director of schools - authorization to expel for criminal complaint.
Category Education
Description Authorizes the director of schools to expel or remand a student to an alternative school upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against the student. Requires the director of schools to expel a student upon the conviction of a felony or an admission of guilt to that felony delinquency against the student, if the director determines the student's continued presence would have a substantial detrimental effect on the school. Establishes the notice, hearing, and appeal requirements for students expelled or remanded to an alternative school. Specifies that this act does not require an LEA to enroll a student who is expelled or remanded in an LEA in this state or another.
Amendment HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 (006035) provides that relative to the suspension of a student who is legally charged with an offense that would be classified as a felony if the student was charged as an adult or as an adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be classified as a felony if the student was an adult, or if the student was convicted of a felony, and whose continued presence at the school poses a danger to persons or property or will disrupt the education process, the principal of the school where such student attends and the director of schools are authorized to determine the appropriate educational assignment for the student once they are released for readmission.
Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.
SB253 / HB330 Sunset - commission on children and youth.
Category Government Organization
Description Extends the commission on children and youth to June 30, 2020.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004713) eliminates the commission's requirement to write impact statements on bills affecting children and youth.
Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/09/2015 - House concurred in Senate amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.
SB372 / HB219 Services provided by DCS.
Category Family Law
Description Requires that all services, not just the focus of the services that are provided by the department of children's services, shall further the best interest of the child. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status 04/13/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/06/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.
SB399 / HB227 Transfer of child to adult court.
Category Criminal Law
Description Requires judge to transfer child to adult court if, on or after July 1, 2015 the child is alleged to have engaged in conduct that authorizes transfer to adult court or a criminal gang offense, and the child has a previous adjudication of delinquency for conduct authorizing transfer to adult court or a criminal gang offense. Specifies that transfer to adult court is within judge's discretion if the conduct is a sexual offense, between two minors, with an age difference of two years or less.
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SB440 / HB445 Removes right of revocation of the surrender of a child for adoption.
Category Family Law
Description Removes person's right to revoke surrender of a child for adoption. Allows judge to revoke or invalidate surrender by court order if judge determines by clear and convincing evidence that the surrender involved duress, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation or if revocation is in child's best interests. Makes various technical revisions to reflect removal of person's right to revoke surrender. Specifies that at the time of surrender the judge must inform person that there is no right to revoke surrender. Requires surrender form provided filled out by surrendering parent to state that the surrender cannot be revoked.
Amendment House amendment 1 (004596) rewrites this bill to reduce the time for revoking a surrender from 10 to three calendar days following the surrender, whereas under present law a person who executed a surrender in regard to the person's child may revoke the surrender at any time within 10 calendar days of the date of the surrender. Removes the provision providing that if the tenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the last day for the revocation will be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Senate Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB537 / HB567 Minimum requirements for graduation - children in custody of DCS.
Category Education
Description Prohibits an LEA from requiring more than the minimum graduation requirements for students enrolling or transferring in the tenth grade or later who are in the custody of the department of children's services to receive a full diploma.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (005524) changes the grade level applicability from grade ten or higher to grade eleven of higher.

Senate Status 03/30/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.
House Status 03/23/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

Executive Status 04/14/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0113 effective April 10, 2015.

SB558 / HB15 DCS - notifying law enforcement agency.
Category Family Law
Description Requires the Department of Children's Services to immediately notify the proper jurisdictional law enforcement agency, when it is reasonably foreseeable, that an investigation by the department will likely result in a criminal prosecution. Requires the notification to include a statement that the department will fully cooperate with the law enforcement agency and district attorney general.

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status 01/17/2015 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB594 / HB672 Using interpreters to interview children during abuse investigations.
Category Judiciary
Description Requires an investigator or law enforcement officer investigating a possible domestic or child abuse case involving a hearing impaired child to use an interpreter outside the presence of child's parent or family member to interview the child. Authorizes interpretation to occur using electronic means.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (003636) specifies that the interpreter be trained as a sign language interpreter rather than in American sign language. Adds potential abusers to the group of people outside of whom the child should be questioned. Senate amendment 2 (005544) deletes subdivision (3) of Section 1 and substitutes instead: Law enforcement agencies shall maintain a list of interpreters developed from a list provided by the Tennessee council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

Senate Status 04/08/2015 - Senate passed with amendments 1 and 2.
House Status 04/08/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/21/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB666 / HB494 Child violating curfew may be taken to designated curfew center.
Category Judiciary

**Category**: Health Care

**Sponsors**: Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Bryan Terry

**Description**: Requires the joint report on the current status of emergency medical services for children prepared by the board for licensing health care facilities and the emergency medical services board, in collaboration with the committee on pediatric emergency care, to be submitted to the civil and criminal justice committees of the house, in addition to the health and welfare committee of the senate, the health committee of the house of representatives and the judiciary committee of the senate.

**Amendment**: House amendment 1 (005225) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates new provisions of voluntarily healthcare under the Volunteer Health Care Services Act. Enacts the "Kenneth Harry-Hill Tennessee Veterans Health Care Act of 2015 (Act)," also to be known as the "Mission Tennessee for Veterans Program" for the purpose of providing healthcare services to veterans and other persons who lack health insurance at free clinics operated on the site of Tennessee National Guard armories. Authorizes the Tennessee Military Department (TMD) to permit the use of such armories for such free clinics. Authorizes a licensed healthcare provider who is a member of the Tennessee National Guard to provide healthcare services in conjunction with this Act. Such free clinics are authorized to provide limited primary health care, but not emergency care or urgent care services. Healthcare services rendered under the provisions of this Act are deemed to be engaging in the voluntary provision of healthcare services. Authorizes the TMD to accept donations of medical supplies and services to assist the operation of the free clinics. A free clinic operated in conjunction with this Act are authorized to participate in appropriate networks and public information activities in order to facilitate access to free healthcare services by veterans. The Commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH) is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this Act. Defines "veteran" as a Tennessee resident who has entered and served in the United States Armed Forces and who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

**Senate Status**: 04/15/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status**: 04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status**: 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB1089 / HB218 Custody of child when parent charged with aggravated child abuse.

**Category**: Family Law

**Sponsors**: Sen. Lee Harris / Rep. Sherry Jones

**Description**: Prohibits court from awarding any form of custody to a parent who is charged with or indicted for aggravated child abuse, child sexual abuse, or severe child sexual abuse. Specifies that a parent being indicted for, or charged with, aggravated child abuse, child sexual abuse, or severe child sexual abuse is a material change in circumstances for the purpose of modifying any existing custody orders.

**Amendment**: House Amendment 1 (005741) rewrites the bill. Specifies that a parent under indictment for aggravated child abuse, child sexual abuse, or severe child sexual abuse the parent is presumed to present a substantial risk of harm to the child. Prohibits the parent under indictment for one of these offenses to be granted any form of custody unless the court may grant supervised visitation with the child. Specifies that indictment for one of these offenses constitutes a material change in circumstances for the purpose of modifying any existing custody orders.

**Senate Status**: 04/08/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status**: 04/06/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status**: 04/21/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB1252 / HB1119 Posting studies - effectiveness of certain pre-kindergarten programs.

**Category**: Education

Description Requires the office of research and education accountability to post the reports of any studies on the effectiveness of certain pre-kindergarten programs on its web site.

Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status 02/25/2015 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB1320 / HB51 Child wellness centers exempt from child care agency licensure.
Category Professions & Licensure
Description Exempts child wellness centers from the child care agency licensure requirements of the department of human services. Defines "child wellness centers" for the purpose of exemption from licensure requirements.
Amendment House amendment 1, Senate Health & Welfare Committee Amendment 1 (003809) revises existing definition of "drop-in center" to exempt centers that are operated by for-profit organizations that provide child care for no more than two hours per day, with a maximum of ten hours per week, without compensation while the parent or other custodian is engaged in short-term activities on the premises of the organization.

Senate Status 04/15/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 03/30/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

HJR12 Importance of early intervention for children with apraxia of speech.
Category Health Care
Sponsors Rep. Bryan Terry
Description Recognizes the importance of early and intensive intervention to address the needs of children with apraxia of speech and the importance of supporting improved awareness of this health disorder.

Senate Status None
House Status 03/30/2015 - House adopted.

HJR51 Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Category Family Law
Sponsors Rep. Ryan Williams
Description Designates April 2015 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

Senate Status 03/30/2015 - Senate concurred.
House Status 03/09/2015 - House adopted.
Executive Status 04/02/2015 - Signed by governor.

Education DRT Areas of Work
SB27 / HB138 Individualized Education Act.
Category Education
Description Enacts the "Individualized Education Act" for eligible special needs students, whereby funds will be provided for them to be educated at nonpublic schools. Provides that a parent of an eligible student will qualify to participate in the individualized education account (IEA) program if the parent signs an agreement promising to provide an education for the qualified student in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science; and not to enroll the student in a public school and to release the LEA in which the student resides from all obligations to educate the student. Establishes that participation in the program will have the same effect as a parental refusal to consent to the receipt of services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Prohibits funds in an IEA to be used to purchase computer hardware or other technological devices. Establishes that any funds remaining in a student's IEA upon graduation from high school may be used to take courses from an eligible post-secondary institution. Establishes that the funds in an IEA may only be used for educational purposes. Requires participating schools, post-secondary institutions and education providers that enroll participating students to provide parents with a receipt for all qualifying expenses at the school or institution. Allows the department to deduct an amount up to a limit of three percent from appropriations used to fund IEAs to cover the costs of overseeing the funds and administering the program. Provides that participating schools shall: 1. Comply with all health and safety laws that apply to nonpublic schools; 2. Certify that they will not discriminate against students or applicants on the basis of color, race, or national origin; and 3. Conduct criminal background checks on employees and exclude any person not permitted by the state to work in a nonpublic school or who might reasonably pose a threat to the safety of
students. Specifies that participating nonpublic schools and education providers will be given the maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of their students without governmental control.

Amendment

House Amendment 1 (004779) deletes and rewrites the bill such that the substantive changes are: (1) to revise the definition of eligible child to require an eligible student to have a disability as defined by federal statute; (2) to authorize Individual Education Account (IEA) funding to be used to purchase computer hardware or other technological devices approved by a doctor or physician and is used for a student's educational needs; (3) to encourage parents to seek participating schools with inclusive educational settings; (4) to require the Department of Education (DOE) to list participating schools with inclusive educational settings on its website; (5) to require the DOE to promulgate rules and regulations that allow for the return of a student to a public school; (6) to require the DOE to post a list of participating schools and other information relative to participating schools on its website; and (7) to authorize the DOE to collect a four percent administrative fee. House Amendment 3 (006394) makes various changes to Sections 4 and 6 of amendment 004779 in order for the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the bill requirements in lieu of the Department of Education. House Amendment 4 (006513) deletes and rewrites Section 8 of amendment 004779 and authorizes the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations and prohibits the promulgation of any emergency rules and regulations to implement the bill prior to August 1, 2016. Deletes and rewrites Section 10 of amendment 004779 and makes the bill effective upon passage for the purposes of promulgate rules and regulations. For all other purposes, including the development of administrative procedures by the Department of Education to make the awards of IEA during the 2016-2017 academic year, the effective date of the bill is January 1, 2016. House Amendment 5 (006903) deletes and rewrites Section 3, subdivision 3(A), of amendment 004779 and limits students that are eligible to participate to students with the following disabilities: autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairments, intellectual disability, orthopedic impairments, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairments. Makes a typographical change to Section 6 of amendment 004779 as amended by amendment 006394. Adds an additional subdivision to Section 6 of amendment 004779 and requires the Department of Education to create an application and approval process for nonpublic schools and providers to become participants, respectively, in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health. Senate Amendment 2 (006634) deletes all language of the original bill. Creates the "Individualized Education Act". Authorizes parents or guardians of special education students to receive payments into their child's Individual Education Account (IEA) in order to enroll their child in a participating non-public school. Sets forth eligibility requirements; terminating events; and how such funding may be used by parents and guardians. Students with a disability that includes an emotional disturbance or having health impairments as defined by 34 CFR 300.8 are not eligible to participate. The maximum amount of funding that a student may be eligible for is the amount of state and local required Basic Education Program (BEP) funding (including BEP generated special education funding). Sets forth participation requirements for participating non-public schools. Sets forth how the DOE shall administer the IEA program. The DOE may collect an administrative fee equal to four percent of the total appropriations used to fund IEAs for expenditures related to administration of the program. For the purposes of enrollment, participating students shall continue to be counted in the enrollment data for their home LEA.

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendments 1, 3, 4, and 5.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed with amendments 1, 3, 4 and 5.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Education Post-Secondary
SB127 / HB24 Go Build Tennessee Act.
Category Construction
Description Establishes the Go Build Tennessee Program, to be administered by a designated corporation, for the purpose of securing funding to promote and foster the development of a statewide program designed to increase career opportunities for secondary and
post-secondary students in the construction industry. Provides that the program shall be funded by a Go Build Account within the board of licensing contractors, and the corporation shall have access to the funding for the purpose of performing its duties set forth in this act.

Amendment House amendment 1 (005657) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates the "Go Build Tennessee Act (GBTA)." The GBTA will be administered by an entity approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation. The Board for Licensing Contractors (Board) will create a "Go Build Account (GBA)" for the purpose of funding the GBTA. The GBTA will be funded through the following mechanisms: an annual transfer from the Board of at least 50 percent of the total fiscal year fund balance of the Board, resulting from contractor licensing revenue, net of expenditures; and a one-time transfer of $1,750,000 from the Board's ending cumulative reserve balance on June 30, 2015. This corporation will use such GBTA funds and, in addition, receive funds from individuals, businesses, governmental entities, foundation grants and the state to promote and encourage the recruitment of potential construction workers and to develop and create training programs and opportunities for new, skilled construction workers in this state. The corporation is required to submit an annual report to the Governor, Speaker of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives that includes a statement of operations. Such report must be submitted within 90 days of the corporation's fiscal year end. An independent audit of the corporation will be conducted annually by a certified, independent public accountant, which shall be paid by fees collected by the corporation. These provisions will be repealed on July 1, 2019, thereby ending the GBTA at the end of the FY18-19 fiscal year. HOUSE AMENDMENT 2 (006179) specifies the types of expenditures the corporation may include in their contractual and promotional agreements necessary to effectively stimulate the program. HOUSE AMENDMENT 3 (006644) requires participation of the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development or the commissioner's designee in the Board's administration and implementation of this Act by providing input related to labor market information, safety and health, and the development of performance metrics consistent with industry growth indicators. Requires the corporation to submit quarterly reports to the commissioner and charges the commissioner with oversight authority over the corporation's performance through the development and application of accountability metrics. SENATE AMENDMENT 6 (006925) incorporates the changes described in the Summary for House Amendment #3 and requires that Go Build Tennessee Program funds be used only to fund career and technical education programs and other certified and nationally accredited programs to encourage and promote career opportunities in the construction industry that are in secondary schools in this state, postsecondary schools in this state, the Tennessee colleges of applied technology, and other community colleges in this state.

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 6.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House concurred in Senate amendment 6.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB453 / HB946 Establishing new STEM hubs.

Category Education
Description Requires TSIN to establish STEM innovation hubs specifically dedicated to serving the rural areas of the state and in Northwest Tennessee. Requires TSIN to implement STEM leadership training in all STEM innovation hubs. Requires TSIN to make available to all middle schools in the state a curriculum to educate students on the variety and benefits of STEM careers.

Amendment HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 (003773) provides that TSIN shall seek STEM partner organizations, such as the American Chemical Society, to find ways to collaborate on STEM education programs and opportunities.

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB543 / HB691 Student financial aid programs - barber school, school of cosmetology.

Category Education
Description Establishes that any barber school or school of cosmetology may seek state authorization, for purposes of meeting institutional eligibility requirements for federal
student financial aid programs, from THEC under the Postsecondary Education Authorization Act, and will thereafter be subject to the Act's requirements.

Amendment Senate Amendment 1 (005040) deletes all language of the original bill. Requires any barber school or school of cosmetology that seeks state authorization from the THEC for the purposes of meeting institutional eligibility requirements for federal student financial aid programs, to be subject to the requirements of the post secondary Education Authorization Act of 1974. Prohibits the State Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners from issuing new authorizations for the purposes of federal financial aid to new schools after July 1, 2015. Any authorization for such purposes that was issued by the Board prior to July 1, 2015, shall remain valid until authorization is granted by THEC or until June 30, 2016, whichever is earlier. Any post secondary authorization for the purposes of eligibility for federal financial aid that were issued by the Board prior to July 1, 2015, shall be held as invalid if a school fails to meet certain conditions. This part is repealed on June 30, 2016, after which all postsecondary authorizations for eligibility to federal financial aid shall be issued by THEC. Sets forth a process for hearing for claims of loss or damage as a result of a school's failure to properly follow the requirements of this bill. This process shall be repealed on June 30, 2016, after which THEC will issue all new and renewed authorizations for the purposes of federal financial aid.

Senate Status 04/06/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/20/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB624 / HB945 Allows recipients of HiSET to be used for Hope Scholarship.
Category Education
Description Allows recipients of the HiSET high school equivalency credential to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, provided that they score at least an average of 15 on the test and meet other scholarship requirements. Modifies the requirement for receipt of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship by GED recipients to allow a revised GED test with an average score of at least 170 to be used. Makes various other changes to hope scholarship requirements to allow for the use of the HiSET.

Senate Status 04/21/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Education PreK-12
SB10 / HB10 U.S. citizenship test requirement for high school graduation.
Category Education
Description Requires that students pass the United States citizenship and immigration services' civics test with a score of at least 60 percent in order to receive a regular high school diploma.

Amendment House amendment 1 (005490) deletes all language of the original bill. Requires students to pass a civics test composed of questions from the federal immigration naturalization test before they graduate high school, beginning in January 2017. Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to prepare a test of at least 25 and no more than 50 questions. LEAs may prepare multiple versions of the test for use at different schools and at different times. Each student shall be given the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary to receive a passing grade. Defines a passing grade to be at least 70 percent correct. Students who have an Individual Education Program (IEP) are exempt from this requirement. A school whose seniors all pass the test, excluding those that are exempt, shall be recognized on the Department of Education's website as a United States civics all-star school.

Senate Status 04/21/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/20/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/21/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB63 / HB1171 Refusal by local board of education to accept federal funding.
Category Education
Description Permits a local board of education to refuse to accept federal funding for an education program without a penalty being assessed by a state agency or state official.
Amendment Senate Amendment 1 (002929) provides that such funding may be refused without penalty only if refusal of such funding would not cause a loss of federal funding for all participating LEAs in the program. Requires a local board of education notify the department before acting to refuse the funding.

Senate Status 03/26/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/06/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/20/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB87 / HB77 Changes references of vocational education in the code.
Category Education
Description Changes references in the code from vocational education to career and technical education. Alters other vocational-related terminology in the code. Part of Administration Package.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (003435) makes a technical correction. Defines "career and technical education."
Senate Status 02/26/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 03/23/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/10/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0055 effective April 6, 2015.

SB88 / HB78 Revises testing schedule for TCAP.
Category Education
Description Removes the provision requiring the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program testing to be scheduled during a two-week window by the first Monday on or after April 22, and not prior to the completion of 150 days of instruction; authorizes the commissioner of education to establish a schedule for the testing instead. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status 03/09/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/09/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB109 / HB98 Annual report to inform high school students about DUI fatalities.
Category Education
Description Requires the commissioner of education to develop advisory guidelines directing LEAs to create an annual report to inform high school students about deaths of persons 18 years or younger caused by car accidents involving a driver 18 years or younger who was under the influence of an intoxicant or drug. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status 03/02/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 03/23/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/10/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0058 effective July 1, 2015.

SB118 / HB107 Revisions to TN Promise Scholarship Act.
Category Education
Description Make various minor changes to the TN Promise Scholarship Act. Redefines full-time student, gift aid, and semester. Alters provisions concerning enrollment based on the student's academic program and whether the student's medical or personal leave of absence. Part of Administration Package.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (003929) defines an "eligible postsecondary program" as a curriculum of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution, and specifies that courses taken at a four-year postsecondary institution prior to admission in, or that fulfill prerequisite requirements for, an eligible postsecondary program shall not be considered part of such a program. Defines a "Tennessee Promise scholarship student" as a student admitted to and enrolled in an eligible postsecondary program. Makes several other technical corrections without making any other substantive changes.
Senate Status 03/26/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/09/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB119 / HB108 Changes to teacher evaluations.
Category Education
Description Creates Tennessee Teaching Evaluation Enhancement Act. Adds that an LEA is not required to use student state assessment results as the sole factor in employment
decisions. Adjusts percentages regarding student growth data generated by administered assessments used in teacher evaluation criteria. Alters teacher tenure and probation provisions. Part of Administration Package.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status** 03/26/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status** 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0158 effective April 16, 2015.

**SB122 / HB210 Tennessee Choice and Opportunity Scholarship Act.**

**Category** Education


**Description** Establishes a scholarship program for eligible students to attend participating private K-12 schools. An "eligible student" is a student who: (1) Resides in Tennessee and is zoned to attend or enrolled in a public school that is identified as being in the bottom five percent of schools in overall achievement; (2) Meets the minimum age requirements to attend kindergarten with eligibility extending until the student graduates from high school, except that the student must be less than 22 years of age by August 15 of each year; (3) Is a member of a household whose annual income during the year prior to initial receipt of a scholarship met the requirements for free or reduced price lunch; and (4) Was previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school during the two semesters preceding the semester in which the student receives the scholarship, is enrolling in a Tennessee school for the first time, or received a scholarship pursuant to this bill in the previous school year. Specifies requirements for private schools to participate in the program, including, but not limited to, being identified as a category I, II or III school, and providing lunch to scholarship students at no cost or at a reduced cost. Details the total number of scholarships that may be awarded for each school year: (1) 5,000 for the 2015-2016; (2) 7,500 for 2016-2017; (3) 10,000 for 2017-2018; and 20,000 for 2018-2019 and thereafter. If a participating school demonstrates achievement growth for scholarship students at a level of "significantly below expectations" for two consecutive years or the department determines the school has failed to comply with this bill, then the commissioner of education may suspend or terminate a school's participation in the program. Provides that if a participating school is suspended or terminated from the program, or if the school otherwise withdraws from the program, scholarship students enrolled at the school may transfer to another participating school without loss of eligibility and such students would be given preference for enrollment. Provides that a local board of education may adopt local qualifications for a scholarship. (12 pp.)

**Amendment** Senate Education Committee Amendment 1 (002359) rewrites the bill to remove all reference to the authorization for LEAs to create their own local option scholarship program.

**Senate Status** 04/16/2015 - Set for Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee - Bills Behind the Budget 04/16/15.

**House Status** 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB182 / HB174 Director of schools - authorization to expel for criminal complaint.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Joey Hensley / Rep. Sheila Butt

**Description** Authorizes the director of schools to expel or remand a student to an alternative school upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against the student. Requires the director of schools to expel a student upon the conviction of a felony or an admission of guilt to that felony delinquency against the student, if the director determines the student's continued presence would have a substantial detrimental effect on the school. Establishes the notice, hearing, and appeal requirements for students expelled or remanded to an alternative school. Specifies that this act does not require an LEA to enroll a student who is expelled or remanded in an LEA in this state or another.

**Amendment** HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 (006035) provides that relative to the suspension of a student who is legally charged with an offense that would be classified as a felony if the student was charged as an adult or as an adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be classified as a felony if the student was an adult, or if the student was convicted of a felony, and whose continued presence at the school poses a danger to persons or property or will disrupt the education process, the principal of the school where such student attends and the director of schools are authorized to determine the appropriate educational assignment for the student once they are released for readmission.

**Senate Status** 04/22/2015 - Senate passed.
SB189 / HB157 Charter school may choose insurance for certain employees.
  Category Education
  Sponsors Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Glen Casada
  Description Permits the governing body of a charter school to choose the insurance plans offered to the school’s teachers and other full-time permanent employees.
  Senate Status 04/13/2015 - Senate passed.
  House Status 04/20/2015 - House passed.
  Executive Status 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB214 / HB337 Sunset - advisory council for education of students with disabilities.
  Category Government Organization
  Description Extends the advisory council for education of students with disabilities to June 30, 2020.
  Senate Status 03/09/2015 - Senate passed.
  House Status 03/09/2015 - House passed.
  Executive Status 04/02/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0005 effective March 19, 2015.

SB285 / HB36 Grading policies involving student TCAP scores.
  Category Education
  Description Removes the requirement that local boards of education must include student scores in TCAP subject areas (mathematics, reading/language arts, science and social studies) as a part of the student's grade in that subject area; provides that a local school board may have such a policy if it chooses to do so.
  Amendment Senate amendment 1 (005744) deletes all language of the original bill. Authorizes a local education agency (LEA) to not include its student's TCAP scores in their final spring semester grades if the TCAP scores are not received by the LEA at least five instructional days before the end of the academic year.
  Senate Status 04/08/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
  House Status 04/13/2015 - House concurred in Senate amendment 1.
  Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB295 / HB168 Pre-kindergarten programs - LEAs to encourage music and art.
  Category Education
  Description Encourages LEAs to incorporate music and art in their pre-kindergarten programs. Broadly Captioned.
  Senate Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
  House Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB303 / HB1361 Kindergarten eligibility for pre-k students.
  Category Education
  Description Authorizes children who participated in a two-year pre-kindergarten program in the 2013-2014 school year to enter in a kindergarten program in the 2014-2015, or 2015-2016 school years, provided that such children shall be five years of age on or before August 31, 2015.
  Senate Status 04/08/2015 - Senate passed.
  House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed.
  Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB341 / HB23 Revocation of licenses and certificates for misconduct.
  Category Education
  Description Gives the state board of education the authority to make policies concerning the revocation of licenses and certificates for misconduct.
  Senate Status 03/02/2015 - Senate passed.
  House Status 04/15/2015 - House passed.
  Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB343 / HB398 Extends date of repeal - Virtual Public Schools Act.
  Category Education
  Description Extends the date of the repeal of the Virtual Public Schools Act from June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2019.
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**SB359 / HB891** Excusing students for non-school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

- **Category**: Education
- **Description**: Allows a school principal to excuse students for non-school-sponsored extracurricular activities if certain conditions are met. Requires the student to submit to the school documentation of the activity and the parents to submit a written request to the principal at least seven days prior to the student's requested excused absence. Also allows the principal to limit the number and duration of non-school-sponsored extracurricular activities for which excused absences may be granted to a student during the school year.

**Senate Status**: 03/16/2015 - Senate passed.
**House Status**: 04/02/2015 - House passed.
**Executive Status**: 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0142 effective April 16, 2015.

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**SB398 / HB266** Automatic suspension for student committing felony.

- **Category**: Education
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Joey Hensley / Rep. Sheila Butt
- **Description**: Provides that students adjudicated delinquent for conduct or an act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult are to be automatically suspended from school. Specifies procedure and requirements for readmission to school. Provides that student not meeting criteria for readmission to school is expelled from school for one year.

**Senate Status**: 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
**House Status**: 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

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**SB428 / HB217** Revises definition of strangulation.

- **Category**: Criminal Law
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Becky Duncan Massey / Rep. Sherry Jones
- **Description**: Amends offense of aggravated assault by deleting requirement of intent to cause bodily injury to another in regards to strangulation. Redefines strangulation as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeding normal bleeding or circulation of the blood by applying pressure to the throat or neck or by blocking the nose and mouth of another person, regardless of whether that conduct results in any visible injury or whether the person has any intent to kill or protractedly injure the victim.

**Amendment**: Senate amendment 1 (004143) broadens the offense of aggravate assault in which strangulation is involved. Requires an intentional or knowing assault to only involve strangulation rather than involve strangulation that the assailant performed with the intent to cause bodily injury. Redefines "strangulation" for purposes of aggravated assault to include knowing impedances of someone's breathing or circulation of blood, and blockages of someone's nose and mouth; and would allow for strangulation regardless of whether the conduct results in any visible injury or whether the person has any intent to kill or protractedly injure the victim.

**Senate Status**: 04/14/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
**House Status**: 04/15/2015 - House passed.
**Executive Status**: 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

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**SB512 / HB125** Closure of charter schools on the state's 2015 priority list.

- **Category**: Education
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. G.A. Hardaway
- **Description**: Alters the provision requiring the closure of charter schools at the end of the 2014-2015 school year that are on the state's 2015 priority list. Requires instead that if such charter schools appear on the state's 2017 priority list, or in a year thereafter, they must close at the end of the school year.

**Senate Status**: 04/08/2015 - Senate passed.
**House Status**: 04/06/2015 - House passed.
**Executive Status**: 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0171 effective April 16, 2015.

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**SB537 / HB567** Minimum requirements for graduation - children in custody of DCS.

- **Category**: Education
- **Description**: Prohibits an LEA from requiring more than the minimum graduation requirements for students enrolling or transferring in the tenth grade or later who are in the custody of the department of children's services to receive a full diploma.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (005524) changes the grade level applicability from grade ten or higher to grade eleven of higher.

Senate Status 04/09/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/20/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB604 / HB645 The Educator Protection Act of 2015.
Category Public Finance
Description Enacts The Educator Protection Act of 2015, which provides excess professional liability insurance coverage for all teachers and student teachers, subject to the appropriations of the general assembly. Provides that the fund will protect against damages for claims arising out of the performance of teachers' and student teachers' duties within the scope of their employment or assignment. Establishes that the fund will be administered by the board of claims, and will be funded from appropriations by the general assembly and interest earned on the appropriated money. Provides that coverage under this act will automatically cover all full-time and part-time teachers and student teachers at no cost to the teachers or student teachers. Establishes that for the purposes of this act, teachers and student will not be considered "state employees" as defined under the provisions of law regarding defense of state employees. Part of Administration Package.

Senate Status 03/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB656 / HB1221 Reassignment of student when abuse suspected at school.
Category Education
Description Allows a parent of a child who is suspected of being a victim of child sexual abuse that occurred while the child was under the supervision or care of a public school to request the local board of education immediately reassign that child to another school of the parent's choosing, and requires the local board to reassign the child.

Amendment House amendment 1 (004578) rewrites the bill. Requires an LEA to make reasonable accommodations to separate an alleged victim of child sexual abuse from the alleged perpetrator if the abuse occurred while the child was under the school's care. If available and appropriate, the local school board shall, upon request of the parent, reassign the alleged victim to a different school, if the abuse occurred while the child was under the care of the school and the perpetrator of the abuse is substantiated by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), adjudicated by a juvenile court to have committed the child sexual, or is criminally charged.

Senate Status 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/14/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB724 / HB659 Allows students to self-administer enzymes for certain illnesses.
Category Education
Description Permits a student diagnosed with pancreatic insufficiency or cystic fibrosis to self-manage prescribed enzyme therapy in the manner directed by the licensed healthcare provider without additional assistance or direction.

Senate Status 03/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/20/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB804 / HB1263 Discontinues use of common core state standards.
Category Education
Description Requires the state board and department of education on July 1, 2015, to discontinue the use of common core standards. Requires the standards that were in use prior to the adoption of common core state standards to be used until the development and adoption of new Tennessee-specific standards.

Senate Status 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status 02/25/2015 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB873 / HB1056 Including HiSET graduates in calculating graduation rates.
Category Education
Specifies that students who obtain a HiSET diploma will be counted as graduates when calculating graduation rates in the same manner as students who obtain a GED credential.

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 02/25/2015 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB1105 / HB429 Teachers cannot be disciplined for reporting certain issues.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Tilman Goins

**Description** Prohibits a teacher or other educator from being disciplined or discouraged by a principal, school board, local board of education, or other supervisor from reporting inaccuracies, errors, or potentially inflammatory material in textbooks and instructional materials or content to a supervisor, elected official, or parent or guardian of a student. Prohibits teacher or other educator from being asked or required to waive the right to report inaccuracies, errors, or potentially inflammatory material as a condition of gaining or continuing employment.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status** 03/26/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status** 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0165 effective July 1, 2015.

**SB1252 / HB1119 Posting studies - effectiveness of certain pre-kindergarten programs.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbrough / Rep. Raumesh Akbari

**Description** Requires the office of research and education accountability to post the reports of any studies on the effectiveness of certain pre-kindergarten programs on its web site.

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 02/25/2015 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB1290 / HB1208 TCAP tests to be given every other year.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Joey Hensley / Rep. David Byrd

**Description** Requires the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests, starting 2015-2016, to be administered biennially. Requires state board of education to consider the effects of administering the test biennially.

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 02/25/2015 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SJR80 Opposition to a national school board.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Bill Ketron

**Description** Urges opposition to a national school board and supports passage of the Every Child Ready for College or Career Act.

**Senate Status** 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** None

**SJR107 Opposes a National School Board.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Bill Ketron

**Description** Opposes a "National School Board."

**Senate Status** 03/26/2015 - Senate adopted.

**House Status** 04/22/2015 - House concurred.

**Executive Status** 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**Elections**

**SB553 / HB510 Absenteeism for voting.**

**Category** Campaigns & Lobbying

**Sponsors** Sen. Frank Niceley / Rep. Billy Spivey

**Description** Decreases the amount of time a person may be absent from employment to vote on election day, from three to two and one-half hours, without any penalty or reduction in pay. Revises an exception to the absence authorization to coincide with the reduction in time.

**Senate Status** 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

**House Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

**SB597 / HB988 Use of mobile electronic and communication devices at polling place.**
Category: Campaigns & Lobbying
Description: Prohibits a county election commission from stopping a voter from using a mobile electronic or communication device at a polling place for informational purposes to assist the voter in making election decisions. Specifies that the county election commission may require that any mobile electronic or communication device be silenced while in use at the polling place. Prohibits the mobile electronic device or communication device from being used for telephone conversations, recording, or taking photographs or videos while inside the polling place.
Amendment: House amendment 2 (005645) changes the effective date to January 1, 2016.
Senate Status: 04/13/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 2 (005645), which changes the effective date to January 1, 2016.
House Status: 04/06/2015 - House passed with amendment 2 (005645), which changes the effective date to January 1st, 2016.
Executive Status: 04/20/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB733 / HB817 County election commission using internet electronic filing process.
Category: Campaigns & Lobbying
Description: Requires county election commissions to notify the secretary of state’s division of elections prior to implementing an Internet electronic filing process.
Senate Status: 04/02/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status: 03/16/2015 - House passed.

Executive Status: 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0177 effective April 16, 2015.

SB787 / HB726 Requires certain notice be made by United States mail.
Category: Government Regulation
Description: Requires that when commission or board is required to convey notification of a meeting, the notification must be given by US mail, instead of in a newspaper of general circulation, to all registered voters in the county or municipality at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Specifies that multiple notifications with same time frame for notification may be combine in same mailing. Requires various other notifications related to elections be given through US mail to each registered voter in the election area instead of by publication in a newspaper of general circulation. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
House Status: 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

SB843 / HB303 Inspection of documents and petitions related to elections.
Category: Campaigns & Lobbying
Description: Requires election officials to inspect filings for sufficiency and timeliness. Establishes conclusive presumption that accepted filings are sufficient and timely filed.
Senate Status: 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
House Status: 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

SB906 / HB797 Requests for voter registration lists.
Category: Campaigns & Lobbying
Description: Increases amount of time certain counties have to act upon request for voter registration lists from seven days to seven business days. Allows reasons for rejection or modification of the request to be sent via email or fax. Includes only the counties of Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby Counties.
Senate Status: 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
House Status: 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

SB947 / HB1065 Removes references to the Votomatic punch card voting system.
Category: Campaigns & Lobbying
Description: Removes references to the Votomatic punch card voting system.
Senate Status: 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
House Status: 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

SB1284 / HB1213 Property rights voting in municipal elections extended.
Category: Campaigns & Lobbying
Description Authorizes municipalities operating under city manager-commission charters to establish, by ordinance, property rights voting in municipal elections.

Amendment House amendment 2 (003796) rewrites the bill. Authorizes registered voters who own real property located in the incorporated cities of Ethridge, Henry, and Guy to be entitled to vote in all municipal elections and municipal referenda held in such cities; provided that in the cases of multiple ownership of real property, no more than two owners who are registered to vote shall be eligible to vote; and further provided that the applicable city board of commissioners vote by two-thirds margin for approval.

Senate Status 04/13/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 03/23/2015 - House passed with amendment 2.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

HJR82 Joint convention for election of members of state election commission.
Category Government Organization
Sponsors Rep. Gerald McCormick
Description Calls joint convention on Thursday February 19, 2015, for the purpose of the election of the members of the state election commission.
Senate Status None
House Status 02/12/2015 - House adopted.
Executive Status 02/13/2015 - Signed by governor.

Employment
SB20 / HB20 Emergency workers- acquiring hepatitis C in the line of duty.
Category Public Employees
Description Adds hepatitis C to the list of infectious diseases that triggers presumptive disability when an infectious disease is acquired in the line of duty by an emergency worker.
Senate Status 03/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB104 / HB93 Changes references to Workforce Investment Act.
Category Government Organization
Description Changes references of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to the “workforce development program” in the code. Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or disability when making appointments to any board, commission or panel that is administratively attached to the department of labor and workforce development. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status 03/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 03/23/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/10/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0057 effective July 1, 2015.

SB127 / HB24 Go Build Tennessee Act.
Category Construction
Description Establishes the Go Build Tennessee Program, to be administered by a designated corporation, for the purpose of securing funding to promote and foster the development of a statewide program designed to increase career opportunities for secondary and post-secondary students in the construction industry. Provides that the program shall be funded by a Go Build Account within the board of licensing contractors, and the corporation shall have access to the funding for the purpose of performing its duties set forth in this act.
Amendment House amendment 1 (005657) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates the “Go Build Tennessee Act (GBTA).” The GBTA will be administered by an entity approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax- exempt, nonprofit corporation. The Board for Licensing Contractors (Board) will create a “Go Build Account (GBA)” for the purpose of funding the GBTA. The GBTA will be funded through the following mechanisms: an annual transfer from the Board of at least 50 percent of the total fiscal year fund balance of the Board, resulting from contractor licensing revenue, net of expenditures; and a one-time transfer of $1,750,000 from the Board's ending cumulative reserve balance on June 30, 2015. This corporation will use such GBTA funds and, in addition, receive funds from individuals, businesses, governmental entities, foundation grants and the state to promote and encourage the recruitment of
potential construction workers and to develop and create training programs and opportunities for new, skilled construction workers in this state. The corporation is required to submit an annual report to the Governor, Speaker of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives that includes a statement of operations. Such report must be submitted within 90 days of the corporation's fiscal year end. An independent audit of the corporation will be conducted annually by a certified, independent public accountant, which shall be paid by fees collected by the corporation. These provisions will be repealed on July 1, 2019, thereby ending the GBTA at the end of the FY18-19 fiscal year. HOUSE AMENDMENT 2 (006179) specifies the types of expenditures the corporation may include in their contractual and promotional agreements necessary to effectively stimulate the program. HOUSE AMENDMENT 3 (006644) requires participation of the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development or the commissioner's designee in the Board's administration and implementation of this Act by providing input related to labor market information, safety and health, and the development of performance metrics consistent with industry growth indicators. Requires the corporation to submit quarterly reports to the commissioner and charges the commissioner with oversight authority over the corporation's performance through the development and application of accountability metrics. SENATE AMENDMENT 6 (006925) incorporates the changes described in the Summary for House Amendment #3 and requires that Go Build Tennessee Program funds be used only to fund career and technical education programs and other certified and nationally accredited programs to encourage and promote career opportunities in the construction industry that are in secondary schools in this state, postsecondary schools in this state, the Tennessee colleges of applied technology, and other community colleges in this state.

**Senate Status**
04/22/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 6.

**House Status**
04/22/2015 - House concurred in Senate amendment 6.

**Executive Status**
04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB855 / HB965 Study - offering work-based learning internships.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Steve Southerland / Rep. Billy Spivey

**Description** Directs Tennessee council for career and technical education, with the help of the department of education and state board of education, to study what deters employers from offering high school students, particularly minors, work-based learning internships and explore ways to encourage employers to offer such internships for students. Requires Council to report findings and recommendations to the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives and the education committee of the senate by January 15, 2016. Broadly captioned.

**Senate Status**
02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

**House Status**
02/25/2015 - Referred to House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB1062 / HB128 Removal of conviction-related questions on job applications.**

**Category** Public Employees

**Sponsors** Sen. Lee Harris / Rep. Brenda Gilmore

**Description** Prohibits certain state agencies or political subdivisions from asking an applicant to disclose conviction history until it is determined that the applicant meet the minimum employment qualifications for the position.

**Senate Status**
02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

**House Status**
02/11/2015 - Referred to House State Government Subcommittee.

**General**

**SB2 / HB1169 Hall income tax - phases out over three-year period.**

**Category** Taxes General


**Description** Phases out the Hall income tax over a three year period beginning January 1, 2016, to January 1, 2010 by reducing the tax rate by 2% annually. Prohibits an income tax on dividends from stocks or by way of interest on bonds after January 1, 2018.

**Senate Status**
03/24/2015 - Senate Finance Revenue Subcommittee returned to Senate Finance with a neutral recommendation.

**House Status**
02/24/2015 - Referred to House Finance Subcommittee.

**SB6 / HB57 Racial Profiling Prevention Act.**

**Category** Government Regulation
**Disability Rights**

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**Description**
Enacts the "Racial Profiling Prevention Act." Requires each state and local law enforcement agency to adopt, on or before January 1, 2016, a written policy that prohibits racial profiling.

**Amendment**
Senate amendment 1 (003462) redefines the definition of "racial profiling" as the detention or interdiction of an individual in traffic contacts, field contacts, or asset seizure and forfeiture efforts solely on the basis of the individual's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

**Senate Status**
03/09/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status**
04/20/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status**
04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB32 / HB48 Increases Hall Income tax exemptions.**

**Category**
Taxes General

**Description**
Requires the amounts of the Hall tax exemptions to be raised annually in accordance with inflation beginning with the 2016 calendar year. Requires the department of revenue to notify taxpayers of any change in dollar amounts and to post the information on the department's website.

**Amendment**
SENATE AMENDMENT 1 (006886) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Increases, for tax years 2015 and subsequent years, the HIT maximum allowable income exemption level from $33,000 to $37,000, for single filer taxpayers 65 years of age or older, and from $59,000 to $68,000, for joint filer taxpayers 65 years of age or older.

**Senate Status**
04/22/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status**
04/22/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status**
04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB67 / HB29 Eviction notice for certain actions.**

**Category**
Property & Housing

**Description**
Allows a landlord to provide three days' notice, as sufficient notice of termination of tenancy, for eviction of certain residential tenants if the tenants engage in certain violent activities.

**Amendment**
House Amendment 1, Senate Commerce & Labor Committee Amendment 1 (004031) specifies that the three days' notice of eviction is not sufficient notice to evict residential tenants who are mentally or physically disabled from a housing authority.

**Senate Status**
04/02/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status**
03/30/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status**
04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0172 effective April 16, 2015.

**SB117 / HB106 Protection of Volunteer-Insured Drivers of the Elderly (PROVIDE) Act.**

**Category**
Tort Liability

**Description**
Enacts the "Protection of Volunteer-Insured Drivers of the Elderly (PROVIDE) Act," which grants immunity from civil liability to individuals providing volunteer transportation services to senior citizens through a charitable organization or human service agency, so long as the individual is acting in good faith within the scope of his or her official duties. Part of Administration Package.

**Amendment**
Senate amendment 1 (004467) specifies that the voluntary transportation service is not individually liable above the policy limits collectable from any policy of insurance that would be obligated to make payment on behalf of the volunteer or on behalf of a person or entity that would be vicariously liable for the volunteer's conduct when liability for civil damages is limited for any injury to the senior citizen arising out of or resulting from the transportation. Deletes the words "willful and wanton misconduct" and substitutes "gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct." Removes individual liability only if the organization maintains liability insurance with limits at least equal to the statutory requirement.

**Senate Status**
03/26/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status**
04/01/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status**
04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0152 effective July 1, 2015.

**SB135 / HB1346 Military veterans' access to public transportation.**

**Category**
Transportation General

**Description**
Enacts the "Military veterans' access to public transportation."

**Sponsors**

**Sponsors**

**Sponsors**

**Sponsors**
Sen. Jim Tracy / Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver

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Description Urges department of transportation to study military veterans' access to public transportation, as well as the feasibility and costs of improving access to reliable and affordable public transportation. Urges department to report findings and recommendation of such study to the transportation and safety committee of the house and the transportation committee of the senate by January 15, 2016. Broadly Captioned.

**Senate Status** 02/09/2015 - Referred to Senate Transportation & Safety Committee.
**House Status** 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Transportation Subcommittee.

**SB148** / **HB7** Requesting additional information from fiscal review committee.

**Category** Government Regulation

**Sponsors** Sen. Frank Niceley / Rep. Glen Casada

**Description** Allows any general assembly member or committee to request all supporting documentation used in determining the fiscal effect of a bill, resolution, or amendment. Allows any member of the general assembly or committee to request that the executive director of the fiscal review committee be present at any meeting to provide an explanation regarding a fiscal note.

**Senate Status** 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
**House Status** 01/17/2015 - Referred to House State Government Subcommittee.

**SB177** / **HB179** Increased fines for failure to use safety belts.

**Category** Transportation Vehicles


**Description** Increases fines for failure to use safety belts to $25 for the first offense and $50 for subsequent offenses. Limits fine for failure of persons 16-17 years old to use safety belt to $25 for first and subsequent offenses. Allocates portion of revenue from fines to the division of vocational rehabilitation and a portion to the state general fund.

**Senate Status** 04/15/2015 - Senate passed.
**House Status** 04/15/2015 - House passed.
**Executive Status** 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

**SB179** / **HB636** Revises committee membership positions for fiscal review.

**Category** Government Organization

**Sponsors** Sen. Bill Ketron / Rep. Bill Sanderson

**Description** Requires that the chair and vice chair of fiscal review be composed of one member from the house of representatives and one member from the senate. Requires the chairs to rotate between the senate and house of representatives every two years.

**Senate Status** 03/02/2015 - Senate passed.
**House Status** 04/13/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status** 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

**SB527** / **HB512** State mandates to local governments.

**Category** Local Government

**Sponsors** Sen. Ken Yager / Rep. Dale Carr

**Description** Negates mandatory application of certain laws on local governments that are not fully funded. Prohibits an agency of state government from creating a new fee that will impact local governments in any year in which the general state revenues to the agency have decreased from the previous year.

**Senate Status** 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
**House Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

**SB534** / **HB437** Municipalities' publication of required public notices.

**Category** Media & Publishing

**Sponsors** Sen. Dolores R. Gresham / Rep. David Byrd

**Description** Provides municipalities with additional alternatives for publishing public notices instead of publishing the notices in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Senate Status** 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.
**House Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

**SB545** / **HB550** Specialty earmarked license plate for cystic fibrosis awareness.

**Category** Transportation Vehicles

**Sponsors** Sen. Todd Gardenhire / Rep. Jon Lundberg

**Description** Authorizes the issuance of a new specialty earmarked license plate for cystic fibrosis awareness.

**Senate Status** 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Transportation & Safety Committee.
**House Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Transportation Subcommittee.

**SB651** / **HB556** Development of an electronic driver license system.
Category | Description
---|---
Transportation Vehicles | Authorizes the department of safety to develop an "electronic driver license system," for authorizing persons to present or submit evidence of a valid driver license in an optional electronic format in lieu of a physical driver license. Specifies that in lieu of a physical driver license, a person may present the electronic driver license for identification purposes when requested by a law enforcement officer or a seller of alcoholic beverages. Clarifies that if a person displays the electronic driver license then the person is not consenting to access any other contents on the electronic device. Requires the department to disable, suspend, or terminate the electronic drive license under certain conditions.


Sponsors

Session Wrap Up

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/16/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB846 / HB1357 Age limits - Hall Income Tax exemption.

Category | Taxes General
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Sponsors

Session Wrap Up

Senate Status 04/16/2015 - Set for Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee - Bills Behind the Budget 04/16/15.
House Status 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Finance Subcommittee.

SB1017 / HB1085 Signage for charitable donation receptacles.

Category | Commercial Law
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Sponsors

Session Wrap Up

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004168) adds provision requiring persons operating collection receptacles to keep receptacles sanitary and requires them to empty the receptacle every two weeks. Adds provision for leaseholder of the property in which a receptacle is placed a process in which to legally remove the receptacle from their property. Creates civil cause of action for leaseholder or owner of the property who suffers loss of money for removing or disposing receptacles.

Senate Status 03/23/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/06/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/20/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB1031 / HB159 Distribution of federal funds to local government units.

Category | Local Government
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Sponsors

Session Wrap Up

Amendment House Local Government Subcommittee amendment 1 (004281) provides that if a court of this state or the United States issues a final order finding that the state department of education is not authorized to submit the application on behalf of any LEA unless the application includes all LEAs that meet the application's requirements for receipt of the federal pre-K expansion funds, then after the final order is issued, the department is required to terminate funding to those pre-K programs for which the application was granted, and the department is prohibited from resubmitting any applications to receive those funds. Defines "federal pre-K expansion funds." Applies only to an application for federal pre-K funds after December 31, 2013 that is (1) submitted by the state department of education on behalf of one or more, but less than all, LEAs that meet the application's requirements for receipt of the funds; (2) granted
by the federal departments of education and health and human services; and (3) the subject of a lawsuit.

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

**SB1036 / HB917 Use of smoke alarms in rental units.**
**Category** Property & Housing
**Sponsors** Sen. Bill Ketron / Rep. Dale Carr
**Description** Establishes changes to the use of smoke alarms in one-family and two-family rental units, one-family and two-family dwellings, apartment buildings, and hotels. Establishes smoke detectors to be installed in accordance with applicable building construction safety standards and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, as opposed to the 2003 International Residential Code.

**Amendment** House amendment 1, Senate amendment 1 (003797) removes language in the original bill that permitted smoke alarms to be hardwired directly to a building's power supply. Retains language permitting smoke alarms to be wired directly to a building's power supply.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.
**House Status** 03/23/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status** 04/14/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0120 effective January 1, 2016.

**SB1158 / HB776 Authorizes certain protected consumer security freezes.**
**Category** Commercial Law
**Sponsors** Sen. Becky Duncan Massey / Rep. Martin Daniel
**Description** Authorizes certain guardians to place a security freeze on the consumer report of a person under 18 years of age or an incapacitated person; authorizes remedies for violations of the security freeze; requires the division of consumer affairs to create a notice for the office of vital records to distribute in conjunction with certificates of birth describing the ability to utilize this type of security freeze.

**Amendment** HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 (005775) removes the bill's provision that a security freeze remains in effect until the person attains the age of 18 so that, under the amendment, the security freeze may only be removed by the request of the protected consumer or representative or after a consumer reporting agency discovers the security freeze was placed based on a material misrepresentation of fact by the protected consumer or representative. Increases, from $5.00 to $10.00, the fee a consumer reporting agency may charge for each placement or removal of a protected consumer security freeze. Lowers the age, from under 18 to under 16, for which the consumer reporting agency may not charge a fee for placing or removing a security freeze. Removes the provision of the bill that authorizes the division of consumer affairs of the department of commerce and insurance to seek penalties against the consumer reporting agency for a negligent release of credit information that was protected. This amendment removes the bill's provision making the award of attorneys' fees and costs mandatory rather than discretionary when a court finds that a provision of the Tennessee Identity Theft Deterrence Act had been violated.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.
**House Status** 03/23/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status** 04/14/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0120 effective January 1, 2016.

**SB1162 / HB999 The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act.**
**Category** Family Law
**Sponsors** Sen. Becky Duncan Massey / Rep. Steve McManus
**Description** Enacts "The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act" of 2015. Establishes ABLE program to aid eligible individuals to save money to meet the individual's disability expenses. Authorizes the state treasurer various powers and authorities to carry out objectives of the program. Specifies various limits and regulations to an individual's accounts within the program. Specifies exceptions as to when personal information about an individual's account can be disclosed. (10pp.)

**Senate Status** 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.
**House Status** 04/08/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
**Executive Status** 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

**SJR67 Constitutional convention to consider restraints on the federal government.**
**Category** Judiciary
**Sponsors** Sen. Mike Bell
Description Calls for a constitutional convention under Article V to consider amendments to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

Senate Status 04/16/2015 - Senate adopted.
House Status 04/09/2015 - House Delayed Bills Committee deferred.

SJR81 Designates April 2015 as Parkinson’s Awareness Month.

Category Health Care
Sponsors Sen. Richard Briggs

Description Designates April 2015 as “Parkinson’s Awareness Month.”

Senate Status 02/23/2015 - Senate adopted.
House Status 02/26/2015 - Referred to House Health Committee.

Health

SB33 / HB122 Diabetic testing supplies - exemption.

Category Taxes Sales

Description Exempts diabetic testing supplies, including lancets, test strips for blood glucose monitors, visual read test strips, and urine test strips, from sales and use tax.

Senate Status 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/16/2015 - House passed.

Executive Status 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB44 / HB33 Testing for lysosomal disorders in newborns.

Category Health Care

Description Adds lysosomal disorders, including Krabbe, Fabry, Gaucher, Pompe, Hurler Syndrome and Niemann-Pick, to the list of disorders that must be tested for newborns.

Amendment SENATE AMENDMENT 2 (006638) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates the “Mabry Kate Webb Act.” Requires that every newborn infant be tested for specific genetic, metabolic, or other heritable conditions beginning six months following the occurrence of all of the following: the development of a reliable test or series of tests for screening newborns for such conditions using dried blood spots or other testing and quality assurance testing methodology for such conditions testing; the availability of quality assurance materials for the specific condition tests from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC); the review and approval of the proposed test by the Genetics Advisory Committee of the Department of Health (DOH); and the acquisition of necessary equipment, completion of appropriate validation tests, and hiring of any necessary staff to implement the expanded screening tests by the newborn screening laboratory and newborn screening follow-up program of the state. DOH is authorized to charge a reasonable fee and any increase in such fee to offset the costs of administering this test.

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Re-referred to House for reconsideration.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed after reconsidering its action on adopting House amendment 2 and withdrawing House amendment 2.

Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB98 / HB87 Access to medical records by commissioner of health.

Category Health Care

Description Requires that the commissioner of health or the commissioner’s designee, upon request by the commissioner or designee, be given access to medical records in order to facilitate investigations and inquiries when responding to an immediate threat to public health. Specifies that electronic access shall be limited to the duration of the outbreak, event, or time in which the public health is under immediate threat as determined by the commissioner. Part of Administration Package.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (003857) limits electronic access to medical records to the minimum time necessary during the event, outbreak, or time that the public health is under immediate threat.

Senate Status 03/12/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/02/2015 - House passed.

Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0154 effective April 16, 2015.

SB157 / HB31 Deletes Intractable Pain Treatment Act.

Category Health Care
Description  Deletes the "Intractable Pain Treatment Act." Broadly captioned.
Amendment  Senate amendment 1 (003416) clarifies that in addition to the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Osteopathic Examination and the Board of Nursing must repeal any rules promulgated as a result of the IPTA.
Senate Status  02/26/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status  03/16/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status  04/07/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0026 effective July 1, 2015.

SB201 / HB1101 Supervision of physician assistants by supervising physicians.
Category  Health Care
Description  Deletes language that allows a supervising physician to have complete and absolute authority over any action of a physician assistant. Specifies that a supervising physician continue to provide proper supervision and control of the physician assistant.
Senate Status  02/23/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status  04/09/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status  04/22/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB208 / HB212 Lung Cancer Awareness Month.
Category  Health Care
Description  Designates November as "Lung Cancer Awareness Month."
Senate Status  02/23/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status  04/13/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status  04/02/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0002 effective March 19, 2015.

Category  Government Organization
Description  Extends the traumatic brain injury advisory council to June 30, 2019.
Senate Status  03/09/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status  03/09/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status  04/02/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0002 effective March 19, 2015.

SB280 / HB197 Possession of unlabeled low-THC cannabis oil.
Category  Criminal Law
Description  Allows persons to possess cannabis oil with less than nine-tenths of one percent of THC legally obtained in another state. Creates a Class C misdemeanor offense of possession of unlabeled low-THC cannabis oil without proof it was obtained legally.
Amendment  Senate amendment 1 (003968) rewrites the bill. Requires proof that the person or the person's immediate family member has been diagnosed with intractable seizures by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine licensed in Tennessee. HOUSE AMENDMENT 2 (005286) adds epilepsy as a condition for which a person may possess low-THC cannabis oil.
Senate Status  04/16/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 2.
House Status  04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 2.
Executive Status  04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB319 / HB288 Personal support services agencies licensure.
Category  Health Care
Description  Specifies that mental health and developmental disability services or facilities that are in compliance with a license issued by another state agency do not need to be licensed by the department of intellectual or developmental disabilities. Requires licensed personal support service agency to designate population it proposes to serve. Part of Administration Package.
Amendment  SENATE AMENDMENT 1 (003667) which rewrites Section 1 of the original bill and requires licensed personal support service agencies to designate the population it proposes to serve at the time of licensing and eliminates the requirement for dual licensing by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) and the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIIDD). Authorizes personal support agencies licensed by either department to serve individuals with physical or other disabilities. Requires the departments to work together to ensure that licensure standards for personal support services agencies are appropriate across all populations that may be served and are consistently applied.
Specifies that the licensing entity will be determined based on the larger population served by the agency as of the effective date of the act, or the larger population anticipated to be served by the agency at the time of the licensure application.

Senate Status 03/23/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 03/30/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/14/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0110 effective April 10, 2015.

**SB404 / HB183 Tennessee Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment and Recovery Act.**
- **Category**: Veterans & Military Affairs
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Doug Overbey / Rep. Art Swann
- **Description**: Establishes the "veterans traumatic brain injury and recovery fund" (the fund), which shall consist of donations, appropriations, or any other funds received by the department of veterans' affairs to implement the fund. Provides that the funds may be used by the department for veterans' treatment or for other activities authorized by this act. Provides that the commissioner of veterans' affairs may select a public university in the state that shall have full jurisdiction over the treatments and costs allowed to providers from the fund. Requires the university selected to develop and publish a treatment plan for veterans being treated for a traumatic brain injury (TBI) with a "hyperbaric oxygen treatment" (HBOT). Establishes the requirements for a veteran to qualify to receive a HBOT and for a facility to be reimbursed for the treatment. Provides that subject to the availability of funding, participating facilities that provide HBOT to veterans suffering from TBI shall provide treatment at no cost to the veteran, but shall submit a bill for such treatment to the commissioner. Clarifies that the state shall be under no obligation to make payments beyond the approved amount in the fund set aside for that purpose.

Senate Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB513 / HB458 Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease.**
- **Category**: Education
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Tilman Goins
- **Description**: Encourages nonresidential students to obtain meningococcal vaccination but does not require such students to show proof of immunization for admission.

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB521 / HB861 Enacts the "Tennessee Healthcare Improvement Act of 2015.**
- **Category**: Health Care
- **Description**: Enacts the "Tennessee Healthcare Improvement Act of 2015." Establishes physician-led patient care teams to oversee the practice of advanced practice registered nurses. Allows advanced practice registered nurses to be given more tasks and to be more specialized in certain areas. Authorizes some advanced practice registered nurses who are appropriately specialized to fill out and issue prescriptions. (17pp.)

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB573 / HB517 Moratorium on issuance of CONs for new nursing home beds.**
- **Category**: Health Care
- **Description**: Extends the current moratorium on the issuance of certificates of need (CONs) for new nursing home and skilled nursing facility beds until June 30, 2016.

Senate Status 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/20/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB595 / HB673 Vapor defined as smoking.**
- **Category**: Judiciary
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Ferrell Haile / Rep. Courtney Rogers
- **Description**: Adds the vapor from electronic cigarettes to the definition of what is "smoking" for purposes of the "Children's Act for Clean Indoor Air."

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

**SB615 / HB674 Information required in pamphlet for newborn testing.**
- **Category**: Health Care
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Joey Hensley / Rep. Courtney Rogers
Description Requires information disseminated by the department of health about the confidentiality of the birth defects registry to participating perinatal centers that will be made available to the families shall be made available in a pamphlet. Provides that such information, along with other information on programs provided by the department regarding genetic screening and birth defects, shall be provided to families to review and sign, acknowledging receiving the information. Provides that a newborn screening specimen taken for testing shall be kept for one year for the physicians to request additional testing.

Amendment House amendment 1 (003926) deletes requirement for family to review and sign an acknowledgement of receiving information about newborn testing prior to any testing. Removes requirement that specimen and form with identifying information be kept separate and clarifies that both should be destroyed after one year. Deletes section substituting "person" for "healthcare provider" in existing statute.

Senate Status 04/14/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/08/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB680 / HB456 Advanced practice registered nurses.
Category Health Care
Description Changes the title of advance practice nurses to advanced practice registered nurses and changes references to their credentials from certificates to licenses. Revises other provisions governing the practice of advanced practice nursing. Defines the scope of practice for certified registered nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, and the practice of advanced practice registered nursing. Specifies that an advanced practice registered nurse is authorized to prescribe or issue controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, IV and V. Revises other provisions regarding issuance of prescriptions by advanced practice registered nurses and issuance of licenses for advanced practice registered nurses. (pp 14.)

Senate Status 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB724 / HB659 Allows students to self-administer enzymes for certain illnesses.
Category Education
Description Permits a student diagnosed with pancreatic insufficiency or cystic fibrosis to self-manage prescribed enzyme therapy in the manner directed by the licensed healthcare provider without additional assistance or direction.

Senate Status 03/16/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/20/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB811 / HB143 Tennessee Right to Try Act.
Category Health Care
Description Enacts the "Tennessee Right to Try Act," which authorizes access to certain treatments for patients with an advanced illness. Allows a manufacturer of an investigational drug, biological product or device to make such item available to an eligible patient. Defines an "eligible patient" as an individual who has an advanced illness, who has considered all other currently approved treatment options, and who has given written, informed consent for the use of an investigational drug, biological product, or device. Specifies that the manufacturer may provide the investigational drug, biological product, or device without receiving compensation. Also, specifies that the manufacturer may require an eligible patient to pay the costs associated with the manufacture of the investigational drug, biological product, or device. Allows a health plan, third-party administrator, or governmental agency to provide coverage for the cost of the investigational drug, biological device or product. Clarifies that a hospital or health care facility is not required by this bill to provide new or additional services, unless such services are approved by the hospital or facility. Prohibits a state official or employee from blocking an eligible patient's access to an investigational drug, biological product or device.

Amendment House amendment 1 (003755) requires an individual, who seeks to become an eligible patient, to assume no liability against the treating physician, licensed healthcare providers, hospital, and manufacturer of the investigational drug, biological product, procedure, or device. HOUSE AMENDMENT 2 (003909) requires a person to first
attempt to be accepted into a clinical trial within 50 miles of the individual's home, and fail to be accepted within one week of applying to the trial. Adds definition for "adverse event." Requires a physician whose patient suffers an adverse event in response to the use of an investigation drug, biological product, or device to report the adverse event to the manufacturer. HOUSE AMENDMENT 3 (005468) names the bill the "Phil Timp- Amanda Wilcox Right to Try Act". SENATE AMENDMENT 2 (004694) requires that a person's advanced illness by confirmed by a second physician in order to be an eligible patient. Adds language to the definition of "investigational drug, biological product, or device," which requires that it is documented by the National Institutes of Health as having passed phase 1 of a clinical trial. SENATE AMENDMENT 3 (006068) specifies that a hospital, facility, or any physician or healthcare provider is required to provide any items or services unless a request by an eligible patient is approved by the hospital, facility, physician, or healthcare provider.

Senate Status 04/16/2015 - Senate passed with amendments 2 and 3.
House Status 04/21/2015 - House concurred in Senate amendments 2 and 3.
Executive Status 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB819 / HB1285 Limits defendants named in a healthcare liability action.

Category Judiciary
Description Clarifies that a health care liability action against a licensee may be brought only against the licensee, the licensee's management company, the licensee's managing employees, or an individual caregiver who provided direct health care services, whether an employee or independent contractor. Excludes a passive investor. Prohibits a cause of action unless, after a hearing on a motion for leave to amend, the court or arbitrator determines there is sufficient evidence in the record or proffered by the claimant to establish a reasonable showing that: 1) A duty of care existed and there was a breach of that duty; and 2) The breach of that duty is a legal cause of loss, injury, death, or damage to the claimant. Specifies that when determining the statute of limitations in a health care liability action, the date of the original pleading shall control regardless of whether there are amended pleadings or substituted or added parties.

Amendment Senate Judiciary Committee, House amendment 1 (005652) adds a section to the bill requiring any person that receives notice of a potential claim for health care liability pursuant to provide written notice to the potential claimant of any other person, entity, or health care provider who may be a properly named defendant within 30 days of receiving the notice.

Senate Status 04/14/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB941 / HB944 Changes certain duties of the commission on aging and disability.

Category Government Organization
Description Changes certain duties of the commission on aging and disability. Abolishes requirement of commission to initiate an outreach program to medicare-eligible Tennesseans to provide this group of Tennesseans information regarding how to obtain prescription drugs through different programs, ways in which older persons can get prescription drugs at discounted costs, and other obligations the commission has to inform and educate medicare-eligible Tennesseans. Abolishes requirement of commissioner to orchestrate congregate and home meal sites for older persons in the area.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004076) rewrites this bill. Replaces the present law requirement that the commission on aging and disability initiate an outreach program to provide Medicare-eligible Tennesseans information and education relative to obtaining prescription drugs at a discounted cost, and obtaining prescription drugs through programs based upon an individual's income. Under this amendment, the commission will be required to operate an outreach and counseling program through the state health insurance assistance program (SHIP) that will provide residents of this state with information, education, and counseling relative to medicare, TennCare, medigap, enrollment in medicare prescription drug plans (Part D), and the accompanying low-income subsidy, finding help with the cost of prescription drugs during coverage gaps and access to drugs not covered under Part D, medicare advantage options, long-term care planning and insurance, claims and billing problem resolution, information and referral on public benefit programs, employer and retiree health insurance options for
the full text of this amendment describes the types of outreach that the commission must utilize in operating the program. The program will be operated within the commission's available resources. The commission will be authorized to delegate its responsibilities to a public or private contractor. The commission will be authorized to apply for grants to fund the program. The commission will be authorized to promulgate rules to implement the program. HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 (005823) clarifies the commission's role in regards to counseling. Specifies that the commission of aging and disability shall operate an outreach program through the state health insurance assistance program to provide residents with information, education, and counseling relative to medicare, TennCare, medicare supplement insurance, enrollment in the medicare prescription drug plan, finding help with the cost of prescription drugs, medicare advantage options, long-term care planning and insurance, claims and billing issues, and health insurance options. Specifies what should be included in the outreach. Allows commission to implement the program, delegate responsibilities, and to adopt rules in accordance with the UAPA.

**Senate Status**
04/22/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.

**House Status**
04/21/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status**
04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB950 / HB478 Sick leave for maternity and paternity.**

**Category** Public Employees

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. Bill Beck

**Description** Deletes provision limiting the aggregate sick time that can be used for maternity and paternity leave to 30 days if both parents are state employees.

**Senate Status**
03/16/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status**
03/23/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status**
04/10/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0078 effective April 6, 2015.

**SB984 / HB572 Definition of biological product for TN Affordable Drug Act.**

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Mark S. Norris / Rep. Cameron Sexton

**Description** Defines a "biological product" and an "interchangeable biological product" in the Tennessee Affordable Drug Act of 2005. Requires a prescriber to allow for the substitution of a prescribed biological product for an interchangeable biological product, except in cases where the prescriber determines the medical necessity of a prescribed biological product due to certain conditions or an interchangeable biological product is unavailable. Specifies that a pharmacist who selects an interchangeable biological product for substitution has the same responsibilities for that product as the pharmacist would have for dispensing a prescription. Requires the board of pharmacy to maintain a link on its website to the current list of all biological products determined by the FDA to be interchangeable biological products.

Amendment HOUSE AMENDMENT 6 (006339) clarifies that the information will be accessible to prescribers and removes duplicate language. SENATE AMENDMENT 1 (04552) rewrites the bill. Defines "biological product" and "interchangeable biological product." Requires prescriber to allow for substitutions with an interchangeable biological product of a prescribed biological product except in certain circumstances. Specifies that a pharmacist must notify a prescriber within five business days of dispensing a biological product, rather than within a reasonable time. Specifies the methods of electronic communication that a pharmacist can use to communicate with prescribers. Specifies that a pharmacist is only required to communicate the biological product dispensed through an electronic medical records system when such a system is in place and the information is accessible by the prescriber. SENATE AMENDMENT 3 (004732) substitutes the language "that is electronically accessible" in section 2 with the language "that can be accessed electronically."

**Senate Status**
04/16/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 6.

**House Status**
04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 6 after withdrawing amendment 4.

**Executive Status**
04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB985 / HB32 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.**

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Mark S. Norris / Rep. Curry Todd

**Description** Creates the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act. Requires governing authorities engaged in school youth athletic activities and activity fee charging organizations engaged in community-based youth athletic activities to adopt programs to train and
educate coaches, school administrators, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature, risk, and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

Amendment
SENATE AMENDMENT 1 (002328) adds “dizziness” to the SCA symptoms an athlete experiences which will require immediate removal from participating in an athletic activity. Establishes that any SCA symptoms experienced “immediately following an athletic activity” by an athlete will require evaluation and clearance from a health care provider prior to such athlete returning to any supervised team activities involving physical exertion. SENATE AMENDMENT 2 (004527) changes the effective date of this bill, from July 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.

Senate Status 04/06/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1 & 2.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/20/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB988 / HB693 Certain state agencies to collaborate on diabetes plans and reports.

Category Health Care
Description Requires the bureau of TennCare, the department of health, the department of human resources, and the department of finance and administration to jointly develop certain plans and reports concerning diabetes to be made to the health and welfare committee of the senate and the health committee of the house every two years.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004509) removes the department of human resources and: (1) Changes the date of the annual joint report from January 10 to February 1; (2) Removes the requirement that the report include the development of a detailed budget blueprint identifying needs, costs, and resources required to implement the plan identified in (4) above in the bill; and (3) Specifies that the role of the department of health in developing the plans will be limited to primary prevention.

Senate Status 03/30/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/21/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB1014 / HB629 Certified registered nurse anesthetist - prescribing of drugs.

Category Health Care
Sponsors Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Mary Littleton
Description Revises the definition of “prescription order” and “professional nursing” to reflect the ability of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA) are not required to order to select, order, and administer the appropriate drugs and related services during the perioperative period or to provide services in collaboration with a physician within the scope of the practice of CRNAs. Clarifies that orders for drugs and related services by a CRNA can only be administered where the anesthesia services are being provided. Defines “perioperative period” as it relates to CRNAs.

Amendment House amendment 1 (004821) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Expands the definition of professional nursing to include administration of medications selected, ordered, or administered by an advanced practice nurse specializing as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) during services ordered by a physician, dentist, or podiatrist and provided by a CRNA in collaboration with the ordering physician, dentist, or podiatrist that are within the scope of practice of CRNAs. Clarifies that orders for drugs and related services by a CRNA can only be administered where the anesthesia services are being provided. Defines “perioperative period” as it relates to CRNAs.

Senate Status 04/21/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/21/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/21/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.


Category Health Care
Description Requires the joint report on the current status of emergency medical services for children prepared by the board for licensing health care facilities and the emergency medical services board, in collaboration with the committee on pediatric emergency care, to be submitted to the civil and criminal justice committees of the house, in
addition to the health and welfare committee of the senate, the health committee of the house of representatives and the judiciary committee of the senate.

Amendment

House amendment 1 (005225) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Creates new provisions of voluntarily healthcare under the Volunteer Health Care Services Act. Enacts the "Kenneth Harry-Hill Tennessee Veterans Health Care Act of 2015 (Act)," also to be known as the "Mission Tennessee for Veterans Program" for the purpose of providing healthcare services to veterans and other persons who lack health insurance at free clinics operated on the site of Tennessee National Guard armories. Authorizes the Tennessee Military Department (TMD) to permit the use of such armories for such free clinics. Authorizes a licensed healthcare provider who is a member of the Tennessee National Guard to provide healthcare services in conjunction with this Act. Such free clinics are authorized to provide limited primary health care, but not emergency care or urgent care services. Healthcare services rendered under the provisions of this Act are deemed to be engaging in the voluntary provision of healthcare services. Authorizes the TMD to accept donations of medical supplies and services to assist the operation of the free clinics. A free clinic operated in conjunction with this Act are authorized to participate in appropriate networks and public information activities in order to facilitate access to free healthcare services by veterans. The Commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH) is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this Act. Defines "veteran" as a Tennessee resident who has entered and served in the United States Armed Forces and who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Senate Status 04/15/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB1074 / HB733 Medical assistance for sickle cell disease management services.

Category TennCare
Description Adds sickle cell disease management services and public education campaigns specifically related to sickle cell disease to the list of medical assistance services that TennCare must provide.

Senate Status 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 03/30/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/14/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0122 effective January 1, 2016.

SB1142 / HB1163 Alzheimer's-related dementia in disclosure of specialized care.

Category Health Care
Description Clarifies that Alzheimer's-related dementia, includes, but is not limited to, dementia with Lewy bodies for purposes of the required disclosure of specialized care at certain treatment facilities.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004522) clarifies that Alzheimer's-related dementia includes Lewy bodies and frontotemporal dementia by changing the phrase "Lewy bodies" to "Lewy bodies and frontotemporal dementia."

Senate Status 04/15/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/21/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB1175 / HB56 Participation as dental provider in TennCare program.

Category TennCare
Description Requires a managed care organization that participates in the TennCare program to allow certain dentists to participate as a provider in the TennCare program. Provides that a dentist qualifies to participate in such medical assistance if the dentist: (1) holds a current and nonrestrictive license to practice dentistry in the state; (2) has practiced in the same location, or within a two-mile radius of that location, since being approved as a provider; (3) has continuously participated in the TennCare program for at least 10 years; and (4) has ceased to function as a TennCare provider for any period sense.

Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status 01/17/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB1223 / HB699 Establishes requirements and protections for practice of telehealth.

Category Health Care
Sponsors Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Cameron Sexton
Description
Specifies that a healthcare provider who delivers services through the use of telehealth to be held to the same standard of professional practice as similar licensees of the same practice area or specialty who provides the same healthcare services through in-person encounters. Prohibits the board or licensing entity governing any healthcare provider from establishing more restrictive standards for professional practice of telehealth. Specifies that the practice of telemedicine does not apply to out of state physicians, uncompensated consultations, transferring of medical information outside the state, and abortions. Requires a physician who practices telemedicine to be licensed to practice within the state. Allows a physician who practices telemedicine to prescribe controlled substance under certain conditions. Grants the board the authority to issue and continue to offer to issue restricted licenses and special licenses based upon licensure to another state for the limited purpose of authorizing the practice of telemedicine to current applicants or current licensees.

Amendment
House amendment 1 (004235) establishes that a healthcare provider practicing telehealth uses the same standard of care of professional practice as a similar license of the same practice area or specialty that is providing the same healthcare services through in-person encounters. Specifies that the definition of healthcare provider with regards to the practice of telehealth includes any state-contracted crisis service provider employed by a facility licensed under Tenn. Code Ann. Title 33. Removes language in the original bill, effectively making these provisions applicable to a physician licensed in another state when such physician is called in consultation by a licensed physician of this state and also makes these provisions applicable to the informal practice of medicine in the forum of uncompensated consultations with regard to the frequency of the consultations. House amendment 2 (004953) establishes that the requirements and protections regarding provided services through telehealth do not apply to pain management clinics and chronic nonmalignant pain treatment.

Senate Status 04/09/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/08/2015 - House passed with amendments 1 and 2.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB1331 / HB322 Policies for the release of HIPAA compliant limited use data sets.
Category Health Care
Description Requires the commissioner of health to establish policies for the release of HIPAA compliant limited use data sets in regard to claims data by licensed hospitals and claims data discharge reports by ambulatory surgical treatment centers.

Senate Status 04/13/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/16/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

HJR12 Importance of early intervention for children with apraxia of speech.
Category Health Care
Sponsors Rep. Bryan Terry
Description Recognizes the importance of early and intensive intervention to address the needs of children with apraxia of speech and the importance of supporting improved awareness of this health disorder.

Senate Status None
House Status 03/30/2015 - House adopted.

HJR77 Options for providing dental care to elderly Tennesseans.
Category Health Care
Sponsors Rep. John Mark Windle
Description Encourages the Tennessee commission on aging and disability to develop options for providing dental care to elderly Tennesseans.

Senate Status None
House Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to House Health Committee.

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
SB17 / HB115 Services for people with intellectual disabilities.
Category Health Care
Description Requires that persons with intellectual disabilities on the waiting list for services be enrolled in the self-determination waiver within six months when their custodial parent or custodial caregiver attain the age of 75.
Amendment Senate amendment 1 (006387) increases the age of the individual's older custodial parent or caregiver to 80 years old.

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB85 / HB75 Extends the tax on intermediate care facilities.

Category Health Care
Description Extends the tax on intermediate care facilities to July 15, 2017. Current law has the tax terminating on July 15, 2015. Changes references to "intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR)" to say instead "intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID)." Part of Administration Package.

Senate Status 04/22/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status 04/22/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB112 / HB101 Licensure of settings for home-based and community-based services.

Category Health Care
Description Authorizes the board for licensing healthcare facilities and certain departments to amend licensure rules to be consistent with federal regulations pertaining to home-based and community-based settings. Part of Administration Package.

Amendment Senate Amendment 1 (004687) specifies the federal rule referenced in the original bill as the final rule published in the Federal Register at 79 FR 2947 on January 16, 2014 and makes technical correction to code citation.

Senate Status 03/26/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/02/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0153 effective April 16, 2015.

SB307 / HB894 DI DD to seek approval from the family support council.

Category Health Care
Description Requires the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities (DIDD) to seek approval from the family support council before making changes to the administration of the family support program. Provides that information gathered through the family support program on persons needing or receiving services shall be provided to DIDD on a quarterly basis. Requires the council to coordinate activities with district and local councils, and to perform other duties to ensure implementation of the family support program.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004251) specifies that DIDD must adopt policies and procedures regarding the development of appropriations requested for family support. Additionally, this amendment requires that, unless the commissioner determines an exigent circumstance exists, DIDD must seek the state family support council's input prior to adopting policies and procedures regarding the topics described in (2)-(6). Present law requires that, in accordance with policies and procedures developed and adopted by the family support council and DIDD, information gathered through the family support program on persons with a developmental disability, other than an intellectual disability, for whom comprehensive home and community-based services are needed shall be provided to DIDD on a quarterly basis. This bill requires that the information concerning recipients of "services", rather than "home and community-based services" be provided to the department on at least a quarterly basis.

Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/14/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB583 / HB413 Residential services provided to adults with physical disabilities.

Category Health Care
Description Removes express authorization for residential facilities or providers, licensed by the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to also provide services to the elderly and adults with physical disabilities, as long as services are adequate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of each resident. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.
SB718 / HB798 Permit dependents of military members to retain priority for services.
Category: Veterans & Military Affairs
Description: Allows dependents of military service members who are legal residents of Tennessee to retain eligibility for home and community-based services programs for intellectual disabilities if they move out of state due to the military service member's military assignment. Specifies that a dependent that resides out of state can be placed on the waiting list for intellectual disability services, and any services received prior to leaving the state will resume upon return to the state if the dependent remains eligible. Defines the term "legal resident" as it relates to continued eligibility for intellectual disability services.

Senate Status: 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.

SB1032 / HB1277 Tort liability protection - certain direct client service contractors.
Category: Tort Liability
Description: Creates certain tort liability protections, including provisions regarding actual damages and monetary limits, for contractors providing direct client services for the department of children's services, the department of mental health and substance abuse services, and the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Senate Status: 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status: 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB1042 / HB973 Planning and policy council for DIDD report to general assembly.
Category: Health Care
Description: Adds an analysis of the effects of the closing of any public facility providing intellectual disability services to the evaluation duties of the statewide planning and policy council.
Amendment: House Health Committee amendment 1 (004959) rewrites the bill. Requires that Greene Valley Development Center continue as a willing provider of services. Requires the state to seek to modify any federal court order and related exit plan.

Senate Status: 03/25/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred.

Insurance and TennCare
Category: Insurance Health
Description: Redefines "creditable coverage" to mean coverage of an individual that provides the minimum essential coverage required under 26 U.S.C. 500A. Gives Access Tennessee the power to purchase policies of insurance. Current law only gives Access Tennessee the authority to issue policies of insurance. Removes language that deems a person ineligible for coverage if the pool has paid out $1,000,000 in benefits on behalf of the person over the lifetime of the person or if the person has or obtains health insurance coverage substantially similar or more comprehensive than a pool policy. Also removes language that deems a person ineligible for coverage if the person's premium are paid for or reimbursed under any government sponsored program or by any government agency or health care provider. Specifies that the program shall offer at least one form of coverage to each eligible person. Also specifies that coverage may be modeled after one of the healthcare options offered to state employees or may combine a health savings account with a high deductible plan. Further states that coverage may be obtained through the commercial market. Makes other changes to the "Access Tennessee Act of 2006." Part of Administration Package.

Amendment: Senate amendment 1 (004388) limits eligibility for coverage through the AccessTN program to those who are currently enrolled in the program prior to the effective date of the act.

Senate Status: 04/06/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
Executive Status: 04/22/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB114 / HB103 Extends CoverKids Act.
SB115 / HB104 TennCare - changes provisions on reporting information to the Bureau.

Category: Health Care
Senate Status: 03/05/2015 - Senate passed.
House Status: 04/20/2015 - House passed.
Executive Status: 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

SB125 / HB151 Creation of Annual Coverage Assessment Act of 2015.

Category: Health Care
Description: Creates the Annual Coverage Assessment Act of 2015. Defines annual coverage assessment as the annual assessment imposed on covered hospitals. Establishes an annual coverage assessment in the amount of four and fifty-two hundredths percent of a covered hospital's annual coverage assessment base.
Amendment: House amendment 1 (004027) deletes all language after the enacting clause and enacts the "Annual Coverage Assessment Act of 2015." Establishes an annual coverage assessment on hospitals of 4.52 percent of a covered hospital's annual coverage assessment base and is required to be paid in equal quarterly installments. Requires Bureau of TennCare to send a notice of payment and a return form to each covered hospital 30 days prior to the payment date. Imposes a penalty of $500 a day on a hospital that does not pay the assessment by the due date. Subjects the covered hospital to disciplinary action under the licensing laws applicable to the hospital. Authorizes prorated payments for a covered hospital that ceases operation after the effective date of the Act. Requires TennCare managed care organization from implementing across the board reductions in rates that are in existence on July 1, 2015, for hospitals and physicians by category or type of provider, unless mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Establishes a Maintenance of Coverage Trust Fund consisting of all annual coverage assessment collections and investment earnings credited to the assets of the Fund. Requires assessment payments, investment earnings, and federal matching funds to be available to the Bureau and only expended for benefits and services that would have been subject to reductions or eliminations from the FY14-15 TennCare budget; for refunds to hospitals for payments of assessments or penalties to the Bureau through error, mistake, or a determination that the payment was invalidly imposed; for reimbursements to hospitals to offset losses for services provided to TennCare enrollees (assessment payments only); and payments and expenditures in the TennCare program from funds remaining in the Fund as of June 30, 2015 to replace reductions included in the FY15-16 proposed budget and to increase the reimbursement for services provided to enrollees covered by TennCare Select and CoverKids. Specifies that implementation of the annual coverage assessment is dependent upon approval of additional hospital payments by CMS; a determination by CMS that the payments will not reduce federal participation in the TennCare program; and full implementation of hospital payment rate variation corridors established by the state's actuary and approved by the Bureau of TennCare for payments by managed care organizations to hospitals for services provided to TennCare enrollees. Exempts critical access hospitals, state mental health hospitals, rehabilitation and long-term care acute hospitals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the state and local government hospitals from the annual coverage assessment. Requires TennCare, beginning September 1, 2015, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, to report the status of the determination and approval by CMS, the
balance of the Fund, and the extent to which the funds have been used, to both of the Finance, Ways and Means Committees, the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, and the House Health Committee (22pp.).

**Senate Status** 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status** 04/13/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status** 04/28/2015 - Signed by governor.

**SB574 / HB515 Pro rata payment reductions from nursing home assessment trust fund.**

**Category** TennCare

**Sponsors** Sen. Doug Overbey / Rep. Michael Harrison

**Description** Requires the bureau of TennCare to provide notice to the chairs of the senate and house health committees prior to making pro rata payment reductions from nursing home assessment trust fund. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment** Senate Amendment 1 (005611) deletes all language after the enacting clause. Extends the annual nursing home assessment for an additional year, through June 30, 2016. Revises the assessment rates of certain nursing facilities and percentages to be paid from the nursing home assessment trust fund.

**Senate Status** 04/16/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status** 04/20/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status** 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB602 / HB643 Taxation rate on HMOs.**

**Category** Insurance Health

**Sponsors** Sen. Mark S. Norris / Rep. Gerald McCormick

**Description** Increases the rate of tax imposed on HMOs doing business in this state on the gross amount of dollars collected from an enrollee or on an enrollee's behalf from five and one-half percent to six percent. Part of Administration Package.

**Senate Status** 04/16/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status** 04/16/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status** 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB811 / HB143 Tennessee Right to Try Act.**

**Category** Health Care


**Description** Enacts the "Tennessee Right to Try Act," which authorizes access to certain treatments for patients with an advanced illness. Allows a manufacturer of an investigational drug, biological product or device to make such item available to an eligible patient. Defines an "eligible patient" as an individual who has an advanced illness, who has considered all other currently approved treatment options, and who has given written, informed consent for the use of an investigational drug, biological product, or device. Specifies that the manufacturer may provide the investigational drug, biological product, or device without receiving compensation. Also, specifies that the manufacturer may require an eligible patient to the pay the costs associated with the manufacture of the investigational drug, biological product, or device. Allows a health plan, third-party administrator, or governmental agency to provide coverage for the cost of the investigational drug, biological device or product. Clarifies that a hospital or health care facility is not required by this bill to provide new or additional services, unless such services are approved by the hospital or facility. Prohibits a state official or employee from blocking an eligible patient's access to an investigational drug, biological product or device.

**Amendment** House amendment 1 (003755) requires an individual, who seeks to become an eligible patient, to assume no liability against the treating physician, licensed healthcare providers, hospital, and manufacturer of the investigational drug, biological product, procedure, or device. HOUSE AMENDMENT 2 (003909) requires a person to first attempt to be accepted into a clinical trial within 50 miles of the individual's home, and fail to be accepted within one week of applying to the trial. Adds definition for "adverse event." Requires a physician whose patient suffers an adverse event in response to the use of an investigational drug, biological product, or device to report the adverse event to the manufacturer. HOUSE AMENDMENT 3 (005468) names the bill the "Phil Timp-Amanda Wilcox Right to Try Act". SENATE AMENDMENT 2 (004694) requires that a person's advanced illness by confirmed by a second physician in order to be an eligible patient. Adds language to the definition of "investigational drug, biological product, or device," which requires that it is documented by the National Institutes of Health as having passed phase 1 of a clinical trial. SENATE AMENDMENT 3 (006068) specifies that a hospital, facility, or any physician or healthcare provider is required to provide
any items or services unless a request by an eligible patient is approved by the hospital, facility, physician, or healthcare provider. 

**Senate Status** 04/16/2015 - Senate passed with amendments 2 and 3.

**House Status** 04/21/2015 - House concurred in Senate amendments 2 and 3.

**Executive Status** 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

### SJR88 Waiver for implementation of TennCare Opt Out program.

**Category** TennCare

**Sponsors** Sen. Mark Green

**Description** Requests the governor to apply for an appropriate federal waiver in order to implement the TennCare Opt Out program as a small pilot project within the TennCare program.

**Amendment** Senate Health & Welfare Committee Amendment 1 (006167) deletes the language "seek an appropriate waiver in order to implement" and substitute instead "send a letter to the federal government regarding a waiver for the implementation of."

**Senate Status** 04/08/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee recommended with amendment 1.

**House Status** None

### SJR91 Filing of lawsuit regarding fining of persons not having adequate health insurance.

**Category** Insurance Health

**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers

**Description** Requests the Attorney General and Reporter to file a lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of Tennesseans who could be fined for not having adequate health insurance coverage as required by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148, as amended).

**Senate Status** 03/23/2015 - Senate adopted.

**House Status** 04/21/2015 - House concurred.

**Executive Status** 04/23/2015 - Sent to governor.

### SJR94 Governor may take actions to Insure Tennessee.

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbrough

**Description** Authorizes the governor to take certain actions with respect to Insure Tennessee.

**Senate Status** 03/25/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred.

**House Status** None

### SJR102 Electronic survey of pharmacists.

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Randy McNally

**Description** Requests the board of pharmacy to conduct an electronic survey of pharmacists relative to working conditions and the licensure renewal process.

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

**House Status** None

### SJR103 Request to expand Medicaid program.

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Randy McNally

**Description** Urges the United States department of health and human services to approve a block grant in order to fund services to the existing TennCare population and to expand the Medicaid program in this State to persons with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty line.

**Senate Status** 04/15/2015 - Senate adopted.

**House Status** None

### SJR104 Incorporation of medication therapy management.

**Category** TennCare

**Sponsors** Sen. Randy McNally

**Description** Urges the bureau of TennCare to incorporate medication therapy management into all of its healthcare delivery systems so as to improve patient outcomes and control costs.

**Senate Status** 04/13/2015 - Senate adopted.

**House Status** None

### SJR105 Authorizes governor to expand enrollment in Tennessee's Medicaid program

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbrough

**Description** Authorizes the governor to do all that is necessary and appropriate to expand enrollment in Tennessee's Medicaid program.

**Senate Status** 03/25/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred.

**House Status** None
Mental Health and Substance Abuse

SB318 / HB287 Scheduling of controlled substances.

**Category:** Criminal Law

**Sponsors:** Sen. Mark S. Norris / Rep. Gerald McCormick

**Description:** Revises various provisions of law regarding the scheduling of controlled substances and their analogues and derivatives. Revises identifications of drugs categorized in Schedules I–V. (40 pp.) Part of Administration Package.

**Amendment:** HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 (003876) adds catchall language deleted by the original bill relative to 25H-NBOMe and any compound structurally derived from 2-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-N-(2-methoxybenzyl) ethanaminee structure with substitution in either phenyl ring to any extent. Deletes reference to F-PB-22 still listed in the TCA. F-PB-22 is being moved to Schedule I. Corrects misspelling of hydroxymitragynine. Changes the effective date to July 1, 2015.

**Senate Status:** 04/13/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.

**House Status:** 04/08/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.

**Executive Status:** 04/24/2015 - Signed by governor.

SB456 / HB134 Transdermal monitoring device as condition of bail agreement.

**Category:** Criminal Law

**Sponsors:** Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. William G. Lamberth

**Description:** Establishes that if a person is charged with vehicular assault, vehicular homicide or aggravated vehicular homicide, and has a prior alcohol-related conviction, the use of a transdermal monitoring device is required as a condition of the person's bail agreement. Authorizes possible exception to the transdermal device requirement for persons with legitimate medical reasons. Allows judge to issue a capias for the person's arrest for violation of bond conditions if the person being monitored violates the conditions of release.

**Amendment:** Senate amendment 1 (003501) makes it a Class B misdemeanor to knowingly tamper with, remove, or vandalize the monitoring device, or to aid and abet someone doing so. Specifies that monitoring agency should notify appropriate court if it becomes aware that the defendant tampered, removed, or vandalized the monitoring device.

**Senate Status:** 04/14/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status:** 04/22/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status:** 04/22/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

SB639 / HB600 Mental health hospitals - paying patients' healthcare services.

**Category:** Health Care


**Description:** Relieves any hospital primarily licensed for the purposes of providing mental health services from being responsible under any contract for payment of healthcare services which that hospital is not licensed to provide. Provides for billing of outside providers of healthcare services without the release of the patient from the mental health hospital.

**Senate Status:** 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status:** 02/12/2015 - Referred to House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

SB681 / HB811 Restricts return of child to parent when removed due to drug abuse.

**Category:** Family Law

**Sponsors:** Sen. Becky Duncan Massey / Rep. Mary Littleton

**Description:** Provides that, in a private custody case, when a child is removed from custody of parent due primarily to parent's drug abuse, the child cannot be returned to the parent until the parent has complied with certain criteria that demonstrates a commitment to responsible parenting.

**Senate Status:** 04/08/2015 - Senate passed.

**House Status:** 04/06/2015 - House passed.

**Executive Status:** 04/21/2015 - Signed by governor.


**Category:** Health Care

**Sponsors:** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Mark Pody

**Description:** Enacts the “Mission Tennessee Act.” Authorizes each healthcare professional and facility to offer healthcare services to patients in return for no compensation under certain circumstances. Provides that any healthcare professional or facility offering healthcare services at no cost to be free from liability for civil damages, with exception to damages resulting from gross misconduct of the healthcare professional or facility.

**Senate Status:** 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
**House Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.  
**SB871 / HB1036 Addiction Treatment Act of 2015.**  
**Category** Health Care  
**Sponsors** Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Ryan A. Haynes  
**Description** Enacts the “Addiction Treatment Act of 2015.” Prohibits arresting, charging, or prosecuting any individual who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for a drug overdose themselves, or seeks medical assistance for another person experiencing or believed to be experiencing a drug overdose. Prohibits (1) penalties for a violation of a protective or restraining order, and (2) sanctions for a violation of a condition of pretrial release, probation, parole. Specifies various limitations of the law. Allows certain products containing buprenorphine to be prescribed under various situations and sets limitations for the drug.  
**Amendment** House amendment 1 (004287) provides that the immunity from being arrested, charged or prosecuted applies to the person experiencing a drug overdose only on the person’s first such drug overdose.  
**Senate Status** 04/21/2015 - Senate concurred in House amendment 1.  
**House Status** 04/20/2015 - House passed with amendment 1.  
**Executive Status** 04/21/2015 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.  
**SB1059 / HB1132 DUI - alcohol and drug assessment and treatment programs.**  
**Category** Transportation Vehicles  
**Sponsors** Sen. Todd Gardenhire / Rep. Marc Gravitt  
**Description** Specifies that whether a person convicted of DUI is incarcerated or in a substance abuse treatment facility as a condition of probation, the person does not start the probation period until after serving the entire minimum mandatory sentence imposed by the court.  
**Senate Status** 03/17/2015 - Senate Judiciary Committee deferred to 04/07/15.  
**House Status** 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.  
**SB1202 / HB222 Privileged communication - emergency personnel and certain counselors.**  
**Category** Judiciary  
**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. Sherry Jones  
**Description** Establishes communications, made between certain emergency personnel and designated peer support group counselors, as privileged. Specifies that peer support counselors should not be compelled to testify in a proceeding without the consent of the personnel who received counseling. Specifies that privilege does not apply if a peer support counselor was an initial responding emergency personnel.  
**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
**House Status** 02/11/2015 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.  
**Public Benefits**  
**SB570 / HB403 Reduces time period for TennCare applicants to mail changes.**  
**Category** Health Care  
**Sponsors** Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Bob Ramsey  
**Description** Reduces from 30 days to 15 days the period of time for an applicant for TennCare to mail documentation of a material change affecting the application. Broadly Captioned.  
**Amendment** Senate amendment 1 (004777) rewrites the bill to enact the “Opioid Abuse Reduction Act.” This amendment requires the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services to convene a working group to examine the problem of opioid abuse in this state, with a primary focus on persons enrolled in TennCare, and the potential impact of the use of FDA-approved abuse-deterrent opioids. The working group must include representatives of TennCare, the Tennessee department of safety, the Tennessee department of health, the healthcare insurance industry, manufacturers of abuse-deterrent opioids, law enforcement, the Tennessee medical association, and other persons whom the commissioner may deem appropriate. The full text of this amendment lists subjects that the working group will examine. Any costs associated with participation in the working group will be borne by the individual participants or their respective associations or companies and not by the state of Tennessee, except for those who are employed by this state. No later than January 1, 2016, the working group must submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations to the governor, the insurance and banking committee of the house of representatives, and the commerce and labor committee of the senate, at which time the working group will cease to exist. SENATE AMENDMENT 2 (005359) adds the health committee of the...
house of representatives and the health and welfare committee of the senate to whom the working group will have to submit its report.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (004777) and amendment 2 (005359).
**House Status** 04/21/2015 - House passed.
**Executive Status** 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

**SB623 / HB665 Food stamps - eligibility prohibitions for convicted drug felons.**
- **Category** Family Law
- **Sponsors** Sen. Steve Southerland / Rep. David B. Hawk
- **Description** Revokes Tennessee's previous decision to allow persons convicted for possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances to be eligible for the food stamp and the Families First programs. Specifies that persons convicted of such crimes are ineligible for food stamp and Families First programs in accordance with federal law.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Sent to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
**House Status** 04/21/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB646 / HB13 DHS - food stamps work requirement waiver.**
- **Category** Family Law
- **Sponsors** Sen. Bill Ketron / Rep. Sheila Butt
- **Description** Prohibits the department of human services from seeking, applying for, accepting, or renewing a waiver from the work requirements of the food stamp program under federal law.

**Senate Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
**House Status** 01/17/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB786 / HB1339 EBT card cannot purchase certain tobacco products.**
- **Category** Government Regulation
- **Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver
- **Description** Prohibits recipients of public assistance benefits from using an EBT card at a tobacco retailer to purchase certain tobacco products. Prohibits tobacco retailers from permitting the purchase of tobacco products or nicotine products with an EBT card. Requires the department of human services to notify public assistance recipients of this prohibition and impose appropriate penalties for using an EBT card in a prohibited business location.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate passed.
**House Status** 04/21/2015 - House passed.
**Executive Status** 04/27/2015 - Sent to governor.

**Taken Off Notice**

**SB3 / HB1 Reduction of sales tax.**
- **Category** Taxes Sales
- **Sponsors** Sen. Mark S. Norris / Rep. Gerald McCormick
- **Description** Reduces the state sales and use tax rate on tangible personal property from 7% to 6.75%. Broadly captioned.

**Senate Status** 03/24/2015 - Senate Finance Revenue Subcommittee recommended. Sent to Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee.
**House Status** 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

**SB4 / HB1280 Tennessee standards commission for education.**
- **Category** Education
- **Sponsors** Sen. Dolores R. Gresham / Rep. Billy Spivey
- **Description** Establishes the Tennessee Standards Commission for the purpose of recommending curriculum standards to the state board of education (the board) for adoption. Outlines the requirements for the appointment of members, such as requiring appointments from each grand division of the state, the term limits of the members and their confirmation, which must done through joint resolution of the general assembly. Establishes the criteria that must be considered by the commission for the recommendation of standards. Provides that the proposed standards shall be posted for public review prior to being adopted by the board. As soon as practicable after the initial meeting, the commission is required to recommend changes to the English language arts and mathematics standards in use during the 2014-2015 school year, and shall strive to limit the number of high stakes assessments administered. Further provides that the commission shall make recommendations to the board regarding advanced placements (AP) courses. The board or the department of education is required to cancel any memorandum of understanding with regards to Common Core standards.
entered into with the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

**Senate Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Government Operations Committee.

**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB5 / HB3 Volunteer state standards for K-12 education.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Jim Tracy / Rep. John Forgety

**Description** Establishes the volunteer state standards. Requires the state board of education to adopt new educational standards for grades K-12 before July 1, 2016. Requires the state board to recruit and select Tennessee public school teachers and faculty from higher education institutions to propose new state educational standards for English and Mathematics. Establishes that the standards review and development committee and advisory teams be comprised of Tennessee teachers, higher education faculty members, and parents of school children. Requires the state board to report its finding before the education committees of the house and senate for review before March 31, 2016.

**Senate Status** 01/17/2015 - Referred to Senate Government Operations Committee.

**House Status** 03/04/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB26 / HB16 Closed meetings and records involving certain hospitals.**

**Category** Health Care

**Sponsors** Sen. Todd Gardenhire / Rep. Mike Carter

**Description** Deletes statute that allows certain hospitals to have closed meetings and confidential records regarding the discussion and development of marketing strategies and strategic plans, including feasibility studies.

**Senate Status** 03/25/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred.

**House Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in House State Government Subcommittee.

**SB29 / HB37 Prohibited restraints in special education services.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Joey Hensley / Rep. Bill Dunn

**Description** Prohibits the use of prone restraint on students receiving special education. Defines prone restraint as "restraint in which a student is held face down on the floor or other surface, and physical pressure is applied to the student's body for the purpose of controlling the student's movement."

**Senate Status** 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB47 / HB813 Reduces Hall Income tax.**

**Category** Taxes General

**Sponsors** Sen. Mark Green / Rep. Charles M. Sargent

**Description** Reduces Hall income tax by one percent in every year that state revenue growth exceeds three percent. Specifies that once Hall income tax rate reaches three percent, the reduction rate of the Hall income tax in years that state revenue growth exceeds three percent decreases to three-quarters (.75) percent until the rate is reduced to zero. Specifies that the reduced Hall income tax rate takes effect on January 1 following the end of the fiscal year in which the state revenue growth exceeded three percent. Specifies that distribution of tax revenue to general fund decreases in conjunction with each reduction of Hall income tax rate until it reaches zero. Increases distribution of tax proceeds to county or municipality government in which the taxpayer resides until 100 percent of proceeds are distributed to the county or municipality.

**Amendment** Senate Finance Committee Amendment 1 (004446) establishes that the reduction in HIT rate will begin on January 1 of the year following the year in which the Commissioner of F&A determines that state revenue growth exceeded an average of three percent over the previous two consecutive fiscal years. SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 2 (004912) adds language to the bill authorizing local governments to levy an identical HIT. Prohibits any such tax from being levied prior to January 1 of the calendar year in which the rate of the tax collected by the state is equal to or greater than 2.25 percent. Prohibits the sum of the tax rate levied by the local government and tax rate collected by the state from exceeding 2.25 percent.
SB51 / HB801 TN Come Back for Your Future scholarship program.

Category: Education
Description: Establishes the Tennessee Come Back for Your Future scholarship, a temporary program aimed at encouraging students who were in the process of obtaining a baccalaureate or an associate degree, but have not attended any postsecondary institution for at least 12 months, to return and complete their degree. It will be funded with lottery proceeds with a maximum of $5 million total in aid given for the life time of the program. Declares it will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis, and the scholarship will be for one-half tuition and required fees, but is subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly. Specifies specific requirements for applicants to be eligible for the scholarship, including, but not limited to, not meeting any of the ineligibility requirements of the lottery scholarship, and being admitted and enrolled in a public postsecondary institution that offers the degree they are seeking. Requires a student and the institution where the student is enrolled to develop a degree plan specifying the courses that the student must take to obtain the degree, the semesters in which the courses will be offered, and the time required for the student to obtain the degree before the scholarship is awarded. Requires that the institution file a written copy of the degree plan with TSAC immediately after finalizing the plan. Authorizes a student to take an approved medical or personal leave of absence and transfer to another eligible public institution and continue to receive the scholarship provided that the student continues to meet the eligibility requirements. Specifies that if, for any reason, a student ceases to be eligible for the scholarship the student will not be able to regain it, and only students who receive the award for the 2015-2016 year may receive the award afterwards.

Amendment: House Education Administration and Planning Committee amendment 1, Senate Education Committee Amendment 1 (003135) decreases, from $5,000,000 to $1,500,000, the maximum amount of net lottery proceeds that TSAC is authorized to expend for the life of the program. SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 2 (003741) makes grammatical changes.

Senate Status: 04/15/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee.
House Status: 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

SB58 / HB54 Reducing tax on groceries.

Category: Taxes General
Description: Reduces the sales tax rate on food from 5 percent to 4.5 percent.

Senate Status: 04/15/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee.
House Status: 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

SB72 / HB61 Operation of health insurance exchange by state.

Category: Insurance Health
Description: Prohibits the state from operating any American Health Benefit Exchange or any other health insurance exchange under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act contingent upon the outcome of King v. Burwell.

Senate Status: 03/31/2015 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee deferred to 2016 after adopting amendment 1 (005617).
House Status: 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

SB89 / HB79 Enrollment in charter schools authorized by ASDs.

Category: Education
Description: Requires charter schools authorized by the achievement school district to conduct an initial student application period of at least 30 days. Allows all students zoned to attend or currently enrolled in a school that is eligible to be placed in the achievement district to enroll. Allows the charter school to enroll the child of a teacher, staff member, sponsor or member of the governing body at the end of the initial student enrollment period under certain conditions. Prohibits a charter school from enrolling additional students unless the charter school has demonstrated student achievement growth at a level of “at expectations.” Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status 03/10/2015 - Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee recommended. Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.

House Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB121 / HB411 Reduction in state shared revenue for certain municipalities.**

**Category** Taxes Sales  
**Sponsors** Sen. Brian K. Kelsey / Rep. Steve McManus  
**Description** Requires the state to reduce the state shared revenue due to any municipality that extended its corporate limits by annexation by ordinance between April 15, 2013 and May 15, 2015, under certain circumstances.

**Senate Status** 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate State & Local Government Committee.  
**House Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

**SB123 / HB603 Collective bargaining agreements - local governments and labor unions.**

**Category** Labor Law  
**Description** Reaffirms that a local government shall not enter into any collective bargaining agreement with a labor union or employee association.

**Senate Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
**House Status** 03/25/2015 - House Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

**SB141 / HB495 Lobbyists - contacting a legislator during session or committee.**

**Category** Campaigns & Lobbying  
**Sponsors** Sen. Reginald Tate / Rep. Karen D. Camper  
**Description** Prohibits a lobbyist or any employee or employer of a lobbyist from knowingly sending a text message or placing a telephone call to an official of the legislative branch while the official is participating in a legislative committee meeting or floor session, except in response to a prior request by the official.

**Senate Status** 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate State & Local Government Committee.  
**House Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in House State Government Subcommittee.

**SB142 / HB734 Hiring of teachers for an achievement school district.**

**Category** Education  
**Description** Requires an achievement school district (ASD), or the entity under contract to operate schools within the ASD, to hire teachers assigned to the school prior to the school's transfer, if the teachers are rated in the two highest categories of teacher evaluations and want to remain at the school; provided that the ASD, or entity under contract to operate the school, shall not be required to hire such teachers to fill more than 30 percent of the school's teaching positions.

**Senate Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.  
**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB149 / HB173 Carrying weapons on certain properties used by schools.**

**Category** Criminal Law  
**Sponsors** Sen. Mark Green / Rep. Debra Moody  
**Description** Removes provision making it illegal to possess a firearm on property used, but not owned or operated, by a school for the administration of any public or private educational institution.

**Senate Status** 03/23/2015 - Senate passed.  
**House Status** 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**SB151 / HB294 Bicycle safety curriculum - proper use and positioning of helmets.**

**Category** Education  
**Sponsors** Sen. Dolores R. Gresham / Rep. Roger Kane  
**Description** Urges the department of education to include the proper use and positioning of bicycle helmets in its pilot bicycle safety curriculum. Broadly captioned.

**Senate Status** 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.  
**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB159 / HB164 Occupational education licenses.**

**Category** Education  
**Sponsors** Sen. Jim Tracy / Rep. John Forgety  
**Description** Requires a person seeking licensure as an occupational education teacher to successfully complete a teacher education program of nine semester hours, unless the
person already met this requirement during their employment as an apprentice. Candidates for licensure must be recommended by a higher education institution with an education program that complies with the standards established by the state board of education.

**Senate Status** 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB167 / HB601 Exempts audiologists and speech pathologists from privilege tax.**

- **Category** Professions & Licensure
- **Description** Exempts audiologists and speech pathologists from the professional privilege tax beginning January 1, 2016.

**Senate Status** 03/31/2015 - Senate Finance Revenue Subcommittee returned to Senate Finance with a neutral recommendation.

**House Status** 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

**SB168 / HB202 Civil action against employers who punish employees for firearms.**

- **Category** Criminal Law
- **Description** Creates a civil action against any business, public or private employer, or other entity who punishes an employee because the employee transports and stores a firearm in a motor vehicle. Allows the employee to seek an injunction or civil damages or both against an employer.

**Senate Status** 03/10/2015 - Senate Judiciary Committee deferred to last calendar.

**House Status** 03/11/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**SB203 / HB492 Hunting, fishing licenses - persons with service-connected disability.**

- **Category** Environment & Nature
- **Description** Allows persons with a service-connected disability, instead of those having a service-connected disability of 30 percent or more that was acquired during war, to receive a free sport fishing and hunting license.

**Senate Status** 03/18/2015 - Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee deferred to 03/25/15.

**House Status** 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

**SB292 / HB569 Authorizes teachers to remove disruptive students from class.**

- **Category** Education
- **Description** Requires each local board of education to adopt a policy for a teacher to remove disruptive students from the classroom. Provides that the policy shall: 1) require a teacher to file a brief report with the principal detailing the disruptive behavior; 2) be kept in a student discipline file; 3) require the teacher to be notified of the actions taken to address the behavior of the removed student; and 4) prohibit a principle from returning a student on the day of removal without the teacher's consent. Establishes that the principal may not return a student to the classroom from which the student was removed following three documented removals without the teacher's consent; provides that such a student may be admitted without the teacher's consent only if the director of schools reviews the record and determines the return to be appropriate.

**Senate Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 04/07/2015 - House Education Administration and Planning Committee deferred to 2016.

**SB297 / HB204 Allows the dept. of education to post its annual report on website.**

- **Category** Education
- **Description** Allows the department of education to post its annual report on its web site in lieu of distributing the report to certain persons and entities.

**Senate Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB300 / HB155 State board of education - grading system for school performance.**

- **Category** Education
- **Sponsors** Sen. Dolores R. Gresham / Rep. Glen Casada
Description Requires the state board of education to develop a school grading system that assigns letter grades to schools based on their performance on TCAP tests or end-of-course exams, their effect on student growth as indicated by data from the Tennessee value-added assessment system and other measures of students growth, and other indicators of student achievement. Provides that the department of education shall include the school grades on the state report card.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (005750) rewrites the bill. Directs the state board to develop a school grading system that assigns letter grades to schools based on (1) TCAP performance, (2) student growth as indicated by Tennessee value-added assessment system data or other measures of growth, and (3) other outcome student indicators of student achievement as found to be a reliable measure of school performance by the state board. Requires school grades to be shown on the state report card. Requires implementation to begin with the 2017-2018 academic year. HOUSE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 1 (005332) deletes and rewrites Section 1, subsection (c), of the original bill such that the only substantive change is to require the school grading system to commence with the 2016-2017 academic year.

Senate Status 04/08/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.
House Status 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

SB301 / HB613 Consultation of TennCare advisory commission.
Category Tenncare
Description Encourages the commissioner of finance and administration to consult the TennCare advisory commission when developing policies concerning the impact on providers in the medical assistance program for home- and community-based services. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB338 / HB509 Ten years as state employee equivalent to GED for retention purposes.
Category Public Employees
Description Specifies that 10 or more years of employment as a state employee is credited as equivalent to a GED for the purpose of retention of state employment, promotion as state employee, or return to state service. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status 04/06/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate State & Local Government Committee.
House Status 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in House State Government Subcommittee.

SB392 / HB909 Local boards of education to admit students without LEA approval.
Category Education
Description Requires local boards of education to admit students from outside their respective local school systems without the approval of the LEA that the student previously attended. Requires local boards of education to arrange for the transfer of students residing within their systems to schools located outside of their districts. Provides that the transfer of such students shall be mandated only if the receiving LEA has the available room, teaching capacity and transportation for the incoming students.

Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
House Status 03/31/2015 - House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

SB397 / HB566 Student religious beliefs in conflict with higher education program.
Category Education
Description Prohibits higher education institution from taking adverse actions against students in counseling, social work, and psychology programs for refusing to counsel or serve a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflict with the student's sincerely held
religion. Requires student's supervising instructor or professor, and the director or agency operating the internship or practicum to refer client to another counselor.

**Senate Status**: 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
**House Status**: 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB439 / HB1089** Allows parent or teacher to view standardized tests taken by student.

- **Category**: Education
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Ferrell Haile / Rep. Kevin Dunlap
- **Description**: Enacts the "Parent Empowerment and Testing Transparency Act." Allows the parents of a student to have access to the test questions and the student's answers on any state-required standardized assessments within 30 days after the last date for the administration of the test. Allows a teacher to have access to a test administered to a student and the student's answer. Restricts access to students the teacher is currently teaching in the subject tested and to students the teacher taught in the subject tested in the school year in which the test was given. Establishes rules and procedures for the electronic posting and receiving of the student's test information.

**Amendment**

House Education Instruction and Programs Committee amendment 1, Senate Education Committee amendment 1 (005531) deletes all language of the original bill. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide local education agencies (LEAs) with access to students' Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests, end-of-course assessments, and students' answers to all such tests. Requires LEAs to provide the tests and student's answers to parents upon request. Release of this information shall begin in the 2016-2017 academic year. Items that are required to validate future tests by the administration; items that are being field tested for future tests; and any passages or other content that would violate copyright law are prohibited from being released. Requires a teacher to have access to the teacher's student information relative to standardized tests and answers. Requires release of assessment information to comply with the Tennessee Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act. Requires a local education agency (LEA) to notify parents on how they can view the test questions and their students' answers during the annual notification of parents on tests that shall be administered during the academic year. Information relative to test viewing shall also be included in each LEA's student handbook or other policy guidebook.

**Senate Status**: 04/21/2015 - Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee deferred to 2016.
**House Status**: 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

**SB455 / HB35** Offering pre-k program for at risk children.

- **Category**: Education
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Bill Dunn
- **Description**: Allows an LEA that offers a prekindergarten program for at risk children to offer the program either during the school year or in the summer. Requires LEA's conducting the summer prekindergarten program to provide at least six weeks, but no more than eight weeks, of instructions.

**Senate Status**: 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
**House Status**: 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB483 / HB160** General assembly - direct attorney general to file civil action.

- **Category**: Judiciary
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Glen Casada
- **Description**: Authorizes the general assembly to direct the attorney general and reporter to initiate or withdraw from a civil action on behalf of the state. Allows the general assembly to employ legal counsel to advise it on matters related to such actions.

**Senate Status**: 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
**House Status**: 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**SB493 / HB1124** Certain rules proposed by agency require public hearing before filing.

- **Category**: Government Regulation
- **Sponsors**: Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Jeremy Faison
- **Description**: Prohibits an agency that has filed an emergency rule from filing a proposed rule on the same subject without first holding a public rulemaking hearing.

**Senate Status**: 03/11/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Government Operations Committee
**House Status**: 02/23/2015 - Referred to House Government Operations Committee.

**SB518 / HB434** Students with intellectual disabilities included in graduation rate.

- **Category**: Education
Description: Requires that students with intellectual disabilities who are educated in comprehensive development classrooms be included as graduates when calculating the graduation rate for their high school class.
Senate Status: 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 03/03/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB519 / HB435 Students obtaining GED or HiSET diploma included in graduation rate.**

Category: Education
Description: Requires the department of education to include a student, who obtains a GED or HiSET diploma within five years of beginning high school, in the calculation of the graduation rate for the class in which the student entered high school.
Senate Status: 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 03/03/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB520 / HB436 Calculation formula for high school graduation rate.**

Category: Education
Description: Establishes the method for calculating a high school's graduation rate. Specifies that the formula be calculated as the number of students in an adjusted cohort, who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma, divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort in that graduating class. Disqualifies students from the formula who are retained in a grade or leave schools without transferring into another school. Establishes procedures to remove a student from the cohort and to confirm that a student has transferred out.
Senate Status: 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.
House Status: 03/03/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB539 / HB815 Closure of virtual schools.**

Category: Education
Description: Requires an LEA to close a virtual school that demonstrates student-achievement growth at a level of "significantly below expectations" for three consecutive years, whereas before the commissioner was provided with the option of reinstituting the enrollment cap instead.
Amendment: Senate Education Committee amendment 1 (005112) prohibits a nonprofit or for-profit entity that contracts with an LEA for the operation of a virtual public school from enrolling students in a virtual public school if the entity was previously forced to close another virtual public school. Further clarifies that only data collected after passage of this bill should be used in demonstrating student achievement growth for the purpose of closing a school under the provision above.
Senate Status: 04/01/2015 - Senate Education Committee recommended with amendment 1. Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.
House Status: 04/14/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

**SB546 / HB698 Dept. of Human Services- establishes task force for the blind.**

Category: Government Organization
Description: Establishes within the department of human services a task force for vocational rehabilitation services for the blind. Requires the task force to develop recommendations to the general assembly related to the delivery of adjustment to blindness services to vocational rehabilitation clients who are blind, the appropriateness of establishing a structured discovery center in Tennessee, and the appropriate organizational structure to ensure quality vocational rehabilitation services are provided to persons who are blind. Specifies membership of the task force and terminates the task force on June 30, 2017.
House Status: 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

**SB550 / HB14 Third party presence for a DCS child interview at school.**

Category: Family Law
Description Requires that in the course of an investigation regarding child abuse, any interview of
a child by the department of children's services must be done in the presence of a third
party. If the school employs a school resource officer, then that officer shall be present;
otherwise either a school counselor, school nurse, or other faculty member shall be
present.

Senate Status 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status 01/17/2015 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB567 / HB604 Entities providing services within any long-term care system.
Category Health Care
Description Requires the commissioner of the department of finance and administration, certain
state departments and the board for licensing healthcare facilities to ensure that entities
providing services under the long-term care system are subject to the same licensure
requirements and standards.

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status 03/10/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB568 / HB621 Nursing facility providers as vendors of TennCare.
Category TennCare
Description Prohibits the bureau of TennCare from imposing certain requirements on nursing facility
providers as vendors of the TennCare program unless those requirements are
permitted by a (1) federal statute, (2) state statute, or (3) promulgated state rule from
the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act by the applicable state agency. Specifies
that some requirements imposed on a vendor in order to provide services be enacted
by the general assembly in certain circumstances.

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB569 / HB231 Reporting amounts paid to the CHOICES program.
Category TennCare
Description Requires bureau of TennCare to annually report the amount paid to each managed
care organization (MCO) for long term care services and amount paid by MCOs for
long term care services in the previous fiscal year. Broadly Captioned.

Senate Status 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status 03/10/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB577 / HB300 Regulation of rickshaws by home rule municipalities.
Category Transportation Vehicles
Description Amends the definition of "rickshaw," for the purposes of authorizing home rule
municipalities to regulate rickshaws, to exclude a bicycle built for more than three
people and a motorized scooters used by a disabled person. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Transportation & Safety Committee.
House Status 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Transportation Subcommittee.

SB586 / HB1340 Use of methamphetamine while pregnant.
Category Criminal Law
Sponsors Sen. Reginald Tate / Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver
Description Includes methamphetamine within drugs for which a mother can be prosecuted for
assault if her baby is born harmed or addicted to methamphetamine.

Senate Status 04/08/2015 - Failed in Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status 04/15/2015 - Taken off notice in House Calendar & Rules Committee.

Category Health Care
Sponsors Sen. Reginald Tate / Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver
Description Requires the commissioner of health to consult with the district attorneys general
conference, the board of medical examiners, the board for licensing health care
facilities, and the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services
concerning the impact of Chapter 820 of the Public Acts of 2014 on the utilization of
health care and healthcare facilities by women who illegally use narcotic drugs while
pregnant. Requires the commissioner of health to report to the health and welfare
committee of the senate and the health committee of the house concerning the findings
of the commissioner and the commissioner’s recommendations on or before January 15, 2016

**Senate Status** 03/25/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred.

**House Status** 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

**SB592 / HB498 Students must complete 75 hours of service learning to graduate.**

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Reginald Tate / Rep. Karen D. Camper

**Description** Requires students to complete 75 hours of service learning to graduate from high school. Requires the state board of education to adopt service-learning standards and guidelines for certain service learning program.

**Senate Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 04/07/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Committee.

**SB600 / HB651 Allows parent to petition for restructuring of school.**

**Category** Education


**Description** Allows parents to petition, subject to certain conditions, for the restructuring of a school through the transformation or turnaround model or as a charter school. Details petition process. Requires the LEA to ensure transformation meets certain standards. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment** SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 1 (003683) adds language to Section 1 of the bill and requires turnaround options to be implemented within existing LEA budgets. Authorizes LEAs to apply for grants to fund school turnarounds or request personnel or financial assistance from the Department of Education. SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 2 (004545) specifies the process a parent must make in order to have a petition for certain procedures to be taken by the school. Requires an appeals process for educators. SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 3 (004692) specifies an exception to schools undergoing an intervention.

**Senate Status** 04/13/2015 - Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee deferred to 2016 after adopting amendment 1.

**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB608 / HB626 Use of mechanical restraints on a child.**

**Category** Judiciary

**Sponsors** Sen. Frank Niceley / Rep. Mary Littleton

**Description** Authorizes judge in certain court hearings to order child to be handcuffed, restraint belts, jacket restraints, or footcuffs if necessary to prevent flight or physical harm to the child or another person. Requires judge to give child and child’s attorney an opportunity to object to the restraints prior to use unless judge determines it is an emergency. Requires judge to make written findings of fact when restraints are used.

**Amendment** House Civil Justice Subcommittee amendment 1 (003875) deletes the amendatory language of Section 1 and substitutes language that, in order to remove the taint of criminality from a child charged with a delinquent act, a child shall not be restrained in court unless the court finds the restraints are necessary due to the behavior of the child representing a threat to the child’s safety or the safety of others, or the child presents a substantial risk of flight from the courtroom; and there are no less restrictive alternatives to prevent flight or risk of harm to the child or others. Any party may request to be heard as to the necessity of restraints.

**Senate Status** 04/07/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status** 04/07/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Committee.

**SB611 / HB805 Licensed social workers exempt from subpoena to trial.**

**Category** Judiciary

**Sponsors** Sen. Steven Dickerson / Rep. Joe Pitts

**Description** Adds licensed social workers to the list of deponents exempt from subpoena to trial but subject to subpoena to a deposition.

**Senate Status** 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status** 03/04/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**SB631 / HB424 Specialty license plate - Supporters of Blind and Visually Impaired.**

**Category** Transportation Vehicles

**Sponsors** Sen. Paul Bailey / Rep. Cameron Sexton
**SB657 / HB1222 Parent must report missing child to law enforcement.**

**Category:** Judiciary  
**Description:** Requires a parent who has reasonable cause to believe a child under nine years of age is missing shall report the child missing within 12 hours of discovering the child may be missing. If a child is over the age of nine, a parent must report the child missing within 24 hours of discovering the child may be missing.

**Senate Status:** 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
**House Status:** 03/11/2015 - Taken off notice in House Transportation Subcommittee.

**SB671 / HB983 Prohibits standardized testing for students in K-2.**

**Category:** Education  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Frank Niceley / Rep. Matthew Hill  
**Description:** Prohibits LEAs from administering any state or locally mandated standardized tests for the grade levels of kindergarten through grade two (K-2).

**Senate Status:** 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.  
**House Status:** 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB725 / HB660 Requires insurance to treat telehealth encounter same as in-person one**

**Category:** Health Care  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Mark Green / Rep. Jay D. Reedy  
**Description:** Clarifies that insurance coverage for healthcare services provided during a telehealth encounter shall be consistent with what the health insurance policy or contract provides for in-person encounters for the same service when the encounters use a licensed healthcare provider. Broadly captioned.

**Senate Status:** 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
**House Status:** 02/19/2015 - Referred to House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.  
**Executive Status:** 03/09/2015 - Taken off notice in Joint Council on Pensions and Insurance.

**SB739 / HB668 Closing public schools in observance of elections.**

**Category:** Education  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Steve Southerland / Rep. David B. Hawk  
**Description:** Requires public schools, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, close on any day on which a primary election or general election is held if any of the residents of the school district are entitled to vote.

**Senate Status:** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.  
**House Status:** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

**SB742 / HB1116 Healthcare Choice Act.**

**Category:** TennCare  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Brian K. Kelsey / Rep. Jerry Sexton  
**Description:** Authorizes non-Tennessee individual health insurers and non-Tennessee small employer health insurers to provide individual health benefits plans or small employer health benefits plans, as appropriate, to Tennessee residents if the insurer: (1) Offers the same benefits plans in its domiciliary state and is in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and other requirements of its domiciliary state; (2) Obtains a certificate of authority to do business as a foreign health insurer in this state; and (3) Participates, on a nondiscriminatory basis, in the Tennessee life and health insurance guaranty association. Specifies requirements for the non-Tennessee health insurer to obtain a certificate of authority to do business in this state. Requires non-Tennessee insurers providing coverage pursuant to this bill to disclose the differences between coverage of certain healthcare services and benefits by the individual health benefits plan or the small employer health benefits plan issued by the foreign health insurer and the coverage of such services and benefits mandated by Tennessee law. The insurer must also provide an explanation of which state's laws govern the issuance of, and requirements under, the individual health benefits plan or small employer health benefits plan offered under this bill. Requires the commissioner to establish grievance and independent claims review procedures with respect to claims by a healthcare provider.
provider or a covered person with which a non-Tennessee health insurer must comply as a condition of issuing policies in this state. Specifies that insurers must also comply with the Uniform Trade Practices and Unfair Claims Settlement Act, state law regarding insurance premium taxes, and applicable provisions of the state life and health insurance guaranty association. Requires the commissioner of finance and administration, within 120 days of this bill's effective date, to submit a waiver amendment to the existing TennCare II waiver, or to submit a new waiver, to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to use personal health accounts. In accordance with terms of an appropriate federal waiver for providing medical assistance in this state, each enrollee for medical assistance would receive a personal health account (PHA) for paying a portion of the enrollee's healthcare expenses. The account would be funded quarterly with an amount based on current fee-for-service average expenses, after an appropriate risk adjustment to reflect eligibility categories, age, gender, and health status. The account would be available on an individual basis. Each enrollee would use the account to purchase a benefit coverage plan from an array of options approved by the bureau of TennCare. The coverage options would range from a safety net of limited benefits to full-service benefit plans. The range of options must provide a broad continuum of consumer flexibility including, but not limited to, managed care organizations, self-directed plans, and medical home networks. Plans offered as options would directly compete for the enrollee's business. An enrollee could choose to use the full amount of the PHA to purchase comprehensive or partial coverage plans. If the enrollee selects a plan with rates that are lower than the total amount of the PHA, then the enrollee could retain any balance of the PHA to spend on healthcare related items, but not food, clothing, or shelter. Unused balances would roll forward to the next quarter. If an enrollee ceases to be eligible for medical assistance, a portion of the unused balance of a PHA could be used for healthcare expenses or to purchase health insurance. Unused funds would revert to the state after 12 months or immediately upon the death of an enrollee.

**Senate Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

**SB790 / HB753 Health Care Compact.**

- **Category:** Health Care
- **Sponsors:** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Mark Pody
- **Description:** Enacts the "Health Care Compact." Requires member states to pledge to take joint and separate action to secure the consent of the federal government in order to return the authority to regulate health care to the member states. Authorizes the legislature of the member states primary responsibility to regulate health care in their respective states. Allows member states to suspend the operation of all federal laws and regulations regarding health care. Specifies amount of federal funding each state shall receive. Establishes the Interstate Advisory Health Care Commission to study issues of health care regulation in the member states and to collect data regarding the regulation of health care.

**Senate Status** 02/18/2015 - Referred to Senate Government Operations Committee.

**House Status** 02/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

**SB803 / HB1264 Use of Measurement Inc. for assessments prohibited.**

- **Category:** Education
- **Sponsors:** Sen. Frank Niceley / Rep. Rick Womick
- **Description:** Prohibits the use of Measurement Inc. in the development and implementation of assessments in schools. Requires that any decision to adopt new assessments to replace TCAP be at the discretion of the general assembly. Broadly Captioned.

**Senate Status** 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

**House Status** 03/25/2015 - House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

**SB839 / HB1358 Reduces Hall Income Tax.**

- **Category:** Taxes General
- **Sponsors:** Sen. Ken Yager / Rep. Kent Calfee
- **Description:** Reduces the Hall income tax based upon revenue growth exceeding three percent in any fiscal year, which is presently levied by the state, until it reaches zero percent. Allows local governments, upon the state tax rate reaching zero percent, to levy a like tax not to exceed 2.25 percent, if the ordinance or resolution levying the tax is approved within two years.

**Senate Status** 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Finance Revenue Subcommittee.
SB840 / HB1352 Pilot project for establishing convenient voting centers.

**Category:** Campaigns & Lobbying  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Ken Yager / Rep. David Alexander  
**Description:** Allows counties to participate in a pilot project for establishing convenient voting centers for use on election day upon super majority vote of the county election commission. Specifies requirements for such convenient voting centers. Requires coordinator of elections to evaluate and report to certain legislative committees on whether the voting centers should continue.

Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.  
House Status 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Local Government Subcommittee.

SB841 / HB771 Prohibits prosecution for drug crimes under certain circumstances.

**Category:** Criminal Law  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Ken Yager / Rep. Bill Dunn  
**Description:** Prohibits prosecution for drug-related crimes if the prosecution is based on evidence acquired as a result of a person obtaining emergency medical assistance for another person, or oneself, who is experiencing a drug-related overdose if the person cooperated with medical, emergency responder and law enforcement personnel. Specifies that limited immunity from prosecution does not extend to evidence acquired as a result of probable cause or reasonable suspicion based on information obtained prior to, independent of, the person obtaining emergency medical assistance.

Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
House Status 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

SB858 / HB970 Time period for employee notify employer of certain convictions.

**Category:** Labor Law  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Frank Niceley / Rep. Joe Pitts  
**Description:** Shortens time period teacher or other employee working with, or near, children has to notify employer of conviction of certain criminal offenses to five days, instead of seven days, from the date of conviction.

Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.  
House Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.


**Category:** Labor Law  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Sara Kyle / Rep. John Ray Clemmons  
**Description:** Enacts the “Tennessee Pay Equality Act.” Prohibits an employer from discriminating on the basis of sex by paying any employee a wage rate less than the wage rates the employer pays to any employee of the opposite sex. Establishes the employer as liable to the employee or employees affected in at least the amount of their unpaid wages. Establishes a Class A misdemeanor for certain violations. Allows economic council on women to conduct certain research.

Senate Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
House Status 03/25/2015 - Failed in House Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee.

SB891 / HB1084 Limits fee assessed on continuing care retirement community homes.

**Category:** Health Care  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Brian K. Kelsey / Rep. Curry Todd  
**Description:** Limits the assessed fee for continuing care retirement community nursing homes to not be greater than the fee assessed by the state per bed on July 1, 2014. Requires fees that were collected after July 1, 2014, that are in excess amount be refunded to the CRC nursing facility.

Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
House Status 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB966 / HB1231 Proficiency scores and identifying schools as priority schools.

**Category:** Education  
**Description:** Authorizes the department of education, in consultation with the state board of education, to create a numerical score above which students shall be deemed proficient. Prevents the commissioner of education from identifying a school as a priority school, if the student average within the school is above the numerical score. Requires the department to post the numerical score and any other necessary relevant information on its website.
Establishes a scholarship program for eligible students to attend participating private K-12 schools. An "eligible student" is a student who: (1) Resides in Tennessee and is zoned to attend or enrolled in a public school that is identified as being in the bottom five percent of schools in overall achievement; (2) Meets the minimum age requirements to attend kindergarten with eligibility extending until the student graduates from high school, except that the student must be less than 22 years of age by August 15 of each year; (3) Is a member of a household whose annual income during the year prior to initial receipt of a scholarship met the requirements for free or reduced price lunch; and (4) Was previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school during the two semesters preceding the semester in which the student receives the scholarship, is enrolling in a Tennessee school for the first time, or received a scholarship pursuant to this bill in the previous school year. Specifies requirements for private schools to participate in the program, including, but not limited to, being identified as a category I, II or III school, and providing lunch to scholarship students at no cost or at a reduced cost. Details the total number of scholarships that may be awarded for each school year: (1) 5,000 for the 2015-2016; (2) 7,500 for 2016-2017; (3) 10,000 for 2017-2018; and 20,000 for 2018-2019 and thereafter. If a participating school demonstrates achievement growth for scholarship students at a level of "significantly below expectations" for two consecutive years or the department determines the school has failed to comply with this bill, then the commissioner of education may suspend or terminate a school's participation in the program. Provides that if a participating school is suspended or terminated from the program, or if the school otherwise withdraws from the program, scholarship students enrolled at the school may transfer to another participating school without loss of eligibility and such students would be given preference for enrollment. Clarifies that no federal funds shall be used in the funding of the scholarship. (11 pp.)

Amends various parts of Section 1 of the original bill. Changes the effective date of the bill from January 1, 2016, to August 1, 2016. Caps the scholarship program for LEAs with a school that is in the bottom five percent of achievement at 5,000 scholarships in FY17; 7,500 scholarships in FY17-18; and 10,000 scholarships in FY18-19; and 20,000 scholarships in FY19-20 and subsequent fiscal years. Prohibits the State Board of Education from promulgating any emergency rule relative to the implementation of the bill prior to August 1, 2016.

Enacts the "Home-Rule LEA Act." Allows local boards of education more governing authority over their own school districts. Allows eligible LEAs to become home-rule LEAs, so long as the LEAs, in three consecutive years, meets or exceeds the state average on academic performance and certain state standards. Requires the local board of education to adopt a resolution and a certain number of voters to sign a petition in order to be eligible to convert to a home-rule LEA. Requires and specifies the creation of a charter commission. Requires the charter commission to develop a charter to govern the home-rule LEA and for the charter to be proposed to the local governing
SB1022 / HB685 General assembly approval for changes to state curriculum standards.

Category: Education


Description: Requires approval by the senate and the house before new standards or changes to curriculum standards adopted by the state board of education become effective.

Senate Status: 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

SB1034 / HB1156 Program to facilitate development of stroke treatment capabilities.

Category: Health Care


Description: Establishes a program to facilitate the development of stroke treatment capabilities in hospitals and other health care settings in the state. Requires the department of health to establish criteria and designate hospitals that meet the criteria as a stroke center, primary stroke center, or acute stroke-ready hospital, dependent upon the criteria met. Requires the department to publicize hospital stroke designations. Requires certain regulations and assessments of emergency medical service personnel in regards to stroke care and hospital designations.

Senate Status: 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 03/17/2015 - House Health Subcommittee deferred to first calendar of 2016.

SB1056 / HB1041 Hunting and fishing licenses for disabled law enforcement officers.

Category: Environment & Nature


Description: Authorizes combat veterans, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians who reside outside the state and who are 50 percent service connected disabled to receive a sport hunting and fishing license upon payment of an annual $10.00 fee.

Amendment: Senate amendment 1 (004227) rewrites the bill. This amendment requires the TWRA to issue a 10-day sport hunting and fishing license upon payment of a $10.00 fee to nonresidents who: (1) By reason of service in any war are 50 percent or more disabled; and (2) Are participating in a hunting or fishing activity in this state that is sponsored by an organization that is exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the tax code.

Senate Status: 03/30/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

House Status: 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

SB1063 / HB1257 State's minimum hourly wage rate.

Category: Labor Law


Description: Requires the commissioner of labor and workforce development to set the state's minimum hourly wage rate at not less than $10.10 per hour and requires the commissioner to adjust the rate annually to reflect inflation in accordance with the consumer price index. Establishes a cause of action for employees if employers violate the state's minimum hourly wage rate. Sets the wage rate paid to blind persons employed by the state to the greater of the state minimum hourly wage rate or the federal minimum wage as provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Senate Status: 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 03/25/2015 - Failed in House Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee.

| **Category** | Labor Law |
| **Sponsors** | Sen. Lee Harris / Rep. Craig Fitzhugh |
| **Description** | Enacts the “Making Work Pay Act.” Requires every employer to pay each employee who works longer than 40 hours in any work week at a rate of no less than one and one-half of the regular rate of pay for those hours that exceed 40. Requires seasonal employment to be paid the one and one-half overtime rate after 45 hours. Requires employers to post a summary that can easily be seen of this part in the workplace. Establishes a liability to the violators of the minimum wage requirement for the amount of unpaid wages, including additional wages for damage. |
| **Senate Status** | 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. |
| **House Status** | 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee. |

**SB1083 / HB641 Interagency council on homelessness.**

| **Category** | Government Organization |
| **Sponsors** | Sen. Lee Harris / Rep. Jason Powell |
| **Description** | Establishes an interagency council on homelessness, composed of members appointed by the governor, for the purpose of addressing the issue of homelessness in the state. Provides that the responsibilities of the council shall include surveying current resources for services provided to individuals facing homelessness, and coordinating with state, local and private entities to provide such individuals with information on services available to assist them. |
| **Senate Status** | 03/18/2015 - Senate Government Operations Committee deferred to 3/25/15. |
| **House Status** | 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in House State Government Subcommittee. |

**SB1085 / HB1227 Grants LEAs flexibility to be more creative and innovative.**

| **Category** | Education |
| **Description** | Gives an LEA the authority and power to exercise all flexibility granted to public charter schools, including applying for waivers of laws and state board rules that inhibit or hinder the LEA's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission. Encourages an LEA to exercise this flexibility to develop and implement creative and innovative school programs that meet the specific needs of its students. |
| **Senate Status** | 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee. |
| **House Status** | 04/07/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Committee. |

**SB1087 / HB1238 ECD to develop a mentorship program.**

| **Category** | Economic Development |
| **Sponsors** | Sen. Lee Harris / Rep. Larry J. Miller |
| **Description** | Requires the department of economic and community development to develop a mentorship program that teams successful large enterprises, as mentors, with emerging small businesses, as mentees. |
| **Senate Status** | 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. |
| **House Status** | 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Business & Utilities Subcommittee. |

**SB1104 / HB430 Teacher review of academic content and student evaluations.**

| **Category** | Education |
| **Sponsors** | Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Tilman Goins |
| **Description** | Specifies that teachers have the right to review all academic content and materials and student evaluation tools brought into the teacher's classroom or to which the teacher's students will be exposed. Requires that all such materials be made available for the teacher's review. |
| **Senate Status** | 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee. |
| **House Status** | 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee. |

**SB1112 / HB1184 Long-term care facilities required to use qualified licensed persons.**

| **Category** | Health Care |
| **Sponsors** | Sen. Doug Overbey / Rep. Ron Lollar |
| **Description** | Requires the long-term care system to ensure that residents' needs in institutions are delivered by qualified licensed persons and that these institutions comply with similar building and fire codes as well as other regulations. |
| **Senate Status** | 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee. |
| **House Status** | 03/10/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee. |

**SB1116 / HB831 State election commission to provide online voter registration.**

| **Category** | Campaigns & Lobbying |

Disability Rights TN-Policy Watch 2015
Session Wrap Up
**SB1124 / HB1209 State health insurance exchange.**

**Category:** Health Care

**Sponsors:** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. Johnnie Turner

**Description:** Requires the state to establish a health insurance exchange under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act if King v. Burwell is decided by the United States supreme court in a certain manner.

**Senate Status:** 04/08/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred to 2016.

**House Status:** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

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**SB1138 / HB22 Disclosure of expunged offenses by applicant prohibited.**

**Category:** Judiciary

**Sponsors:** Sen. Reginald Tate / Rep. Brenda Gilmore

**Description:** Prohibits institutions of higher education and employers from asking applicants about expunged offenses. Creates a civil offense against the employer for each separate offense.

**Senate Status:** 03/30/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status:** 01/17/2015 - Referred to House Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee.

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**SB1143 / HB1164 Commission to study lupus.**

**Category:** Health Care

**Sponsors:** Sen. Reginald Tate / Rep. Johnnie Turner

**Description:** Creates a joint commission to study issues relative to lupus. Requires the committee to consist of three members of the house and three members of the senate, to be appointed by their respective speakers.

**Senate Status:** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Delayed Bills Committee.

**House Status:** 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

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**SB1159 / HB974 Tennessee Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.**

**Category:** Labor Law

**Sponsors:** Sen. Becky Duncan Massey / Rep. Matthew Hill

**Description:** Enacts the "Tennessee Pregnant Workers Fairness Act." Specifies that an employer failing to make reasonable accommodations for an applicant for employment or employee related to pregnancy, childbirth or related condition is a discriminatory practice based on sex unless such employer can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer. Gives the employer the burden of proving undue hardship. Specifies that an employer who takes adverse action against an employee who requests or uses an accommodation related to pregnancy or childbirth is a discriminatory practice based on sex. Specifies that an employer who denies employment opportunities to an applicant based on the need of the employer to make reasonable accommodations to the known conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also a discriminatory practice. Requires the Tennessee Human Rights Commission to develop courses of instruction and conduct ongoing public education efforts as necessary to inform employers, employees, employment agencies, and applicants for employment about the rights and responsibilities related to this section.

**Senate Status:** 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status:** 03/25/2015 - House Consumer & Human Resources Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

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**SB1161 / HB1134 Insurance voucher to expand Medicaid to 138 percent of poverty line.**

**Category:** Health Care

**Sponsors:** Sen. Becky Duncan Massey / Rep. Dennis Powers

**Description:** Requires the commissioner of finance and administration to apply for a federal waiver to establish a health insurance voucher program that expands eligibility for Medicaid to 138 percent of the federal poverty line. Provides that the vouchers will be funded with an increase in the hospital assessment from 4.52 percent to six percent. Clarifies that the voucher program shall terminate if the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act terminates and federal funding for this program is no longer available.

**Senate Status:** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status:** 03/17/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

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**SB1164 / HB1072 TN Promise scholarship - apprentice training program students.**
**SB1188 / HB939 Declaring party affiliation before voting.**

**Category** Campaigns & Lobbying  
**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Judd Matheny  
**Description** Requires a person to declare a statewide political party affiliation before voting in a primary election.  
**Senate Status** 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate State & Local Government Committee.  
**House Status** 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Local Government Subcommittee.

**SB1191 / HB431 Parental review of student’s papers, projects tests.**

**Category** Education  
**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Tilman Goins  
**Description** Requires that any test, paper, report, project, or other content that is graded or scored, which is used to determine a student's grade in a course or subject, must be provided to the student's parent or guardian for review within 40 days of the date on which the student took the test or submitted the work for grading. Broadly captioned.  
**Senate Status** 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.  
**House Status** 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB1192 / HB1136 Notice to homeowners for planned group homes in neighborhood.**

**Category** Local Government  
**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Susan Lynn  
**Description** Requires notice to affected homeowners when certain state-owned group homes are planned. Requires notice to homeowners living 500 yards within the proposed site.  
**Senate Status** 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
**House Status** 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB1193 / HB1348 Revises provisions governing curriculum standards for K–12 students.**

**Category** Education  
**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver  
**Description** Revises the provisions governing curriculum standards for K–12 students, such as prohibiting the implementation of the common core state standards. Prohibits other standards or assessments from being implemented, such as CSCOPE, the Next Generation Science Standards, the National Sexuality Standards, PARCC, the Smarter Balanced Assessment, or Measurement Incorporated. Allows the state board of education to come up with a new set of state academic content standards. Creates the academic standards steering committee as a review authority for all legislation and proposals related to academic standards. Prohibits department of education from withholding state funds from an LEA for failing to use state academic content standards or assessments. Prohibits state and local bodies from relinquishing control over education. Authorizes state board to new state standards that are consistent with state standards in 2009. Establishes certain criteria for the state board to adopt in their new academic standards. (14pp.)  
**Senate Status** 03/26/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.  
**House Status** 03/25/2015 - Failed in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB1194 / HB1267 Authorizes local school board to adopt education standards.**

**Category** Education  
**Sponsors** Sen. Mae Beavers / Rep. Rick Womick  
**Description** Requires each local school board to adopt academic standards in mathematics, science, geography, history, reading, language arts, and writing. Allows the academic standards adopted by each local school board to be superior or inferior to the academic standards promulgated by the state board of education. Requires the state board of education to develop and provide a baseline set of standards for the listed subjects no
later than 13 months before the expected implementation. Also requires the state board to require each local school board to meet with family and community stakeholders to discuss accepting or enriching the academic standards and to ensure that the standards created shall meet the needs of all students within the school district.

**Senate Status**
04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.

**House Status**
03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.

**SB1207 / HB562** DCS to release info regarding an investigation of a near fatality.

**Category** Family Law

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. Sherry Jones

**Description** Requires the department of children's services to release information regarding an investigation of a near fatality, including the child's age, gender, and whether the child has a history with the department, within five days of the occurrence. Requires the department to release the final disposition of the case following the final classification of child abuse or neglect near fatality.

**Senate Status**
02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status**
03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**SB1210 / HB553** Requirements for absentee voting.

**Category** Campaigns & Lobbying

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. Craig Fitzhugh

**Description** Permits any registered Tennessee voter to vote absentee for any reason after providing evidence of identification in the application for a ballot. Exempts absentee voters who are currently allowed to vote absentee from the evidence of identification requirement under certain circumstances.

**Senate Status**
04/22/2015 - Set for Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee 04/22/15.

**House Status**
04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

**SB1213 / HB507** Requirements for health claims information.

**Category** Insurance Health

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. Bo Mitchell

**Description** Requires disclosure to governmental entities of certain health claims information derived from group health plans. Requires disclosure of the (1) aggregate paid claims experience by month, (2) total number of premiums paid by month, (3) and the total number of employees covered on a monthly basis, including who exactly is covered under the individual employee's coverage.

**Senate Status**
03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status**
03/25/2015 - Failed in House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

**SB1228 / HB740** Fee for juvenile adjudicated delinquent for an act involving drugs.

**Category** Judiciary

**Sponsors** Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Dan Howell

**Description** Requires juvenile court clerks to assess a $75.00 fee for any juvenile adjudicated delinquent for an act involving drugs or alcohol. Requires fees to be deposited into a dedicated county fund and used by the county exclusively for juvenile drug court treatment programs. Increases the fee charged by court clerks for non-juvenile drug offenses from $75.00 to $100. Designates the $25.00 increase to fund juvenile drug court treatment programs.

**Amendment** House Civil Justice Committee amendment 1 (005065) permits courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles alleged to be delinquent or unruly may develop and operate drug court treatment programs. Prohibits funding or support by revenues collected under the Drug Court Treatment Act of 2003. Adds a fee of $75 when a juvenile is determined to be delinquent by virtue of a delinquent act involving drugs or alcohol.

**Senate Status**
04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status**
03/31/2015 - House Civil Justice Committee deferred to 2016.

**SB1241 / HB1154** Delinquent acts of a student requiring LEA notification.

**Category** Education

**Sponsors** Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. Bud Hulsey

**Description** Expands the delinquent acts committed by a juvenile that require notification to the LEA where the juvenile resides or last attended school. Requires LEA to be notified any time a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent for specified delinquent acts, instead of only when being initially enrolled in the school, returning to school from suspension or expulsion, or transferring to another school. Shifts responsibility of informing school about delinquency adjudication from the parents, to the juvenile court clerk or general sessions clerk.
Senate Status 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
House Status 03/10/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB1282 / HB1215 Establishment of rural economic development task force.
Category Economic Development
Description Establishes a rural economic development task force consisting of seven members to study the feasibility of authorizing grants, loans, or other economic incentives to facilities in rural, economically distressed counties. Requires the task force to report to the finance committees of the senate and house by January 1, 2016. Broadly captioned.
Amendment Senate Government Operations Committee amendment 1, House Business & Utilities Committee amendment 1 (003933) rewrites the bill to enact the "The Rural Economic Development Stimulus Act," which qualifies certain business enterprises within localities with a population of 50,000 or less for a franchise and excise tax credit, provided that the business creates at least 15 qualified jobs.

Senate Status 04/21/2015 - Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee deferred to 2016.
House Status 04/21/2015 - Taken off notice in House Finance Subcommittee.

SB1295 / HB982 Reestablishes oversight committees on TennCare & children's services.
Category Government Organization
Description Reestablishes the legislative oversight committees on TennCare and on children's services. Specifies members, oversight powers, and required reports. (12 pp.)

Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Delayed Bills Committee.
House Status 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in House State Government Subcommittee.

SB1298 / HB1268 Parents' right to various reasonable accommodations.
Category Education
Description Establishes that parents of students enrolled in an LEA have a right to various reasonable accommodations from the LEA to enable them to exercise their parental rights. Provides that such rights include retaining their child at a grade level based on academic or other factors, and requesting a change of the student's teacher; however the LEA shall consider and make a reasonable decision regarding the request while weighing certain other factors. Requires the LEA to provide annual notice of these rights to the parents, teachers, and staff of an LEA. Requires an LEA to allow a student to receive credit for a course without completing the course in school if the student passes a test that covers the entire course and demonstrates the required proficiency in the course standards. Allows a student to be excused from any state-mandated tests or assessments administered statewide, and such a student's final grade or performance in a grade level shall be based on that student's coursework.

Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
House Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB1307 / HB1282 Report - use of psychotropic drugs to treat children.
Category Education
Description Clarifies that nothing in the "Virtual Schools Act" prohibits a virtual school from reimbursing families for reasonable costs, instead of any costs, associated with their Internet connections for use in the virtual school program.

Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
House Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee.

SB1309 / HB1282 Report - use of psychotropic drugs to treat children.
Category Education
Description Clarifies that the state board's report on LEAs' policies on the use of psychotropic drugs to treat children enrolled in elementary or secondary schools must be reported to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2016.

Senate Status 04/01/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Education Committee.
House Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Education Instruction and Programs Subcommittee.
SB1314 / HB503 Reimbursement rate for hospitals.
  Category TennCare
  Description Establishes a cap on the bureau of TennCare and any managed care organization's reimbursement to hospitals for providing healthcare services by creating a ceiling limiting reimbursement to 100 percent of the allowable charge under Medicare.
  Senate Status 03/25/2015 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred.
  House Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB1351 / HB1271 Medical assistance to existing TennCare II waiver population.
  Category TennCare
  Description Directs the commissioner of finance and administration to submit a waiver request to the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to enable the state to provide medical assistance to the existing TennCare II waiver population and persons with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty line by means of a block grant of federal funds within 120 days of the effective date of this act. Specifies that the block grant authorized by this section shall convert the federal share of all medical assistance funding for this state into an allotment that is tailored to meet the needs of this state and that is indexed for inflation and population growth.
  Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
  House Status 03/18/2015 - Taken off notice in House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

SB1387 / HB905 Charging of fares by public transportation system.
  Category Taxes Fuel
  Description Clarifies that the present law that authorizes local governments to levy a gasoline tax for the purpose of local public transportation funding does not prohibit a public transportation system from charging fares in an amount sufficient to offset the costs of fuel used to operate the system. Broadly captioned.
  Senate Status 02/19/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
  House Status 04/01/2015 - House Transportation Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

SB1390 / HB1206 Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder.
  Category Government Organization
  Description Terminates current autism spectrum disorder task force and creates the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorders. Specifies how many members the council will have, which commissioners sit on the council, and how other members are chosen. Details the duties of the council. Specifies when the council will terminate. Broadly captioned.
  Senate Status 03/25/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Government Operations Committee.
  House Status 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB1394 / HB1353 Develop plan to provide access to prenatal care.
  Category Health Care
  Description Directs the commissioner to develop a plan for ensuring that 90 percent of pregnant women in this state have access to prenatal care and to report findings to the health committee of the house and the health and welfare committee of the senate by February 1, 2016. Broadly captioned.
  Senate Status 03/31/2015 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
  House Status 03/24/2015 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

HJR73 Limiting Justices of U.S. Supreme Court to one 12-year term of office.
  Category Judiciary
  Sponsors Rep. James (Micah) Van Huss
  Description Urges Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit Justices of the United States Supreme Court to a single 12-year term of office.
  Senate Status None
  House Status 03/11/2015 - Taken off notice in House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

HJR80 General assembly's support for Medicare.
  Category Health Care
  Sponsors Rep. Craig Fitzhugh
  Description Expresses the general assembly's support for Medicare and the general assembly's opposition to any cuts to benefits.
Withdrawn

SB22 Duties of the executive director of the district public defenders.
Category: Judiciary
Sponsors: Sen. Mae Beavers
Description: Removes certain existing duties of the executive director of the district public defenders conference.
Senate Status: 02/12/2015 - Withdrawn in Senate.
House Status: None

SB158 Killing or injuring a service animal.
Category: Criminal Law
Sponsors: Sen. Jack Johnson
Description: Defines various terms and makes technical changes. Creates Class D felony of knowingly killing or causing serious physical harm to police, fire, and search and rescue dogs, and police horses. Prohibits person from harassing or allowing an animal in person's control to harass a service animal in course of its duties. Increases offense of inflicting, attempting to inflict, or allowing an animal in person's control to harm a service animal to a Class E felony. Provides penalty enhancement for recklessly inflicting or recklessly allowing an animal in person's control to inflict harm on a service animal when it occurs during the commission of another felony or Class A misdemeanor.
Senate Status: 02/19/2015 - Withdrawn in Senate.
House Status: None

SB347 Authorizes GPS monitoring as condition of release for juveniles.
Category: Criminal Law
Sponsors: Sen. Reginald Tate
Description: Authorizes juvenile court to order global positioning system (GPS) monitoring as a condition of release for juveniles in custody for delinquent or unruly conduct. Authorizes court to order child or child's parents or guardians to pay if able. Defines what types of GPS methods can be utilized. Specifies other requirements and rules for ordering GPS monitoring of juveniles. Directs court to consider GPS monitoring as a less restrictive alternative to detention.
Senate Status: 02/11/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status: None

SB622 / HB1113 Allows counties to opt out from changing and increasing salaries.
Category: Public Employees
Description: Authorizes counties to opt out of paying the minimum salary to county officers, county clerks, certified administrators of elections, and general sessions judges upon adoption of a resolution by a majority vote of the county legislative body. Specifies when option to opt out takes effect for each category of county official, and provides restrictions as to annual adjustments to salaries.
Senate Status: 03/23/2015 - Withdrawn in Senate.
House Status: 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Subcommittee.

SB801 / HB1266 Repeals the Medicaid Act of 1968.
Category: Health Care
Description: Repeals the Medicaid Act of 1968 and terminates Tennessee's participation in the Medicaid program.
Senate Status: 02/12/2015 - Withdrawn in Senate.
House Status: 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

SB967 / HB1250 Drug and alcohol abuse counselors - advertising requirements.
Category: Professions & Licensure
Description: Clarifies that persons licensed as alcohol and drug abuse counselors may hold themselves out to the public as being licensed counselors by using a title on signs, letterheads, telephone listings, and other forms of professional identification.
Senate Status: 03/02/2015 - Withdrawn in Senate.
House Status: 03/12/2015 - Withdrawn in House.
SB1242 / HB1259 Procedure for person to take bar regardless of law school attendance.

**Category**: Judiciary  
**Sponsors**: Sen. Mike Bell / Rep. John Mark Windle  
**Description**: Directs the state supreme court to establish rules allowing a person to apply for and take the Tennessee bar examination without graduating from law school. Specifies that, regardless of whether a person graduated from law school, successful bar passage makes person eligible to practice law. Prohibits court from establishing a rule limiting the number of times a person may take the Tennessee bar examination.

**Senate Status**: 02/26/2015 - Withdrawn in Senate.  
**House Status**: 02/24/2015 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

SB1262 / HB1057 Establishes a five-member congressional redistricting commission.

**Category**: Campaigns & Lobbying  
**Description**: Establishes a five-member congressional redistricting commission to accomplish redistricting for the house of representatives in congress after each enumeration and appointment of representation beginning in January 2021. Prohibits the changing of districts between appointments. Permits each legislative leader of the 2 largest political parties in each house of the legislature to appoint 1 voting member to the commission. Requires appointments to the commission to be made every ten years. Specifies eligibility to serve on the commission. Allows the commission to consult experts and consultants in order to carry out its duties. Permits the general assembly to appropriate funds to enable the commission to carry out its duties. Prohibits members of the committee to receive compensation or to actively participate or contribute to any political campaign of any candidate for federal office while members are a part of the commission. Requires a quorum of 3 members to perform any official business. Requires the commission to develop a redistricting plan. Requires, after creation, for the plan to be passed into law in order to be enacted. Requires the commission to cease to exist after the date of the first regularly scheduled general election for federal office.

**Senate Status**: 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Government Operations Committee.  

HB402 Presidential preference primary ballot - less signatures required.

**Category**: Campaigns & Lobbying  
**Sponsors**: Rep. Leigh Rosser Wilburn  
**Description**: Decreases number of signatures required on a petition for a candidate’s name to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot from 2,500 to 25.

**Senate Status**: None  
**House Status**: 02/26/2015 - Withdrawn in House.

HJR7001 Authorizes implementation of Insure Tennessee.

**Category**: Insurance Health  
**Sponsors**: Rep. Gerald McCormick  
**Description**: Authorizes the governor to do all that is necessary to implement Insure Tennessee substantially as described in TennCare Demonstration Amendment #25.

**Senate Status**: None  
**House Status**: 02/04/2015 - Withdrawn in House.

**Deferred to 2016**

SB507 / HB546 Enacts the "Insurance Costs Reduction Act."

**Category**: Insurance General  
**Description**: Enacts the "Insurance Costs Reduction Act." Requires the commissioner of commerce and insurance to convene a working group of representatives from the health care liability insurance industry and health care providers to study recent trends concerning various issues affecting the insurance industry, specifically the healthcare liability insurance industry. Specifies that the working group shall receive input from the health care liability insurance industry, the department of health, the department of commerce and insurance, the department of mental health and substance abuse services, health care providers, and patients. Requires the working group to submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2016.

**Senate Status**: 03/30/2015 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee deferred to 2016.
SB542 / HB415 Denial of dentist's right to participate in provider network.

Category: Insurance Health

**Sponsors:** Sen. Jack Johnson / Rep. Charles M. Sargent

**Description:** Prohibits certain plans and entities from denying any pediatric dentist, who meets certain qualifications, from participating in the provider network or restrict the right of any enrollee, which is eligible to receive medical services, to choose any dentist they have chosen who meet certain requirements.

**Senate Status:** 02/12/2015 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

**House Status:** 03/25/2015 - House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

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SB654 / HB852 Paying past due child support not needed to regain voting right.

Category: Campaigns & Lobbying

**Sponsors:** Sen. Sara Kyle / Rep. Johnnie Turner

**Description:** Removes requirement that a person must pay outstanding child support obligations that accumulated during any period of incarceration to have right of suffrage restored.

**Senate Status:** 04/08/2015 - Senate Judiciary Committee deferred to 2016.

**House Status:** 04/21/2015 - Referred to House Local Government Committee.

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SB692 / HB781 Charter schools to contract with nonprofit and for-profit entities.

Category: Education

**Sponsors:** Sen. Dolores R. Gresham / Rep. Glen Casada

**Description:** Permits a charter school to contract with nonprofit or for-profit entities for the operation or management of the school subject to certain conditions.

**Senate Status:** 04/09/2015 - Referred to Senate Calendar Committee.

**House Status:** 04/07/2015 - House Education Instruction and Programs Committee deferred to 2016 after adopting amendment 1.

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SB740 / HB1273 Formation of charter schools for students with specific needs.

Category: Education


**Description:** Allow for the formation of charter schools for students with specific academic needs. Allows such charter schools to establish academic admission criteria and to be exempt from certain charter school requirements.

**Amendment:** Senate amendment 1 (004157) deletes all language after the enacting clause of the original bill. Authorizes the formation of public charter schools that are designed specifically for the students with disabilities, for students with specific academic needs, or for a single sex. Such schools may limit their enrollment to a specific subset of students. Prohibits the reduction of a public charter school's application score by an authorizing body solely on the basis that a public charter school is designed for a specific subset of students. Such public charter schools shall not be subject to the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-113(b)-(d) relative to enrollment of public charter school students.

**Senate Status:** 04/16/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status:** 04/07/2015 - House Education Instruction and Programs Committee deferred to 2016.

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SB879 / HB947 Revises charter school application fees.

Category: Education

**Sponsors:** Sen. Dolores R. Gresham / Rep. Harry Brooks

**Description:** Increases the charter school application fee from $500 per application to $5,000 for new applications and $1,000 for renewal applications. Institutes authorizer fees to defray the costs of authorizing the school and to support the continuing operations of the chartering authority to oversee and monitor the performance of its authorized charter schools. Requires the department of education to verify annually that LEAs are providing the amount of funding to charter schools required by law. Clarifies that an LEA is not required to include any vacant or underutilized property that the LEA intends to sell or dispose of within 12 months of October 1 on the comprehensive list of such properties provided to the department of education. Revises LEA's responsibilities in providing facilities for charter school use.

**Amendment:** House Education Instruction and Programs Committee amendment 1 (004761) deletes all language of the original bill. Changes, from $500 to $5,000, the initial application fee that a public charter school must pay to the chartering authority. Requires a public charter school to pay $1,000 to the chartering authority for each subsequent renewal of its charter. Authorizes certain chartering authorities to collect an administrative fee from public charter schools. Creates a tiered system of charter authorizer fees. Local education agencies (LEAs) that are the chartering authorities of public charter schools
in FY16-17 may collect a fee of one percent of the total state and local Basic Education Program (BEP) per pupil expenditure allocated to a public charter school, or up to $10,000 per school. If an LEA approves a new public charter school or renews an existing application in FY17-18 and subsequent years, LEAs may collect an authorizer fee of 2.5 percent of the total state and local BEP per pupil funding allocated to a public charter school, or up to $25,000 per school. An LEA that did not authorize a public charter school before July 1, 2015, but authorizes a school in FY15-16 or thereafter shall receive a four percent authorizer fee for the first four-year period that the school is in operation. The State Board of Education (SBE) shall be eligible to collect a charter authorizer fee up to four percent of the total state and local BEP per pupil expenditures that are allocated to public charter schools authorized by the SBE. Requires each chartering authority to provide each public charter school under its purview, an annual accounting of the costs to fulfill authorizer obligations. Requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to review the effectiveness of charter authorizer fees and make a report to the General Assembly, biennially, beginning in FY16-17. The Department of Education shall annually verify that the level of funding provided to a public charter school is in compliance with Tennessee Code Annotated.

**Senate Status**
04/01/2015 - Senate Education Committee deferred to 2016.

**House Status**
04/14/2015 - House Finance Committee deferred to 2016.

**SB1075 / HB302 Adjusted population data used for redistricting.**

**Category**
Campaigns & Lobbying

**Sponsors**
Sen. Lee Harris / Rep. JoAnne Favors

**Description**
Enacts the "No Representation Without Population Act of 2015." Requires use of adjusted population data relative to incarcerated individuals for congressional, legislative, and county redistricting plans, beginning April 1, 2020. Prohibits including individuals who were incarcerated in state or federal correctional facilities and were not residents of the state before incarceration. Requires the department to count individuals incarcerated in state or federal correctional facilities at their last known residence before incarceration if the individuals were residents of the state.

**Senate Status**
02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status**
03/18/2015 - House State Government Subcommittee deferred to first calendar of 2016.

**SB1145 / HB1122 Use of global positioning monitoring system on a delinquent juvenile.**

**Category**
Family Law

**Sponsors**

**Description**
Authorizes juvenile court to condition release of child detained for an unruly or delinquent act on use of a global positioning monitoring system (GPS) device. Requires judge to make finding that use of GPS is a necessary and effective way to protect the child, or protect others from child. Specifies which GPS methods can and cannot be used on juveniles. Requires parents of juvenile to pay the cost associated with operating and monitoring the GPS unless indigent, in which case costs are paid out of interlock assistance fund. Specifies that juvenile may be detained for tampering with the GPS device.

**Senate Status**
02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status**
03/25/2015 - House Civil Justice Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

**SB1361 / HB516 Nursing homes - policy regarding reporting abuse or neglect.**

**Category**
Health Care

**Sponsors**

**Description**
Clarifies that a nursing home or related facility applying for a license must certify that it has a policy of informing employees of their present law duty to report not only abuse and neglect, but also exploitation. Updates a reference to the Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes used on ADA claim forms submitted by certain dental services providers.

**Amendment**
Senate amendment 1, House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (004909) rewrites this bill to require the issuance of a certificate of need for the initiation of a pain management clinic; provided, that any requirement for a pain management clinic to obtain a certificate of need under this amendment will not apply to a hospital and its related outpatient facilities that are excluded from regulation as a pain management clinic under present law. In order to permit the development of appropriate criteria for evaluating an application for a certificate of need for a pain management clinic, this amendment prohibits the health services and development agency from issuing any certificates of need for new pain management clinics until: (1) The state health planning...
division has made recommendations with respect to the appropriate criteria that are consistent with the state health plan; provided, that the recommendations for determining the capacity and distribution of existing healthcare resources must be derived from the all payer claims database; provided, further, that the information derived from the database may only be used for this purpose and must remain confidential; and (2) The agency has adopted appropriate criteria for applications for pain management clinics. Requires the state health planning division to consult with the bureau of TennCare, department of health, and the department of mental health and substance abuse services before making recommendations to the agency.

**Senate Status** 03/30/2015 - Senate passed with amendment 1.

**House Status** 03/31/2015 - House Health Subcommittee deferred to 2016 after adopting amendment 1 (004909).

**SB1393 / HB1369 Adoption services by DCS available to additional persons.**

**Category** Family Law

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro / Rep. John Mark Windle

**Description** Requires the adoption services provided by the department of children’s services to be made available to all families of adopted children and biological families of adopted children, regardless of whether the children were adopted through the department.

**Senate Status** 02/19/2015 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status** 03/25/2015 - House Civil Justice Subcommittee deferred to 2016.

**SJR95 Constitutional amendment - independent redistricting commission.**

**Category** Campaigns & Lobbying

**Sponsors** Sen. Jeff Yarbro

**Description** Calls for a constitutional amendment that establishes independent redistricting commission for senatorial and representative districts.

**Senate Status** 04/07/2015 - Senate Judiciary Committee deferred to 2016.

**House Status** None