



THE INFORMANT NEWSLETTER

A biweekly newsletter for the Tennessee constituent

TN Bills 1/18/18–2/15/18

HB2262— “As introduced, revises the manner in which family planning funds may be disbursed by the department of health.— Amends TCA Section 68–34–105.”

Bill Introduced: 02/14/2018 Health Committee: 02/20/18

Bill Contents: “As introduced, revises the manner in which family planning funds may be disbursed by the department of health.— Amends TCA Section 68–34–105.”

Bill Text: <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/HB2262/id/1711870/Tennessee-2017-HB2262-Draft.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill’s goal is to redirect Title X family planning funds away from organizations that provide voluntary abortions such as Planned Parenthood. This means that the majority of funds will go to other organizations first, with Planned Parenthood receiving left over funds (if there are any).

Bill Impact: The strategy this bill is implementing regarding distribution of funds is not new. The Haslam Administration has followed this method throughout both terms. This bill simply codifies into law this strategy, making this method of fund distribution permanent.

SB2259— “As introduced, enacts the “Complete College Tennessee Act.” — Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 7; Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9 and Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 1.”

Bill Introduced: 02/15/2018 Education Committee: 02/21/2018

Bill Contents: “As introduced, enacts the “Complete College Tennessee Act.” — Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 7; Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9 and Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 1.”

Bill Text: <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/SB2259/id/1712240/Tennessee-2017-SB2259-Draft.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill creates new requirements for kids on the Tennessee Promise and HOPE Scholarships to take at least 30 credit hours in 12 months (<http://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/annies-bill-blog-what-were-watching-in-the-state-legislature/51-508263856>).

SB2130/HB1984 — “As introduced, allows a person providing services pursuant to a contract to bring a sexual harassment action against the entity for which the person is under contract in certain situations. — Amends TCA Title 4 and Title 50.”

Bills Introduced: 02/05/2018 (SB2130) 02/12/2018 (HB1984)

Bill Contents: “As introduced, allows a person providing services pursuant to a contract to bring a sexual harassment action against the entity for which the person is under contract in certain situations. — Amends TCA Title 4 and Title 50.”

Bill Text: <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/SB2130/id/1711742/Tennessee-2017-SB2130-Draft.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill provides new mechanisms for bringing a sexual harassment action up in the workplace. “Harassment” includes: sexual harassment, gender harassment, and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

SB0010 — “As introduced, exempts from sales tax, registration fee, and motor vehicle privilege tax, any motor vehicle sold to a veteran or service member who has a service-connected disability and who is eligible for a United States department of veterans affairs automobile grant under the Disabled Veterans’ and Servicemen’s Automobile Assistance Act of 1970. — Amends TCA Section 5–8–102; Title 55, Chapter 4 and Title 67, Chapter 6.”

Bill Introduced: 02/15/2018

Bill Contents: “As introduced, exempts from sales tax, registration fee, and motor vehicle privilege tax, any motor vehicle sold to a veteran or service member who has a service-connected disability and who is eligible for a United States department of veterans affairs automobile grant under the Disabled Veterans’ and Servicemen’s Automobile Assistance Act of 1970. — Amends TCA Section 5–8–102; Title 55, Chapter 4 and Title 67, Chapter 6.”

Bill Text: <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/SB0010/id/1710306/Tennessee-2017-SB0010-Draft.pdf>

Bill Summary: Any veteran who was disabled when in the service will get tax exemptions when buying a vehicle. These exempt the veterans from sales tax, registration fee, and the motor vehicle privilege tax. These exemptions are also available for any veteran who receives a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of buying a vehicle.

SB0888 — “As introduced, enacts the “Fair Repair Act.” — Amends TCA Title 47, Chapter 18; Title 55 and Title 62.”

Bill Introduced: 03/24/2017 Pending Senate Commerce and Labor Committee

Bill Contents: “As introduced, enacts the “Fair Repair Act.” — Amends TCA Title 47, Chapter 18; Title 55 and Title 62.”

Bill Text: <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/SB0888/id/1505154/Tennessee-2017-SB0888-Draft.pdf>

Bill Summary: The “Fair Repair Act” has been a piece of legislation that’s been introduced in numerous other states. The purpose is to require manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with fair access to service information and affordable replacement parts. This has been pushed by the organization “Right to Repair” throughout the country. The goal is to make it easier for people to fix items on their own.

Bill Impact: Main opponents to the bill are large companies that manufacture items such as, Apple, John Deer, Case IH, etc. A possible problem that could arise from the passage of the bill is an increase in intellectual property disputes. Since the bill makes this new information a right, people would be receiving

methods to fix the products and other schematics for free. The upside would be people do have the ability to save more money by trying fix their broken product themselves.

SB2014— “As introduced, requires applicants for educator licensure to submit to a criminal records background check; changes criminal records background check procedures for LEA employees. — Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 5.”

Bill Introduced: 02/15/2018

Bill Contents: “As introduced, requires applicants for educator licensure to submit to a criminal records background check; changes criminal records background check procedures for LEA employees. — Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 5.”

Bill Text: <https://legiscan.com/TN/text/SB2014/id/1709852/Tennessee-2017-SB2014-Draft.pdf>

Bill Summary: This new bill requires new background check measures for state educators in Tennessee. Applicants must submit a fingerprint sample and a criminal history records check before being admitted as a teacher.

Bill Impact: There are no statistics on how big of an impact this new bill would have on Tennessee teachers. One thing is for sure, people convicted of a crime will have a more difficult time applying to become a teacher if they so desire.

“The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.”

— Patrick Henry
Founding Father of The United States of America



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