



THE INFORMANT NEWSLETTER

A biweekly newsletter for the Tennessee constituent

TN Bills 1/14/2020 - 1/31/2020

TN HB1694— Allowing College Athletes to be Compensated on Image

Latest Action: Assigned to s/c Higher Education Subcommittee 1/23/2020

Bill Text: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/HB1694.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill would prohibit colleges and universities from prohibiting student athletes from earning money on any reproduction of their likeness, image or name.

Bill Impact: For a long period of time, college athletes have not been allowed to profit off of their likeness, due to regulations that the colleges hold. The NCAA recently announced that athletes can now be paid based on profits from their names and likenesses, however this law in Tennessee would apply to all institutions of higher learning.

TN SB1567— Refusing to Receive Refugees for Resettlement

Latest Action: Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate State and Local Government Committee 1/16/2020

Bill Text: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/SB1567.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill prohibits the state and all local governments within the state from consenting to receive refugees.

Bill Impact: This bill goes against a previous policy decision by Governor Bill Lee, wherein he made the decision that our state will continue to accept refugees.

This issue is therefore dividing Tennessee Republicans to a degree, as both Governor Lee and the sponsors of this bill are Republicans. This bill, if it passes and overrides the likely veto from the Governor, would supercede the current policy and require Tennessee to refuse to consent to receiving refugees for resettlement.

TN SJR0648— The Right to Work

Latest Action: Recommended for adoption by Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, refer Senate Calendar Committee 1/28/2020

Bill Text: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/SJR0648.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill proposes the establishment of a right to work that is not dependent on membership or affiliation with any labor union or organization.

Bill Impact: With a startling twenty sponsors in the state senate, this bill seeks to more permanently establish that citizens of Tennessee have a fundamental “right to work” regardless of their status in labor unions or organizations. It comes after several other legislative initiatives, in states and the federal government, seeking to reduce the power of such unions.

TN HJR0686— Removing Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust in the Capitol

Latest Action: Placed on cal. Naming, Designating, & Private Acts Committee for 2/4/2020 1/29/2020

Bill Text: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/HJR0686.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill suggests removing the bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest that is currently in the state Capitol and replacing it with a more deserving, less controversial figure.

Bill Impact: This bill is likely to be controversial due to the divisiveness of both Forrest himself as a historical figure, and the tearing down of such monuments in the last several years. In Memphis, a similar monument to Forrest has been attacked in recent years, just as countless other statues of confederate figures

and slave owning men have been torn down across the United States.

TN HB1572— Sports Based On Biological Sex

Latest Action: Assigned to s/c K-12 Subcommittee 1/15/2020

Bill Text: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/HB1572.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill aims to ensure that all elementary and secondary schools receiving public funding can only have athletes playing on sports teams that correspond to that athlete's biological sex, as shown on their birth certificate.

Bill Impact: In the midst of years of national controversy over trans gender athletics, this bill seeks to definitively establish Tennessee's stance on the issue. Dominant athletic victories by biological men who are trans gender in women's sporting competitions has sparked massive controversy. This bill would prevent such events, ensuring that all sports teams have athletes of the corresponding biological sex, upon penalty of that school potentially losing some of its public funding.

TN HJR0001—Teen Suicide As a Health Crisis

Latest Action: Transmitted to Governor for his action 1/29/2020

Bill Text: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/111/Bill/HJR0001.pdf>

Bill Summary: This bill aims to recognize teenage suicide as a health crisis in the state of Tennessee.

Bill Impact: While this bill would not directly take measures to solve the crisis of teen suicide in Tennessee, it expands the state's ability to do so, establishing it not just as a mental health crisis, but as a public health issue as well. This opens the door for research and future action in the name of suicide prevention.

“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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