



This week as the Tennessee General Assembly works through its legislative agenda, key deadlines are approaching for the submission of appropriation amendments. The following are the important deadlines for submitting appropriation amendments in both the Senate and House: Senate appropriation amendments will be accepted from 2:00 PM on March 13th through 2:00 PM on March 27th, 2025. House appropriation amendments must be filed with the House Finance Committee by 2:00 PM on Monday, March 17th, 2025.

Tennessee legislative committees are working through their final calendars this week as they wrap up key bills before the session's end. Lawmakers are pushing to finalize measures on education, healthcare, public safety, and economic policy. With deadlines approaching, committees are holding crucial votes and advancing legislation to the House and Senate floors for final consideration.

This week, the Tennessee General Assembly advanced key legislation. The House Commerce Committee approved a bill allowing local governments to regulate hemp-derived cannabinoid product (HDCP) retailers through permits and enforcement.

In education, Gov. Bill Lee's Tennessee Freedom Scholarship program has garnered interest from over 160 private schools, mostly near major cities, though 64 of the state's 95 counties had no schools opting in. Meanwhile, the General Assembly approved the removal of all references to the World Health Organization (WHO) from state law. House Bill 1226 also requires the Governor's pandemic-related executive orders to be based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. The bill now awaits the Governor's signature.

On the economic front, Tennessee's unemployment rate remained steady at 3.7%, slightly below the national rate of 4%. About 300 soldiers from Fort Campbell are being deployed to assist with border security. Additionally, the European Union imposed a 50% tariff on American whiskey, with another round of tariffs on soybeans—a major Tennessee crop—set for next month.

Infrastructure projects continue with the selection of Nebraska-based Kiewit Corp. to oversee the construction of a new I-55 bridge between Memphis and Arkansas, along with repairs to the I-40 bridge over the Mississippi River. These legislative, economic, and infrastructure updates reflect ongoing changes shaping Tennessee's future.