



Work continues on Capitol Hill as lawmakers advanced legislation through committees and on the House and Senate floors. There are a total of 489 bills on notice this week in committees. In the next three weeks, the peak of bills on notice should occur before the General Assembly shifts its focus to the legislative adjustments to the Governor's budget and appropriations amendment.

Outrage erupted across Tennessee this week after a group of masked neo-Nazis carrying flags bearing swastikas marched through downtown Nashville on Feb. 17. The House passed a resolution denouncing neo-Nazism and the National Socialist Movement. The resolution condemns neo-Nazis who wish to incite violence and spread hate rooted in Holocaust-era fascist movements as well as socialism through their affiliation with the National Socialist Movement. It further rejects all who promote "anti-Semitism, xenophobia, discrimination and racial intolerance in all forms."

The Tennessee House of Representatives this week approved legislation to ensure state government agencies never pay ransoms to online criminals in the event of a cyberattack. [House Bill 1733](#), sponsored by House Majority Leader William Lamberth, R-Portland, prohibits all state entities from contracting, negotiating with or paying an individual or entity that is a known system hacker. There are multiple pieces of legislation this year regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The General Assembly this week passed legislation requiring schools to develop guidelines for the use of AI. [House Bill 1630](#), sponsored by State Rep. Scott Cepicky, R-Culleoka, would require the governing boards of public colleges and universities, public charter schools, and local boards of education to regulate the role and use of AI in each institution. Schools will be required to craft a policy by the 2024-25 school year and submit it annually to the Tennessee Department of Education.

Governor Bill Lee also proposed [HB2091](#), sponsored by House Majority Leader William Lamberth, R-Portland. Known as the Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security (ELVIS) Act, the bill aims to update Tennessee's Protection of Personal Rights law to include protections for songwriters, performers, and music industry professionals' voice from the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI).

Several Senate and House Subcommittees announced this week that they will be accepting bills for their last calendars during the week of March 4<sup>th</sup>. While it will take a few weeks before those last calendars are fully considered, this deadline is aligned with the goal of adjourning in mid-April this year.