

Lawmakers advanced legislation through committees and on the House and Senate floors. There are a total of 683 bills on notice this week in committees, compared to last week's calendar of 912. Some committees have shut down for the year and most others are working through final calendars. The administration will release their amendment to the budget on Tuesday. This gives the Governor the opportunity to make changes to his proposed budget based off recent revenue collections and feedback from the General Assembly during budget hearings. Following the release of the Governor's amendment, the legislature will begin to develop their budget negotiations to finalize the state's 2024-2025 budget. The General Assembly is still on a timeline to adjourn in mid-April.

New reports released this week showed that the state's general fund revenues have fallen short by \$441 million through the first seven months of the budget year. Corporate franchise and excise taxes have missed estimates by \$236 million, while sales taxes have come in at \$116 million below projections. On Monday, the House approved legislation to protect Tennesseans from discrimination by financial institutions for their personal beliefs. House Bill 2100, sponsored by State Rep. Jason Zachary, R-Knoxville, would prohibit financial institutions and insurers from discriminating, denying or canceling services to Tennesseans based on political opinions, religious beliefs, social credit scores and other factors. The practice is commonly referred to as "debanking." The companion version of the bill is still advancing in the Senate. If approved, House Bill 2100 would take effect July 1.