



Legislative Recap: Week of January 14th

The 112th General Assembly gavelled into session on Tuesday to begin their organizational procedures, including committee appointments. In addition to committee appointments, the General Assembly convened a Joint Session to conduct Constitutional Officer elections. Jason Mumpower was elected as Tennessee's new Comptroller; meanwhile, Secretary of State Tre Hargett and Treasurer David Lillard were overwhelmingly reelected. By Wednesday, the legislature had concluded their organizational session and gavelled back into regular session to consider one resolution prior to recessing for the week. The resolution aimed at adopting the newly approved Medicaid block grant waiver, which was required by the initially passed legislation to request the waiver from CMS. After a litany of rule suspensions, the resolution moved through both chambers with relative ease, making Tennessee the first state in the country to receive a block grant to fund their Medicaid program. The legislature will convene on Tuesday, January 19th to consider education centric legislation in an extraordinary session. The General Assembly plans to resume their annual regular session in early February. While the House has not set a bill filing deadline, yet, the Senate has set theirs for close of business on February 11th.

Recent Headlines:

[Chattanooga Times Free Press: FBI investigation throws curve ball as Tennessee General Assembly annual session kicks off Tuesday](#) Members of Tennessee's 112th General Assembly begin their annual session this week with some members of the GOP-led House under a cloud as a federal investigation erupted publicly last week when FBI agents searched homes and offices of three legislators and several current and former staffers.

[Tennessean: Tennessee's 112th General Assembly begins amid FBI investigation and as COVID-19 crisis hits home](#) Tennessee's 112th General Assembly convenes on Tuesday, the new session beginning as a maelstrom of uncertainty sweeps the legislature following Friday's FBI raids of multiple House Republicans' homes and offices.

[The Telegraph: Tennessee lawmakers elect 3 statewide officials](#) Tennessee lawmakers voted Wednesday to reelect the secretary of state and treasurer and pick a new comptroller. The votes came a day after the House and Senate Republican supermajorities nominated Jason Mumpower to become comptroller and Secretary of State Tre Hargett and Treasurer David Lillard to keep their positions.

[WSMV: State legislature takes up resolution to authorize Medicaid block grant](#) Tennessee's Medicaid program may be in for some changes soon, but state lawmakers must give the green light first. Last week the federal government approved a Medicaid block grant waiver amendment for Tennessee. It would be the first state to get Medicaid funding in a lump sum.

[Tennessean: Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee backs legislation focusing on learning loss, reading ahead of special session](#) Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee announced Thursday a series of bills his administration is backing in next week's special session on education — including legislation focusing on student learning loss thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state's stagnant literacy rates.

Your 2021 Tracked Legislation:

SB100/HB112 **Creates model employer program for qualified individuals with disabilities.**
Sponsors Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Moody, Debra
Category Labor Law
Summary Establishes the state as a model employer program. Ensures state agencies and departments implement the best policies for the recruitment, hiring, advancement, and retention of qualified individuals with disabilities
Senate Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 50, relative to employment.

SB115/HB116 **Disqualification from driving commercial motor vehicles after conviction for trafficking offense.**
Sponsors Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Garrett, Johnny
Category Transportation Vehicles
Summary Suspends for life a commercial motor vehicle operator who has been convicted of the offense of trafficking for a commercial sex act or an equivalent offense in another jurisdiction. Disqualifies for life persons convicted of trafficking for a commercial sex act from obtaining a commercial driver license.
Fiscal Note (Dated January 12, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status 01/13/21 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 3 and Title 55, Chapter 50, relative to lifetime disqualification from driving commercial motor vehicles after conviction for trafficking offense.

SB139/HB127 **Number of days used in calculating the penalty for a business entity's delinquency.**
Sponsors Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Howell, Dan
Category Transportation Vehicles
Summary Changes the number of days, from 30 to 45, used in calculating the penalty for a business entity's delinquency in forwarding required contract documents related to fleet vehicles to the department of revenue. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status 01/14/21 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status 01/13/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 54; Title 55; Title 65 and Title 67, relative to transportation.

SB140/HB125 **Veteran designation on driver license.**
Sponsors Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Howell, Dan
Category Transportation Vehicles
Summary States that any department of defense or military branch form that shows the dates of service and indicates the applicant received an honorable discharge may be submitted by an applicant to have a veteran designation on his or her driver license. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note (Dated January 13, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status 01/14/21 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status 01/13/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54; Title 55; Title 65 and Title 67, relative to transportation.

SB141/HB126	Definition of disabled driver revised.
Sponsors	Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Howell, Dan
Category	Transportation Vehicles
Summary	Deletes references to ambulatory disability certifications being made by Christian Science practitioners from the definition of "disabled driver." Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note	(Dated January 12, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status	01/14/21 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status	01/13/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption	AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 54; Title 55; Title 65 and Title 67, relative to transportation.
SB154/HB101	Clarifies that a motorized wheelchair is not a motor vehicle for purposes of the rules of the road.
Sponsors	Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Jernigan, Darren
Category	Transportation Vehicles
Summary	Clarifies that a motorized wheelchair is not a motor vehicle for purposes of the rules of the road, accidents, and crimes involving motor vehicles. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note	(Dated January 8, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status	01/14/21 - Filed for Introduction
House Status	01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption	AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, relative to motor vehicles.
SB175/HB58	Changes holding period for properties held by banks.
Sponsors	Sen. Lundberg, Jon; Rep. Haston, Kirk
Category	Banking & Credit
Summary	Changes the permitted holding period by a bank for non-real-property acquired in satisfaction of a loan from six months to twelve months.
Fiscal Note	(Dated January 12, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status	01/14/21 - Filed for Introduction
House Status	01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption	AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 45, relative to property held by banks.
SB183	TDOT report on placards issued to transporters of manufactured homes.
Sponsors	Sen. Massey, Becky
Category	Transportation Vehicles
Summary	Requires the department of transportation to submit a brief written summary to the transportation committee of the house of representatives and the transportation and safety committee of the senate no later than March 15 annually concerning placards issued to transporters of manufactured homes, including data on unsafe and erratic driving reported to the department using the telephone number that appears on the placards. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status	01/15/21 - Filed for Introduction
Caption	AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55; Title 62; Title 67 and Title 68, relative to manufactured homes.
SB186/HB172	Vaccinations as a condition of employment.
Sponsors	Sen. Bowling, Janice; Rep. Hulse, Bud

Category Labor Law
Summary Prohibits state and local government entities from requiring vaccinations as a condition of employment. Provides unemployment benefits to a claimant who voluntarily leaves employment because the employer requires vaccination and the claimant refused to be vaccinated.
Senate Status 01/15/21 - Filed for Introduction
House Status 01/14/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 30; Title 8, Chapter 50; Title 50, Chapter 1 and Title 50, Chapter 7, relative to vaccinations.

HB34 Authorizes THDA to provide affordable housing to displaced tenants.
Sponsors Rep. Cooper, Barbara
Category Property & Housing
Summary Authorizes the THDA to provide eligible displaced tenants who have been denied requests for housing or housing repairs by local governmental entities with affordable housing and services. Broadly captioned.
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 21; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 13, Chapter 23 and Title 66, Chapter 7, relative to displaced tenants.

HB77 Request by state bank for waiver or modification of terms and conditions applicable to a national bank.
Sponsors Rep. Lamberth, William
Category Banking & Credit
Summary Authorizes a state bank to request from the commissioner a waiver or modification of the terms and conditions applicable to a national bank. Authorizes a state bank to request the authority to exercise any incidental power or engage in any incidental activity that is reasonably necessary. Requires the commissioner to publish a summary of applications submitted for waiver, modification, or authorization.
Fiscal Note (Dated January 12, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 45-2-601, relative to banking.

HB84 Statute of limitations for tax collection.
Sponsors Rep. Lamberth, William
Category Taxes General
Summary Tolls the statute of limitations for collection of taxes upon the imposition of a bankruptcy stay or upon the filing of a probate, receivership, or assignment for benefit of creditors proceeding. Allows statute of limitations to begin running 30 days after the stay is lifted or the proceeding prohibiting collection ends.
Fiscal Note (Dated January 7, 2021) NOT SIGNIFICANT
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 67-1-1429, relative to the statute of limitations for tax collection.

HB86 Reduces the lower gross weight threshold for freight vehicles that are required to pay the registration tax.

Sponsors Rep. Lamberth, William
Category Transportation Vehicles
Summary Reduces the lower gross weight threshold for freight vehicles that are required to pay the registration tax of \$1,019 from 56,000 pounds to 55,000 pounds. Removes authority for nonresidents to apply directly to department of revenue for off-highway vehicle permits. Authorizes issuance of decals instead of new plates upon expiration of special purpose plates for manufacturers, dealers, transporters, and nonprofit organizations.
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to vehicle registration.

HB94 Disputes concerning employer's failure to provide medical care and treatment.
Sponsors Rep. Lamberth, William
Category Workers Compensation
Summary Requires disputes concerning an employer's failure to provide medical care and treatment, medical services or medical benefits, or both, to meet certain requirements. Deletes requirement that all compensation be paid prior to an employee qualifying for vocational recovery assistance. Extends current provisions, as amended, for four years. Authorizes workers' compensation judges to conduct judicial settlement conferences.
House Status 01/12/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 6, Part 2, relative to workers' compensation.

HB122 Report submitted by the governing committee of the TN automobile insurance plan.
Sponsors Rep. Whitson, Sam
Category Transportation General
Summary Extends from September 30 to October 15, the annual date by which the governing committee of the Tennessee automobile insurance plan must submit to the department of commerce and insurance a financial report for the preceding calendar year in a form approved by the commissioner. Broadly captioned.
House Status 01/13/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 6; Title 7; Title 12; Title 42; Title 47, Chapter 18; Title 54; Title 55; Title 56; Title 65 and Title 67, relative to transportation.

HB131 Definition of tangible personal property.
Sponsors Rep. Hazlewood, Patsy
Category Taxes Sales
Summary Clarifies that the definition of "tangible personal property" does not include mains, pipes, pipelines, or tanks after they have become attached to a building, or other structure, or installed underground for conducting steam, heat, water, wastewater, oil, electricity, gas, or any property, substance, or product capable of transportation or conveyance therein or that is protected thereby, except for propane tanks for residential use and above ground storage tanks that can be moved without disassembly and are not affixed.
House Status 01/13/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 67, relative to taxes.

HB157 **State tax revenue pertaining to National Hockey League franchises.**
Sponsors Rep. Beck, Bill
Category Taxes Sales
Summary Extends provisions related to the apportionment and distribution of state tax revenue as they
 pertain to National Hockey League franchises until June 30, 2049.
House Status 01/14/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 67, relative to taxes.

HB168 **Valuation of property.**
Sponsors Rep. Lamar, London
Category Taxes Property
Summary Requires residential property to be valued for ad valorem tax purposes on the basis of the most
 recent sale, lease, mortgage, or other transfer of an interest in the property for which unrelated
 parties with competing interests agreed to a valuation of the property. Broadly captioned.
House Status 01/14/21 - Introduced in the House
Caption AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 67, relative to taxation.