



The 114th Tennessee General Assembly convened on Tuesday, January 14th at noon. The week was marked by ceremonial traditions and the outlining of legislative priorities. Twelve newly elected lawmakers were sworn in for the first time and Senate and House Speakers were reelected by the members of their respective chambers. State Representative Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville, was re-elected House Speaker for the 114th General Assembly and State Representative Pat Marsh, R-Shelbyville, was re-elected Speaker Pro Tempore. State Representative Jason Zachary, R-Knoxville, will serve as House Deputy Speaker. Both the Senate and the House also passed new procedural rules with the goals of enhancing decorum and improving efficiency.

The newly passed House rules allow each House member to file up to twelve (12) bills, down from fifteen (15) bills in past sessions. However, some additional bill allowances are granted to leadership and committee chairmen. Additionally, changes were made to the voting procedure and structure within the House committees. Under the new rules, all votes taken in committee meetings will be recorded and displayed using the same electronic voting board system used during full-floor sessions.

Regarding committee restructuring, the Senate will remain the same, whereas the House will see some shifts. Judiciary, Education, and the State and Local Committees in the House were restructured, eliminating, and combining full committees while also adding additional subcommittees under each. In addition, the House has added a TennCare Subcommittee under the Insurance Committee. Together, these updates to voting procedures, bill limits, and committee structure reflect an effort to increase efficiency, transparency, and accountability within the General Assembly.

Governor Bill Lee announced that he will call for a special session to commence on January 27th. The special session will focus on key legislative priorities, including 1) the Education Freedom Act; 2) a proposed \$450 million hurricane relief package for East Tennessee; and 3) public safety measures related to immigration in anticipation of potential federal policy changes. These developments set the stage for significant policy debates anticipated in the coming weeks.

Next week, oath chambers will take a one week break as they move offices accounting for committee and chairmanship changes. They are expected to reconvene on January 27th for the Special Session, before continuing with the regular session.

**THA filed [SB0119](#)**, to change the written language definition of a manufactured home to simply refer back to the United States Code (42 U.S.C. §5402(6)). This bill effectively opens up three Tennessee statutes. T.C.A. 47-9-102 (Finance); 55-1-105 (Transportation); and 68-126-202 (Manufactured Housing).