

2025 Legislative Summary

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Mental Health Related Legislation

SB1342/HB1169	Children - Requires on or before June 30, 2026, and each June 30 thereafter, the council on children's mental health care to submit a report to certain officials regarding the status of the statewide system of care for children's mental health and the service delivery system and the status of children's mental health in this state.
Public Chapter:	<u>109</u>
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SB0789/HB0959	Medical Occupations - Makes various changes relative to marriage and family therapist licensure.
Public Chapter:	<u>204</u>
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SB0946/HB1088	Local Education Agencies - Requires an LEA that receives credible information regarding a threat of violence or significantly disruptive behavior directed toward, or occurring on the grounds of, a public school in the LEA, and that reports the threat or disruptive behavior to a state or local law enforcement agency, to notify the parents and guardians of students enrolled in the public school of the same threat or disruptive behavior within 48 hours of the LEA making its report to law enforcement.
Public Chapter:	<u>215</u>
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SB0849/HB0960	Health, Dept. of - Requires the Tennessee Department of Health to collaborate with an organization in this state to create or identify a continuing education program to provide healthcare professionals with information or training relative to maternal mental health disorders.

Public Chapter: 261

SB0895/HB0826 **Children** - Makes various changes and additions to the Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act, and to present law concerning parental consent for the treatment of minors.

Public Chapter: 347

SB0300/HB0371 **Sentencing** - Requires a person convicted of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor in general sessions court to pay for and complete a cognitive behavioral training course; requires the offender to provide proof of course completion to the court or the court's designee within the time period specified by the court.

Public Chapter: 481

SB0944/HB1089 **Criminal Offenses** - Expands mental health evaluations for certain offenses.

- Domestic Assault, Child Abuse, Aggravated Child Abuse, Animal Cruelty, and Aggravated Animal Cruelty

Public Chapter: 511

SB0963/HB1177 **Criminal Procedure** - Makes various updates to evaluations for misdemeanor charges.

- Extends by one year, the time period after which any misdemeanor charges must be retired for a defendant who was deemed incompetent to stand trial if that defendant remains hospitalized on that date.
- Adds that if a defendant whose charges were retired is released into the community, the chief officer of the hospital shall notify the court of the defendant's discharge; and provide the court and the sheriff with an outpatient treatment plan that accounts for the safety of the community.
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Public Chapter: 519

HJR0551 **Memorials, Recognition** - Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute's Bleyzer Program.

Substance Abuse/Controlled Substances Related Legislation

- SB1290/HB0113** **Criminal Offenses** - Makes permanent the exclusion of narcotic testing equipment used to determine whether a controlled substance contains a synthetic opioid, unless the narcotic testing equipment is possessed for purposes of the commission of a drug offense, from the definition of drug paraphernalia.
- TDMHSAS Administration Bill and TDMHSAS Statewide Planning and Policy Council legislative proposal
 - Removes the July 1, 2025 Repeal Date

Public Chapter: **128**

- SB0215/HB0072** **Criminal Offenses** - Establishes mandatory minimum penalties of 48 hours in jail and a \$500 fine for a person convicted of knowingly selling or distributing a product containing a hemp-derived cannabinoid to a person who is under 21; prohibits a retailer from knowingly allowing an employee younger than 21 to access, handle, or sell any product containing a hemp-derived cannabinoid on the premises of the retail establishment.

Public Chapter: **77**

- SB0707/HB0821** **Tobacco, Tobacco Products** - Specifies that a prospective purchaser of tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor products, or smokeless nicotine products must produce proof of age prior to the sale being made; increases from 30 to 50 years the apparent age above which a seller is not required to demand presentation of proof of age.

Public Chapter: **118**

- SB0940/HB0995** **Alcoholic Beverages** - Expands the immunity from prosecution when seeking medical assistance for a person experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, an overdose to include alcohol-related offenses; clarifies that overdose includes both drugs and alcohol.

Public Chapter: **231**

- SB0421/HB1239** **Opioids** - Adds language that includes specific requirements to authorize a healthcare provider, who is not licensed as a physician, and who is registered with federal Drug Enforcement Agency, to be able to prescribe buprenorphine-containing products for use in recovery or medication-assisted treatment if the provider is employed by or contracts with a correctional facility.

Public Chapter: **295**

SB0048/HB0491	<p>Opioids - Adds Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC, Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc., Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc., Indivior Inc., Viartis Inc., and Purdue Pharma L.P. to the list of companies that may be released by the attorney general and reporter for pending or future claims regarding opioids.</p> <p>Public Chapter: <u>302</u></p>
SB0763/HB0968	<p>Tobacco, Tobacco Products - Makes changes to various provisions regarding the sale and purchase of vapor products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits a person engaged in such sales or distribution, or an employee thereof, from making or permitting to be made any sales of tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product to a person under 21. • Increases tax rates to 10% on vapor products. • Promotes universal carding and prohibits advertising to a person under 21. • Requires the Department of Revenue to maintain a list of all vapor products sold in the state. <p>Public Chapter: <u>324</u></p>
SB1240/HB1351	<p>Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Dept. Of – Requires the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to select and approve organizations, which certify recovery residences in the state. Those approved organizations must adopt certain minimum standards as part of their certification.</p> <p>Public Chapter: <u>406</u></p>
SB0457/HB0190	<p>Criminal Offenses - Decreases from 0.20 percent to 0.15 percent the minimum weight of alcohol concentration in a defendant's blood or breath as an element of the offense of aggravated vehicular assault and in a defendant's blood as an element of the offense of aggravated vehicular homicide.</p> <p>Public Chapter: <u>430</u></p>
SB1233/HB1232	<p>Criminal Offenses – Establishes a mandatory minimum of 30 days imprisonment for a violation of simple possession or casual exchange of fentanyl, carfentanil, remifentanil, alfentanil, or thiafentanil, or any fentanyl derivative or analogue. Authorizes a defendant to participate in a drug or recovery court certified by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or another licensed treatment program after serving the mandatory sentence required. Adds "drug-related overdose" to the list of situations in which it is unlawful to touch, disturb, move or remove a body, clothing, personal effects, or weapons at a scene of death, unless administering naloxone or other opioid antagonist to an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose.</p> <p>Public Chapter: <u>462</u></p>

SB0505/HB0524 **Montgomery County** – Permits a court to transfer, upon motion by the defendant, a criminal case to the veterans treatment court program in Montgomery County if the veterans treatment court program would have jurisdiction over the case if the offense had been committed in Montgomery County, the defendant files with the court a written waiver of the right to be tried by an impartial jury of the county in which the crime was committed, and the district attorney general for Montgomery County agrees to accept transfer of the case.

Public Chapter: **489**

SB1415/HB0751 **Criminal Offenses** - Creates the offense of knowingly engaging in conduct that places a child in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment by possessing any amount of fentanyl, carfentanil, remifentanil, alfentanil, or thiafentanil in the presence of the child; punishes the offense as a Class E felony if the child is over eight years of age and as a Class B felony if the child is eight years of age or less.

Public Chapter: **499**

SB1381/HB0783 **Housing** - Authorizes Hamilton County and any incorporated city or town in Hamilton County, upon adoption of an ordinance or resolution, to require a sober living home to be located at a distance equal to or less than 1,000 feet from a kindergarten through grade twelve educational facility, preschool, or daycare be recognized and certified by any nationally recognized recovery residence standards organization, an affiliate of such an organization, or grantees of any state or federal department or agency, and which is included on a list of approved organizations maintained on the website of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

- Must comply with the federal Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Requires that an operator, prior to authorizing an individual to reside in a sober living home, receive a recommendation or referral from a licensed healthcare provider or a court that the individual reside in a sober living home.
- Does not apply to a sober living home in operation prior to the effective date of this act until such home ceases operation.

Public Chapter: **503**

SB1413/HB1376 **Alcoholic Beverage Commission** - Provides for the regulation of the manufacturing, supplying, wholesale distribution, and retail sale of hemp-derived cannabinoid products by the commission and department of revenue; specifies that tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCa) is a hemp-derived cannabinoid and tetrahydrocannabiphrol (THCp) is not a hemp-derived cannabinoid.

- Prohibits the sale of a derivative of hemp or an HDCP that contains THCp;

Public Chapter: 526

HJR0147 **General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position** - Supports regulation or ban on the sale of Kratom in Tennessee.

General Health/Health Insurance/Health Administration Related Legislation

SB0619/HB0657 **Health Care** - Allows a healthcare provider to petition a relevant board after completing a peer assistance or treatment program contract to remove information from public dissemination regarding the adverse action and consent order; requires the relevant board to review and make a determination on a removal request submitted and requires the board, upon approving the request, to remove the information from any place the information is made public.

Public Chapter: 100

SB0437/HB0654 **Insurance, Health, Accident** - Revises certain protocols for health benefit plans pertaining to mental health and substance abuse services.

- Requires a health benefit plan that is offered, delivered, or issued for delivery on or after January 1, 2026, and that provides mental health and substance abuse services to provide for coverage and reimbursement of such services through a psychiatric collaborative care model (PCCM).

Public Chapter: 168

SB0554/HB0510 **Medical Occupations** - Enacts the "Tennessee Physician Workforce Information Act."

- Requires Tennessee Department of Health to contact qualified medical organizations in Tennessee to request information concerning the state of physician workplace (burnout, turnover, strengths, weaknesses, etc.) and report the findings to chairmen of the health and welfare committees in the senate and house of representatives.

Public Chapter: 213

SB0576/HB0829 **TennCare** - Revises present law relative to the annual coverage assessment.

- Annual Coverage Assessment Act of 2025, which establishes an annual coverage assessment on hospitals of 6.0 percent of a covered hospital's annual coverage assessment base for FY25-26.

Public Chapter: 252

SB0955/HB1044	<p>Health Care - Enacts the "Medical Ethics Defense Act" which specifies that a healthcare provider must not be required to participate in or pay for a healthcare procedure, treatment, or service that violates the conscience of the healthcare provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not apply to a healthcare professional or healthcare institution when performing healthcare procedures, treatments, or services for an individual who is in imminent danger of harming themselves or others.
Public Chapter:	<u>266</u>
SB0428/HB0037	<p>Opioids - Authorizes an insurer, for purposes of group insurance plans offered to state employees, to adopt or amend a state preferred drug list (PDL); requires the insurer to ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the U.S. food and drug administration for the treatment or management of pain is not disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to an opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the PDL.</p>
Public Chapter	<u>278</u>
SB0908/HB0731	<p>Open Meetings - Specifies that the Tennessee One Health Committee is a governing body under the open meetings act; requires meetings of the committee to be open to the public.</p>
Public Chapter	<u>286</u>
SB0606/HB0495	<p>Hospitals and Health Care Facilities - Rewrites the fee limits for a party requesting a patient's medical record in either paper or electronic format from a provider or the provider's third-party release of information provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee for all electronic medical records for requesters and recipients, other than the patient, is a flat fee of \$90.
Public Chapter:	<u>339</u>
SB0263/HB0318	<p>State Government - Prohibits the enforcement and recognition of requirements or mandates issued by the World Health Organization, United Nations, or World Economic Forum in this state or its political subdivisions.</p>
Public Chapter:	<u>361</u>

State Government Related Legislation

SB0065/HB0243	Sunset Laws - Extends the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>238</u>

SB0083/HB0261	Sunset Laws - Extends the statewide planning and policy council for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>13</u>
SB0098/HB0276	Sunset Laws - Extends the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>92</u>
SB0052/HB0229	Sunset Laws - Extends the board of alcohol and drug abuse counselors to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>22</u>
SB0056/HB0234	Sunset Laws - Extends the board of pharmacy to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>24</u>
SB0393/HB0404	Psychologists - Extends the professional music therapy advisory committee of the board of examiners in psychology to June 30, 2027.
Public Chapter:	<u>42</u>
SB1269/HB0104	Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities - Revises record retention requirements for records regarding services and supports received by persons with intellectual and development disabilities by the Department of Disability and Aging's contracted providers and departmental facilities and clinics, updates outdated cross-references.
Public Chapter:	<u>47</u>
SB0058/HB0236	Sunset Laws - Extends the Bureau of TennCare within the Department of Finance and Administration to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>49</u>
SB0077/HB0255	Sunset Laws - Extends the medical cannabis commission to June 30, 2029.
Public Chapter:	<u>50</u>
SB1305/HB1319	Health Care - Extends the CoverKids program from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2030.

Public Chapter:	<u>130</u>
SB1304/HB1318	Insurance, Health, Accident - Extends the Access Tennessee health insurance program from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2030.
Public Chapter:	<u>185</u>
SB0842/HB0763	Tort Liability and Reform - Clarifies that any governmental entity may purchase any of the insurance authorized under state law, without the necessity of public bidding, as required by any public or private act or charter restriction, if such insurance is purchased through a plan authorized and approved by any organization of cities, counties, or other governmental entities as contemplated by state law.
Public Chapter:	<u>260</u>
SB1235/HB1237	Boards and Commissions - Prohibits the exclusion of persons from membership on state regulatory and health-related boards on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and national origin. Prohibits such boards from establishing or operating under race-based policies pertaining to their composition.
Public Chapter:	<u>294</u>
SB0180/HB0285	Administrative Procedures (UAPA) - Establishes that permanent rules filed in the office of the secretary of state on or after January 1, 2024, that are in effect on the effective date of this act, and that are scheduled for expiration on June 30, 2025, do not expire on June 30, 2025, but remain in effect until repealed or amended by subsequent rule of the appropriate rulemaking agency or until otherwise superseded by legislative enactment.
Public Chapter:	<u>307</u>
SB0861/HB0910	Human Rights - Terminates the Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC), and transfers duties to the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter.
Public Chapter:	<u>471</u>
SB1316/HB1330	Boards and Commissions - Enacts the "Less is More Act of 2025" which reorganizes various boards and agencies in Tennessee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exempts facilities that are operated for the provision of the Employment and Community First CHOICES program and services for comprehensive behavioral support for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or severe behavioral or psychiatric conditions, or any successor program or service, or a home and community-

based services waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, from licensing under the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and moves such licensing requirements under the Department of Disability and Aging.

Public Chapter: **524**

SB1431/HB1409 **Appropriations** – Makes appropriations for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025.
Public Chapter: **530**

HJR100 **Memorials, Government Officials** - Urges the Tennessee opioid abatement council and each participating county to allocate 25 percent of approved expenditures from the opioid abatement fund to initiatives that distribute and promote overdose reversal medications.

Miscellaneous Legislation

SB0811/HB0825 **Education, Curriculum** - Enacts the "Teen Social Media and Internet Safety Act" which requires the Department of Education to develop curricula for the instruction of social media and internet safety for students in grades 6-12 who are enrolled in a school in a local education agency (LEA) or public charter school.
Public Chapter: **195**

SB1146/HB1349 **Drugs, Prescriptions** - Requires a county medical examiner's office or regional forensic center, when conducting an autopsy on a decedent who is suspected to have committed a mass shooting that resulted in the deaths of four or more individuals, to consult such decedent's treating mental health professional or primary care physician, if known, to obtain information regarding the decedent's psychotropic drug use; requires the county medical examiner to test the decedent for the presence of any drugs, including psychotropic drugs.
Public Chapter: **272**

SB0227/HB0811 **Tort Liability and Reform** - Establishes that a charitable organization may be held liable for a loss, damages, injury, or death resulting from a criminal offense committed by a person that is unlawfully present in the United States if: 1) the organization knew the person was unlawfully present in the United States; 2) the person was receiving housing services

from the organization when the offense was committed; and 3) the organization's conduct in providing housing constitutes negligence, gross negligence, or willful and wanton misconduct.

Public Chapter: 311

SB0392/HB0322 **Criminal Offenses** - Creates the offense of human smuggling; creates the offense of harboring or hiding, or assisting another in harboring or hiding, within this state an individual who the person knows or should have known has illegally entered or remained in the United States; authorizes the attorney general to take certain actions against a person or organization who commits or is about to commit a human trafficking offense or an aggravated human trafficking offense.

- Clarifies that it is not considered human smuggling if it is an attorney or healthcare professional providing their services.

Public Chapter: 424

SB1135/HB1050 **Nuisances** - Establishes that the occurrence of certain specified circumstances is prima facie evidence of a nuisance. Authorizes a court to require the person or entity keeping, maintaining, or carrying on a nuisance in certain instances to pay statutory damages of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$50,000 to any person who owns real property within the zip code in which the nuisance exists, and who files a claim with the court that the person's property value was damaged by the continued existence of the nuisance.

- Makes exceptions for a healthcare provider licensed, registered, certified, or otherwise permitted under title 33, title 63, or title 68; a facility licensed or certified by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, including certified recovery court programs; or an alcohol and drug prevention and/or treatment facility or recovery residence.

Public Chapter: 510

SB1441/HB1419 **Montgomery County** – Subject to local approval, creates a fifth General Sessions and Juvenile Court of Montgomery County.

Private Chapter: 14
