

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION NATHAN R. JAMES

DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2020 SBE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES MADE LAW

- PC 629 By Sen. Gresham and Rep. Moody
 - This act expands the list of offenses for which the State Board of Education (SBE) must automatically revoke an educator's license upon the educator's conviction. This act has an effective date of 7/1/20.
- **HB 1974** By Sen. Gresham and Rep. Dunn
 - This bill allows the SBE to seek reimbursement for the cost of proceedings in contested case hearings regarding educator misconduct. This act will take effect when signed by the Governor.

PRIORITIES MADE LAW (CONTINUED)

- **HB 1976** By Sen. Gresham and Rep. White
 - This bill grants the SBE administrative subpoena power for licensure misconduct investigations. This power is enjoyed by 25 other boards and each local education agency (LEA). This will take effect when the Governor signs it.

RELATED LEGISLATION

- PC 527 by Sen. Gresham and Rep. Lafferty
 - As enacted, authorizes an LEA to provide career-based experiences to the LEA's high school students; allow the students to participate in any available career-based experiences; and establish partnerships with industry and local businesses to provide career-based experiences to such students. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.
- PC 532 By Sen. Hensley and Rep. Haston
 - This act requires Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) to develop formative assessment question banks that are aligned to state-mandated summative assessments measuring the academic progress of students. The TDOE shall make the formative assessment question banks available for use by LEAs. The commissioner shall begin developing the formative assessment question banks required under this subsection (b) no later than July 1, 2020.
 This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.

- PC 537 By Sen. Roberts and Rep. Daniel
 - This act extends the sunset of the Advisory Council for the education of students with disabilities. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.
- PC 544 By Sen. Roberts and Rep. Daniel
 - This act extends the sunset of the Dyslexia Advisory Council. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.
- PC 555 By Sen. Roberts and Rep. Daniel
 - This act extends the sunset of the Southern Regional Education Compact. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.

- PC 576 By Sen. Gresham and Rep. White
 - This act requires a county legislative body to make revenue estimates and determine the level of revenue necessary to establish a budget for the operation of county schools that is at least equal to the minimum budget required to comply with the local match and maintenance of effort provisions of the BEP; requires the director of schools and the chair of the local board of education to prepare a budget according to the revenue estimates and revenue determinations made by the county legislative body. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.

- PC 587 By Sen. Powers and Rep. Curtis Johnson
 - This legislation defines "grow your own" educator preparation programs as a partnership between an educator preparation provider, approved by the SBE, and one or more LEAs to coordinate a program for the preparation and licensure of teachers. This act takes July 1, 2020.

- PC 601 By Sen. Yager and Rep. Ragan
 - This legislation requires a student whose individualized education program (IEP), section 504 plan, or individual learning plan (ILP) allows for testing accommodations to be allowed to use the same testing accommodations while taking an assessment under the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) or an end-of-course assessment, only if the accommodation does not invalidate the assessment. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.

- PC 603 By Sen. Haile and Rep. Lamberth
 - This legislation authorizes a director of schools or the director's designee to remove a student from an alternative school or alternative program under certain conditions. Authorizes a director of schools, or the director's designee, to decide whether to enforce a suspension or expulsion of a student that has transferred from another LEA. It requires 1) require a minimum suspension of more than 10 days before attendance in an alternative school or alternative program is mandatory for students in grades 7-12; and 2) authorize a director of schools, or director's designee, to assign a student who has been expelled for committing a zero tolerance offense to an alternative school or program and require the determination to be made on a case-by-case basis. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.

- PC 618 By Sen. Massey and Rep. Dunn
 - This legislation authorizes LEA administrative offices to be in a federally owned building. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.
- **SB2269** By Sen. Yarbro and Rep. Freeman
 - This legislation requires that family life curriculum adopted by the SBE or an LEA include instruction on the prevention of dating violence. This bill awaits the Governor's action.

- **SB2620** by Sen. Swann and Rep. Farmer
 - This bill clarifies that authorization for a director of schools to report a truant student to the juvenile court judge based on the plan being unsuccessful and the school documenting that the parent or guardian is unwilling to cooperate is not dependent on the school exhausting all three tiers of the plan. This bill specifies that evidence of a parent's or guardian's unwillingness to cooperate in the plan includes, but is not limited to, repeated failure or refusal to attend conferences, return telephone calls, attend follow-up meetings, enter into an attendance contract, or actively participate in any of the tiers of intervention or other components of a progressive truancy intervention plan. This bill awaits the Governor's action.

- SB 2088 By Sen. Haile and Rep. White
 - This legislation requires each LEA and each public charter school to ensure all school officials and other school personnel annually complete the child abuse training program. Establishes procedures for personnel to adhere to following the disclosure, discovery, or suspicion of child abuse or child sexual abuse. This bill awaits the Governor's action.

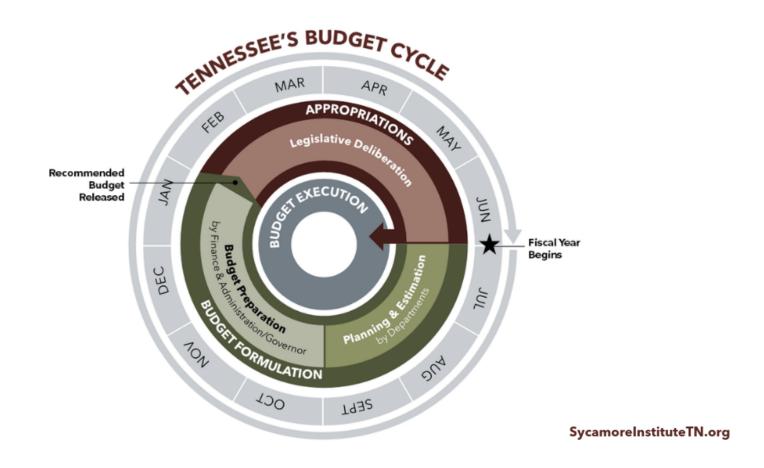
COVID-19 AND THE BUDGET

- PC 628 By Sen. Reeves and Rep. Boyd
 - This legislation requires the TDOE, in consultation with the Tennessee Department of Health, to develop a standardized form that students can use to report allergies; requires each public school to use the form developed by the TDOE to maintain a record of the school's students with allergies. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.
- PC 651The appropriations act passed in March was later revised.

COVID-19 AND THE BUDGET

- PC 652 By Sen. Johnson and Rep. Lamberth
 - This legislation authorized the SBE to create emergency rules to deal with all educational considerations brought by COVID-19. This act took effect upon the Governor's signature.
- **\$B1616** By Sen. Haile and Rep. Dixie
 - This legislation rewrites the time frames within which a person, upon receipt of employment notification from an LEA, must accept or reject, in writing the offer of employment to be:
 - (1) Within 14 calendar days, as per present law, if the offer was made between April 1 and June 1, including offers of employment made on April 1, but excluding offers of employment made on June 1; or
 - (2) Within five business days, if the offer was made between June 1 and April 1, including offers of employment made on June 1, but excluding offers of employment made on April 1. **This bill awaits the Governor's action.**

Understanding the Budget Cycle in Tennessee



QUESTIONS?