



# Tracked and Passed Legislation

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## **Alcoholic Beverages**

### **HB2172 (SB2295) - Alcoholic beverage commission biennial report on underage drinking and alcohol-related issues.**

[State Website](#)

R. Williams (R), P. Walley (R)

**HB2172:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2295:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (017010).

As introduced, requires the alcoholic beverage commission to submit to the members of the general assembly, by February 1 rather than February 15, of each odd-numbered year, a biennial report on the prevention of underage drinking, drunk driving, and other harmful uses of alcohol. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (017010) establishes a tax upon the sale of inhalable liquid hemp-derived cannabinoid products (HDCPs) at 10 percent of the wholesale price, to be collected in addition to all other applicable taxes.

## **Commercial Law**

### **SB1700 (HB1946) - Curbing Harmful AI Technology (CHAT) Act.**

[State Website](#)

R. Akbari (D), H. Love, Jr. (D)

**SB1700:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014031).

**HB1946:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, enacts the "Curbing Harmful AI Technology (CHAT) Act." Prohibits an operator from making a companion chatbot available to a minor if the companion chatbot is capable of encouraging or manipulating the minor user to engage in self-harm, suicidal ideation, violence, consumption of drugs or alcohol, or disordered eating or offering mental health therapy to the minor user without the direct supervision of a licensed professional, or discouraging the minor user from seeking help from a licensed professional or appropriate adult. Specifies other prohibitions for operators. Requires the deployer of a covered product to include a disclaimer to users that the covered product is not a human via a static. Prohibits a developer or deployer from operating or providing a generative artificial intelligence chatbot to a user unless the generative artificial intelligence chatbot contains a protocol to take reasonable efforts for detecting and addressing suicidal ideation or expressions of self-harm expressed by a user to the generative artificial intelligence chatbot. Also prohibits a developer from training the underlying model of a generative artificial intelligence chatbot with the inputs of a minor unless the minor's parent or legal guardian has affirmatively provided written consent to the developer to use the minor's personal information specifically to train the underlying model of a generative artificial intelligence chatbot. Specifies penalties for violations.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate Commerce and Labor Committee amendment 1 (014031) requires the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) to conduct a study of the potential regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) systems and generative AI chatbots in this state. Requires TACIR to conduct the study from existing resources and to report its findings and provide any proposed legislation to the Governor, the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Librarian by January 31, 2027. Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee amendment 1 (016715) removes the reporting deadline of the TACIR report.

### **SB1711 (HB2019) - Ch. 590, Venue for dissolving public benefit or mutual benefit corporations.**

[State Website](#)

J. Johnson (R), M. Cochran (R)

**SB1711:** Mar. 23, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0590, effective March 18, 2026.

**HB2019:** Mar. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As enacted, establishes the county where a public benefit or mutual benefit corporation has the corporation's principal office or, if the corporation does not have a principal office located in this state, the corporation's registered office, as a venue for a proceeding by the attorney general and reporter to dissolve the corporation; establishes additional locations as venues for proceedings to dissolve a corporation by the attorney general and reporter or other authorized parties.

## **Corrections**

### **HB1718 (SB1820) - Study on the cost of equipping Trousdale Turner Correctional Facility staff with body cameras.**

[State Website](#)

F. Atchley (R), T. Hatcher (R)

**HB1718:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 2 (017819), which requires a private prison contractor at Trousdale Turner Correctional Facility to procure body cameras, including the costs of data storage and maintenance, for correctional officers. Requires each correctional officer at Trousdale Turner Correctional Facility to utilize a body camera at all times when the correctional officer is on duty at the facility, and is in contact with or may reasonably anticipate contact or interaction with an inmate. Requires the Department of Correction (DOC), within the existing resources of the department, to designate one or more employees to review all captured body camera recordings for

each incident, interaction between two or more inmates, interaction between a correctional officer and an inmate or another correctional officer that is or that is suspected to be unlawful, abusive, in violation of any policy, or that may otherwise require a report or the discipline of an inmate. Requires the review of each body camera recording to occur no later than five business days after any investigation into an incident or interaction, as necessary. Establishes storage requirements for body camera recordings. Requires DOC to transmit to the District Attorney General any recordings that meet specified criteria no later than 48 hours after review. Requires DOC to provide any federal, state, or local prosecuting authority any body camera recording upon request within 48 hours unless otherwise specified. Requires DOC to aggregate body camera data that requires transmission and submit a quarterly and annual report to specified parties. Repeals the provisions related to body cameras July 1, 2027. Designates body camera footage captured and maintained as a result of this act as confidential information not open for inspection by members of the public. Authorizes body camera footage that is relevant to a civil action or criminal prosecution to be released to a law enforcement agency, a federal, state, or local prosecuting authority, or in compliance with a subpoena or a court order.

**SB1820:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires the department of correction to study the cost of equipping correctional officers and employees of prison contractors with body cameras who work at Trowsdale Turner Correctional Facility. Requires the department to report its findings to the chair of the senate state and local government committee and the chair of the committee of the house of representatives with jurisdiction over corrections not later than July 1, 2026. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 2 (017819) requires a private prison contractor at Trowsdale Turner Correctional Facility to procure body cameras, including the costs of data storage and maintenance, for correctional officers. Requires each correctional officer at Trowsdale Turner Correctional Facility to utilize a body camera at all times when the correctional officer is on duty at the facility, and is in contact with or may reasonably anticipate contact or interaction with an inmate. Requires the Department of Correction (DOC), within the existing resources of the department, to designate one or more employees to review all captured body camera recordings for each incident, interaction between two or more inmates, interaction between a correctional officer and an inmate or another correctional officer that is or that is suspected to be unlawful, abusive, in violation of any policy, or that may otherwise require a report or the discipline of an inmate. Requires the review of each body camera recording to occur no later than five business days after any investigation into an incident or interaction, as necessary. Establishes storage requirements for body camera recordings. Requires DOC to transmit to the District Attorney General any recordings that meet specified criteria no later than 48 hours after review. Requires DOC to provide any federal, state, or local prosecuting authority any body camera recording upon request within 48 hours unless otherwise specified. Requires DOC to aggregate body camera data that requires transmission and submit a quarterly and annual report to specified parties. Repeals the provisions related to body cameras July 1, 2027. Designates body camera footage captured and maintained as a result of this act as confidential information not open for inspection by members of the public. Authorizes body camera footage that is relevant to a civil action or criminal prosecution to be released to a law enforcement agency, a federal, state, or local prosecuting authority, or in compliance with a subpoena or a court order.

## **Criminal Law**

### **[SB591 \(HB1273\) - Penalties for threatening to commit or failing to report an act of mass violence on the property of a child care agency, preschool, or religious institution.](#)**

[State Website](#)

F. Haile (R), C. Doggett (R)

**SB591:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (015796), which specifies that the criminal offense of failing to report a threat of mass violence only applies to credible threats of mass violence. Authorizes the court to order a defendant, as a condition of bail or other pretrial release, to undergo an examination for emergency involuntary admission to treatment, rather than a forensic examination for competency to stand trial.

**HB1273:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Creates the Class E felony of recklessly, by any means of communication, threatening to commit an act of mass violence on the property of a child care agency, preschool, or religious institution. Creates the Class B misdemeanor of failing to report a threat to commit an act of mass violence on the property of a child care agency, preschool, or religious institution.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 2 (015796) specifies that the criminal offense of failing to report a threat of mass violence only applies to credible threats of mass violence. Authorizes the court to order a defendant, as a condition of bail or other pretrial release, to undergo an examination for emergency involuntary admission to treatment, rather than a forensic examination for competency to stand trial.

### **[HB2506 \(SB1464\) - Public disclosure of immigration enforcement actions and records.](#)**

[State Website](#)

C. Sexton (R), J. Johnson (R)

**HB2506:** Mar. 26, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1464:** Mar. 09, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014282).

Makes certain records regarding immigration enforcement actions confidential and not subject to public disclosure by state or local government entities or officials. Punishes as a Class E felony the criminally negligent public release of certain confidential records. Expands the grounds for ouster to include the criminally negligent release of certain confidential records. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014282) requires each state governmental entity and official to maintain the following information relative to the operational enforcement of federal and state immigration laws as confidential, and such information is not subject to public inspection: The name of a federal, state, or local officer, agent, or official participating in federal immigration enforcement activities in this state when the name is accompanied by contact information, a residential address, or other personal identifying information of the officer, agent, or official; The name of a federal, state, or local officer, agent, or official participating in federal immigration enforcement activities in this state if (i) the release would endanger the safety of the individual during an active or planned enforcement operation, (ii) the individual is currently serving in an undercover capacity, or (iii) a documented threat assessment by the supervising agency head, or a designee, demonstrates a specific, ongoing risk of harm; Information related to specific future immigration enforcement operational activities, such as the date and time, location, logistics, or strategies of such activities. However, this amendment does not do any of the following: Prevent the disclosure of information, including the name of the officer, relating to an investigation of alleged misconduct by a law enforcement officer to the extent required by law; Prevent a state governmental entity or official from disclosing the name of an officer, agent, or official after the conclusion of an operation if the entity or official determines that disclosure does not present a reasonable risk to the safety of the officer, agent, or official or the integrity of current or future operations; Require the name of an officer, agent, or official from being redacted from an affidavit, warrant, charging instrument, or other judicial record. This amendment provides that a state government official who, acting with criminal negligence, releases information as described above commits a Class E felony, which authorizes imprisonment of no less than one year nor more than six years, and authorizes the jury to assess a fine not to exceed \$3,000. A state government official who, acting with criminal negligence, releases such information may also be subject to ouster, if applicable. This amendment makes confidential and not subject to public inspection the name of a law enforcement officer who is designated as working undercover during the period of undercover assignment and for a reasonable period thereafter if the law enforcement agency determines that disclosure would present a reasonable risk to the safety of the officer or to the integrity of current or future operations. However, such protection does not apply to training or certification records maintained by the peace officer standards and training commission. This amendment clarifies that the bill applies to prohibited conduct occurring on or after July 1, 2026.

### **HB1624 (SB1717) - Offense of knowingly violating a no contact order issued as part of sentence or conditions of probation or parole.**

[State Website](#)

J. Barrett (R), J. Hensley (R)

**HB1624:** Apr. 13, 2026 - House passed.

**SB1717:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, creates a criminal offense of knowingly violating a no contact order issued as part of a defendant's sentence or conditions of probation or parole following conviction for certain criminal offenses in which the alleged victim of the offense is a domestic abuse victim. Specifies that a violation is a Class A misdemeanor. Broadly captioned.

### **SB1737 (HB1668) - Criminal offense for knowingly traveling with intent to steal cash while carrying multiple criminal instruments on the same route as another person.**

[State Website](#)

D. White (R), T. Rudd (R)

**SB1737:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB1668:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (013767), which creates a criminal offense for a person to knowingly travel, with intent to commit theft of another person's cash, from a commercial business, a financial institution, or an automated teller machine, on the same path or route as another person without substantial deviation from that path or route while in possession of two or more criminal instruments. Establishes penalties for violations.

As introduced, creates the criminal offense of knowingly traveling, with intent to commit theft of another person's cash, from a commercial business or financial institution on the same path or route as another person without substantially deviating from that path or route while in possession of two or more criminal instruments.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (013767) creates a criminal offense for a person to knowingly travel, with intent to commit theft of another person's cash, from a commercial business, a financial

institution, or an automated teller machine, on the same path or route as another person without substantial deviation from that path or route while in possession of two or more criminal instruments. Establishes penalties for violations.

### **SB1740 (HB1679) - Unlawful purchase or possession of tobacco, smoking hemp, or vape products when presenting a fraudulent proof of age.**

[State Website](#)

P. Rose (R), D. Moody (R)

**SB1740:** Apr. 13, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB1679:** Apr. 09, 2026 - House passed with amendment 2 (017244).

As introduced, expands the disposition allowed when a person under 21 is found to have unlawfully purchased, possessed, accepted receipt of, or presented fraudulent proof of age to purchase tobacco, smoking hemp, a vapor product, or a smokeless nicotine product to include requiring community service work, the successful completion of a prescribed court program, or placing the person on an informal adjustment for a period of 90 days for a first violation, and, for a second or subsequent violation, placing the person on probation for up to six months in addition to requiring community service and the successful completion of a prescribed court program focusing on the dangers of tobacco and vapor products.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013147) expands the dispositions authorized by a general sessions or juvenile court for a person under 21 years of age who possessed either a tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product, purchased or accepted receipt of either product, or presented or offered to any person any purported proof of age that is false, fraudulent, or not actually that person's own for the purpose of purchasing or receiving any tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product. House amendment 2 (017244), regarding minors, expands the dispositions authorized by a general sessions or juvenile court for a person under 21 years of age who possessed either a tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product, purchased or accepted receipt of either product, or presented or offered to any person any purported proof of age that is false, fraudulent, or not actually that person's own for the purpose of purchasing or receiving any tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product.

### **HB1704 (SB1779) - Creates misdemeanors for failing to depart after removal orders and for unlawful entry or presence in Tennessee.**

[State Website](#)

W. Lamberth (R), J. Johnson (R)

**HB1704:** Mar. 16, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (013082), which creates a Class A misdemeanor offense if a person, who is 18 years of age or older, with a valid final federal order of removal intentionally fails or refuses to depart from this state within 90 days. Authorizes a court to grant a stay of the criminal proceedings if the person has not exhausted all available paths to challenge the final removal under federal law. Effective July 1, 2026. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense if a person, who is 18 years of age or older, has been denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed from the United States, and they intentionally enter or attempt to enter this state. Provides exemptions. Effective 30 days after the United States Supreme Court overturns *Arizona v. United States* (2012) or the adoption of a federal statutory provision that removes the preemption of states' ability to determine that a person is unlawfully present in this state.

**SB1779:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally failing or refusing to depart when a final order of removal is outstanding; creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally entering, attempting to enter, or being found in this state after being denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed from the United States. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (013082) creates a Class A misdemeanor offense if a person, who is 18 years of age or older, with a valid final federal order of removal intentionally fails or refuses to depart from this state within 90 days. Authorizes a court to grant a stay of the criminal proceedings if the person has not exhausted all available paths to challenge the final removal under federal law. Effective July 1, 2026. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense if a person, who is 18 years of age or older, has been denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed from the United States, and they intentionally enter or attempt to enter this state. Provides exemptions. Effective 30 days after the United States Supreme Court overturns *Arizona v. United States* (2012) or the adoption of a federal statutory provision that removes the preemption of states' ability to determine that a person is unlawfully present in this state.

### **HB1951 (SB1815) - Creates a new offense of coercive suicide.**

[State Website](#)

R. Williams (R), P. Bailey (R)

**HB1951:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 2 (018261), which names the bill Grace Anne Sparks Coercive Suicide Prevention Law of 2026. Creates the Class D felony for the offense of coercive suicide.

**SB1815:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, creates a new offense of coercive suicide. Specifies that a person or entity commits the offense of coercive suicide if such person or entity owns an artificial intelligence system and the artificial intelligence system advises or encourages a person to commit or attempt to commit suicide. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (013175) creates the Class D felony for the offense of coercive suicide. House amendment 2 (018261) names the bill Grace Anne Sparks Coercive Suicide Prevention Law of 2026. Creates the Class D felony for the offense of coercive suicide.

### **SB1840 (HB2432) - "Quinton's Law."**

[State Website](#)

R. Briggs (R), S. McKenzie (D)

**SB1840:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (015065), which requires prosecution for vehicular homicide to occur within 10 years from the date of the offense.

**HB2432:** Apr. 08, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, enacts "Quinton's Law." This bill extends the statute of limitations for causes of action for wrongful death that accrue on or after July 1, 2026. Present law requires such a cause of action to be commenced within one year after the cause of action accrued. This bill generally extends the statute of limitations to two years after the cause of action accrued. However, this bill further extends the statute of limitations to three years after the cause of action accrued if all of the following criteria is met: Criminal charges are brought against a person alleged to have caused or contributed to the death; The conduct, transaction, or occurrence that gives rise to the cause of action for wrongful death is the subject of a criminal prosecution commenced within two years by a law enforcement officer, district attorney general, or grand jury.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (015065) rewrites the bill to, instead, provide that prosecution for vehicular homicide committed on or after July 1, 2026, must commence within 10 years from the date the offense occurs.

### **HB1802 (SB1847) - Lowers the legal standard for using deadly force to protect property.**

[State Website](#)

K. Capley (R), J. Hensley (R)

**HB1802:** Apr. 23, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (013376), which establishes that a person who is not engaged in conduct that would constitute a felony or a Class A misdemeanor and who is in a place where the person lawfully resides is justified, under certain circumstances, in using deadly force against another when and to the degree the person believes deadly force is immediately necessary to prevent the other's imminent commission of certain property offenses.

**SB1847:** Apr. 23, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, lowers the standard for the use of deadly force to protect property. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (013376) establishes that a person who is not engaged in conduct that would constitute a felony or a Class A misdemeanor and who is in a place where the person lawfully resides is justified, under certain circumstances, in using deadly force against another when and to the degree the person believes deadly force is immediately necessary to prevent the other's imminent commission of certain property offenses.

### **HB2013 (SB2088) - Testing for psychotropic drugs for person that is believed to have committed a mass shooting.**

[State Website](#)

M. Littleton (R), R. Crowe (R)

**HB2013:** Apr. 14, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (017179).

**SB2088:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires a law enforcement officer to cause to be administered by a qualified practitioner at a hospital a blood or urine test on a person for the presence of a psychotropic drug if such officer has probable cause to believe that the person committed a mass shooting; directs the health science center to study the drug interactions between any drugs found in the person's blood or urine.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (015388) expands the definition of "mass shooting," for the purposes of requiring a decedent's blood to be tested for the presence of psychotropic drugs, to include: (1) any shooting resulting in four or more individuals sustaining an injury; or (2) a shooting in which a reasonable person would conclude that the decedent attempted to kill four or more individuals. Authorizes a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a mass shooting to ask if the person consents a blood or urine test for the purpose of determining the presence of any drugs, including therapeutic levels of psychotropic drugs. If the person consents to a blood or urine test, requires the law enforcement officer to cause to be administered such test by a qualified practitioner at a hospital. Establishes that only a minor's parent or guardian may consent to a blood or urine test for a minor. Requires the hospital where the blood or urine sample was procured and tested to send the results of the drug test, to the University of Tennessee's Health Science Center (HSC) to study the drug interactions between the psychotropic drugs and any other

drugs that were present in the person's blood or urine, using available drug interaction software. Requires the HSC to include any data collected from such samples in their quarterly reports submitted to the Chief Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives. House amendment 1 (017179) expands the definition of "mass shooting," for the purposes of requiring a decedent's blood to be tested for the presence of psychotropic drugs, to include: (1) any shooting resulting in four or more individuals sustaining an injury; or (2) a shooting in which a reasonable person would conclude that the decedent attempted to kill four or more individuals. Authorizes a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a mass shooting to ask if the person consents a blood or urine test for the purpose of determining the presence of any drugs, including therapeutic levels of psychotropic drugs. If the person consents to a blood or urine test, requires the law enforcement officer to cause to be administered such test by a qualified practitioner at a hospital. Establishes that only a minor's parent or guardian may consent to a blood or urine test for a minor. Clarifies that the legislation does not preclude a law enforcement officer from seeking a search warrant. Requires the hospital where the blood or urine sample was procured and tested to send the results of the drug test, to the University of Tennessee's Health Science Center (HSC) to study the drug interactions between the psychotropic drugs and any other drugs that were present in the person's blood or urine, using available drug interaction software. Requires the HSC to include any data collected from such samples in their quarterly reports submitted to the Chief Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives.

### **HB1787 (SB2178) - Increases the penalty for patronizing prostitution.**

[State Website](#)

M. Littleton (R), K. Yager (R)

**HB1787:** Apr. 14, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (013812).

**SB2178:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, increases the penalty for patronizing prostitution from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B or Class A felony under certain circumstances that are currently punished as trafficking for a commercial sex act.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (013812) increases the penalty for patronizing prostitution from a law enforcement officer 18 years of age or older posing as a minor, from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B felony. Establishes that patronizing prostitution from a person who has an intellectual disability is a Class B felony, and is no longer punishable as trafficking for commercial sex acts. Establishes that patronizing prostitution from a person who is less than 18 years of age is a Class A felony, and is no longer punishable as trafficking for commercial sex acts.

### **HB2140 (SB2265) - Enhanced Penalties and Registry for Organized Retail Theft.**

[State Website](#)

J. Zachary (R), B. Taylor (R)

**HB2140:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2265:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013344).

As introduced, creates a registry within the Tennessee bureau of investigation for persons convicted of specified organized retail theft offenses and makes various related revisions to organized retail theft penalties and elements. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013344) expands the offense of organized retail crime. Increases the time period, from 90 days to 180 days, that acts in concert with one or more individuals to commit theft of merchandise over \$1,000 can be considered organized retail crime. Implements a 30-day mandatory minimum sentence if a defendant used or possessed a firearm, ammunition, a firearm-related device, or anti-theft device during the commission of the offense.

### **HB1816 (SB2533) - The Isbill Act.**

[State Website](#)

R. Williams (R), F. Haile (R)

**HB1816:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016916) and amendment 2 (017828). House amendment 1 (016916) requires the Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) to allocate funds to the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) from the funds in the Opioid Abatement Fund (OAF) that are not required to be disbursed to counties. Requires 10 percent of the funds paid into the OAF on or after July 1, 2026, available to OAC after accounting for county disbursements, to be allocated to DMHSAS for crisis, residential and inpatient services for uninsured individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Requires disbursements to be made at the same time county disbursements are made. Establishes that these funds must supplement not supplant existing state appropriations and must not reduce or affect the distribution of proceeds to counties or municipalities. House amendment 2 (017828) adds that it is the legislative intent that the

bureau of TennCare will consult with the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations on the formula to be utilized in the distribution of funding.

**SB2533:** Apr. 23, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires the POST commission and Tennessee Corrections Institute to design and adopt guidelines on the criteria for emergency and nonemergency involuntary admissions under Tennessee law to inpatient psychiatric treatment. Requires law enforcement officers and correctional personnel to undergo annual training on the guidelines. Effective July 1, 2027.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (016916) requires the Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) to allocate funds to the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) from the funds in the Opioid Abatement Fund (OAF) that are not required to be disbursed to counties. Requires 10 percent of the funds paid into the OAF on or after July 1, 2026, available to OAC after accounting for county disbursements, to be allocated to DMHSAS for crisis, residential and inpatient services for uninsured individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Requires disbursements to be made at the same time county disbursements are made. Establishes that these funds must supplement not supplant existing state appropriations and must not reduce or affect the distribution of proceeds to counties or municipalities. House amendment 2 (017828) adds that it is the legislative intent that the bureau of TennCare will consult with the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations on the formula to be utilized in the distribution of funding.

## **Education**

### **SB714 (HB662) - Reporting date on self-administered medications and healthcare procedures to students.**

[State Website](#)

B. Taylor (R), M. White (R)

**SB714:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB662:** Apr. 22, 2025 - Sponsor(s) Added.

Changes the reporting date, from October 31 to October 1, by which the departments of education and health must submit a report to the governor and general assembly regarding the self-administered medications and healthcare procedures to students served in all public and nonpublic accredited schools in this state and recommendations for meeting the needs for comprehensive school health. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 2 (007487) requires an educational oversight board to be created for a local education agency (LEA) if: (1) 50 percent or more of the students enrolled in the LEA did not meet grade-level expectations in mathematics and English language arts (ELA) on the most recently administered Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests, including end-of-course examinations; (2) 30 percent or more of the schools managed and controlled by the LEA's local board of education were assigned a "D" or "F" letter grade for the most recent school year for which letter grades were assigned by the Department of Education (DOE) pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-228; (3) 25 percent or more of the students enrolled in the LEA were chronically absent in the most recent school year; (4) at least one school managed and controlled by the LEA's local board of education has been identified as a priority school pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-602 on each of the last five priority school lists issued by the DOE; and (5) the local legislative body for the county in which the LEA is located approves, by a majority vote, a resolution expressing that the local legislative body has no confidence in the LEA's local board of education. Requires the Commissioner of DOE to notify the local board of education for each eligible LEA and certain state officials that an oversight board must be appointed for the LEA and must be established by July 1 following the date of the Commissioner's written notice for the LEA. Requires an educational oversight board of managers to operate in the LEA for three consecutive years beginning on July 1 following the date of the commissioner's written notice. If the LEA continues to require an educational oversight board, then the same board may be extended for three additional years. Requires the local board of education for an LEA for which an educational oversight board is operating to submit the proposed budget for the LEA, including any proposed budget amendments, to the oversight board for approval before it may be submitted to the appropriate local legislative body for adoption. Establishes a process for the oversight board to review a proposed budget or budget amendment and for a local legislative body to adopt a proposed budget or budget amendment. Prohibits the local board of education for an LEA for which an educational oversight board is operating from: (1) entering into, renewing, or amending any contracts with a total value of \$50,000 or more unless the contract is approved by the oversight board; or (2) authorizing any purchase or making any expenditure with a value of \$50,000 or more unless the purchase or expenditure is first approved by the oversight board. Establishes a process for a local board to submit a contract or contract amendment for approval. Requires the local board of education for an LEA for which an educational oversight board is operating, if applicable to the LEA for which the oversight board is operating, to submit the comprehensive listing of all underutilized property

or vacant property required in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-136(c)(2) to the oversight board for approval within 60 days before the list is submitted to the DOE and the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT). Requires the oversight board to review the proposed list and authorizes the oversight board to revise the list as the oversight board deems necessary to accurately reflect the underutilized property or vacant property in the LEA that is available for use by a public charter school operating in the LEA. Requires the local board to submit to the DOE and the COT the comprehensive listing of all underutilized property or vacant property approved by the oversight board, including any underutilized property or vacant property that may have been added to the list by the oversight board. Prohibits the local board of education for an LEA for which an educational oversight board is operating from denying an amended application to open a new public charter school, an application to convert an existing public school to a public charter school, an application to renew the charter agreement of a public charter school, or a petition to amend the charter agreement of a public charter school submitted to the local board unless the oversight board has reviewed and approved the local board's decision to deny the application or petition. Establishes a process for a local board to submit the application or petition that the local board seeks to deny to the oversight board for review. Senate amendment 3 (008067) subjects an LEA, excluding the achievement school district, to state intervention if: (1) 50% of the LEA's student population is economically disadvantaged and did not meet grade-level expectations in mathematics and English language arts on the most recently administered comprehensive assessment program tests; (2) at least one school managed and controlled by the LEA's local board of education has been identified as a priority school on each of the last five priority school lists issued. Creates an advisory board of managers for each determined LEA that consists of the specified members, each of whom must reside in the county in which the LEA is located. Requires the governor, speaker of the house, speaker of the senate, and the mayor of the county in which the LEA is located to appoint a designated amount of members to the advisory board of managers. Requires an advisory board of managers to annually conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the determined LEA to examine and determine the factors that may be causing or contributing to the LEA's failures. Requires the advisory board of managers to develop and recommend to the LEA's local board of education a transformation plan based on the findings of the comprehensive needs assessment. Requires an advisory board of managers to submit to the local board of education recommendations for any item on the agenda for a meeting of the local board of education that the advisory board deems relevant to improving the LEA's academic performance. Requires an advisory board of managers to submit a quarterly progress report to the specified legislative officials. Allows the commissioner of education to implement one or more of the following intervention actions: (1) recommend to the state board of education that the director of schools for the LEA be replaced; (2) recommend to the state board that some or all of the local board of education members for the LEA be replaced; and (3) recommend to the public charter school commission that one or more of the existing public schools in the LEA be converted to a public charter school. Requires the commissioner of education to order the removal of some or all of the local board of education members or the director of schools, or both, and shall declare a vacancy in the office upon the concurrence of the state board of education. Requires local legislative body to appoint the number of members required to fill one or more vacancies on the local board until the next general election. Requires the director of schools to be removed from office if the commissioner of education has recommended to the state board of education that the director of schools be replaced and the state board has concurred with the commissioner's recommendation. Allows a sponsor which seeks to establish a new public charter school in a determined LEA to apply directly to the public charter school commission for authorization. Requires that if a sponsor applies directly to the commission, then the application process must be conducted in accordance with the designated process. Outlines the process of public charter school conversion upon approval of the public charter school commission. Conference Committee Report 1, which subjects a local educational authority (LEA), excluding the achievement school district, to state intervention if it fails to meet four or more of the following six benchmarks: less than 50% of enrolled students demonstrating grade-level proficiency in Mathematics and English on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program test; 25% or more of schools receiving a D or F grade from the Tennessee Department of Education (DOE); 25% or more students enrolled chronically absent; or at least 1 school within the LEA identified as a Priority School for 5 consecutive years; The DOE Commissioner determines that the Comptroller audit shows deficiencies in the management, accounting, internal controls, or fraud, waste, or abuse; or if the LEA has employed 2 or more directors of schools in the immediate two years. Requires the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate, and mayor of the county in which the LEA is located to appoint 9-member board who must reside in the LEA in which the LEA is located. The Board would operate for four years, during which the Board would be required to develop a transformation plan and communicate the plan with the LEA. If the LEA meets four of the six criteria at the conclusion of the 4-years of the Board,

the Board would be dissolved and an Oversight Board with all new personnel would operate in the LEA for an additional two years. The Senate Conference Committee Report permits the Board to appoint an executive committee, hold virtual meetings, and the hire of up to 3 staff members. Requires the Board to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to include information on class sizes, textbook usage, parental involvement, and teacher hiring and retention practices. The Board must use the assessment to develop a transformation plan that is to be reviewed by the Board annually. If any member of the Board suspects that a member of the LEA is breaking a local, state, or federal law, the Report directs the Board to contact appropriate law enforcement entities. Requires purchases and expenditures made by the LEA over \$50,000 to be approved by the Board and requires Board approval before an LEA can deny an establishment or renewal application of a local public charter school. Includes certain provisions regarding the Board's review of employee contracts pursuant to an employee's actions contributing to the LEA's deficiency in the Board's criteria, and procedures regarding vacant positions. Conference Committee amendment 1 to the conference report, which specifies that the board can contract for the need assessment and turnaround plans, permits the Board to create policies and timelines regarding contracts subject to approval, and includes procedures regarding the appointment of a Chair of the Board. Conference Committee amendment 2, which permits Speaker of the House to appoint one member, of the two appointments belonging to the House Speaker, may be from a Tennessee county outside the county in which the LEA is located.

### **SB1255 (HB1369) - Blood lead level testing.**

[State Website](#)

L. Lamar (D), J. Chism (D)

**SB1255:** Mar. 26, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (016639), which requires the Department of Health (DOH) to make available and require educational materials on blood lead level (BLL) testing for a pregnant woman who receives vouchers for the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC). Requires DOH to provide such women educational information on specialized nutritional services, education on how to mitigate lead in the body, and other existing wraparound services tailored for people with elevated BLLs or lead poisoning.

**HB1369:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Requires the department of health to make available and require blood lead level testing for all children prior to attendance at K-12 public schools. Requires a child who has elevated blood lead levels be immediately screened to determine if educational services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are needed. Requires a child who has lead poisoning to receive wraparound services appropriate for lead poisoned children. Allows a parent or guardian to opt out of testing. Requires a juvenile with elevated blood lead levels or lead poisoning in a federal funded juvenile detention facility to receive wraparound services appropriate for children with elevated blood lead levels or lead poisoning. Requires the department of health to make available and require blood lead level testing for a pregnant woman who receives vouchers for the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children. Requires the department of health to provide a woman with elevated blood lead levels or lead poisoning wraparound services and educational materials regarding elevated blood lead levels or lead poisoning.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 2, House Education Committee amendment 1 (016639) requires the Department of Health (DOH) to make available and require educational materials on blood lead level (BLL) testing for a pregnant woman who receives vouchers for the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC). Requires DOH to provide such women educational information on specialized nutritional services, education on how to mitigate lead in the body, and other existing wraparound services tailored for people with elevated BLLs or lead poisoning. House Health Committee amendment 3 (016074) requires Health to collaborate with Human Services to make available educational materials regarding lead toxicity levels in the blood for pregnant women participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps).

### **SB1710 (HB1527) - Requires K-12 public schools to teach child trafficking awareness and prevention.**

[State Website](#)

J. Johnson (R), J. McCalmon (R)

**SB1710:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB1527:** Mar. 09, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (013172), which requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide child trafficking prevention and awareness education as part of Health Education, rather than Family Life Curriculum, for all students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), with instruction aligned to state health education standards and delivered in an age- and grade appropriate, developmentally appropriate manner. Authorizes LEAs and public charter schools to use qualified healthcare professionals or social workers to assist with instruction. Requires each local board of education and public charter school governing body to adopt a plan by August 1, 2026, to implement these requirements, and to submit such plan to the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE) upon request.

As introduced, requires public schools and public charter schools to provide instruction in child trafficking awareness and prevention to students in grades kindergarten through 12 through health education, instead of being provided through a family life curriculum. Requires school boards and public charter school governing bodies to publish certain information and provide annual reports concerning child trafficking education.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (013172) requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide child trafficking prevention and awareness education as part of Health Education, rather than Family Life Curriculum, for all students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), with instruction aligned to state health education standards and delivered in an age- and grade appropriate, developmentally appropriate manner. Authorizes LEAs and public charter schools to use qualified healthcare professionals or social workers to assist with instruction. Requires each local board of education and public charter school governing body to adopt a plan by August 1, 2026, to implement these requirements, and to submit such plan to the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE) upon request.

### **HB1550 (SB1716) - Expands prescribed forms of epinephrine for life-threatening allergic reactions than an LEA or nonpublic school is authorized to administer.**

[State Website](#)

E. Davis (R), J. Hensley (R)

**HB1550:** Apr. 13, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (013538).

**SB1716:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, expands the prescribed forms of epinephrine that an LEA or nonpublic school is authorized to administer when a student is believed to be experiencing a life-threatening allergic or anaphylactic reaction to any prescribed form of epinephrine, not just epinephrine auto-injectors.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate Education amendment 1, House amendment 1 (013538) changes the effective date to July 1, 2026.

### **HB1747 (SB1819) - Civic engagement field days for students to observe each branch of the U.S. government.**

[State Website](#)

B. Freeman (D), H. Campbell (D)

**HB1747:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1819:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (012824), which requires each public high school to provide students who are enrolled in a United States (U.S.) government and civics course with three civic engagement field days, one for each of the three distinct branches of government. Establishes that a public high school is not required to reschedule the class visit or arrange for a separate visit for an absent student. Authorizes a public high school to prohibit a student who is enrolled in the U.S. government and civics course from attending a class visit for disciplinary reasons. Establishes that if a class visit is impractical due to budgetary constraints for the local education agency (LEA) or public high school, then the public high school may satisfy the civic engagement field days by selecting certain alternative options.

As introduced, requires public high schools to provide students who are enrolled in the United States government and civics course the opportunity to participate in three civic engagement field days, one for each branch of government, to observe each branch of government.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (012824) requires each public high school to provide students who are enrolled in a United States (U.S.) government and civics course with three civic engagement field days, one for each of the three distinct branches of government. Establishes that a public high school is not required to reschedule the class visit or arrange for a separate visit for an absent student. Authorizes a public high school to prohibit a student who is enrolled in the U.S. government and civics course from attending a class visit for disciplinary reasons. Establishes that if a class visit is impractical due to budgetary constraints for the local education agency (LEA) or public high school, then the public high school may satisfy the civic engagement field days by selecting certain alternative options.

### **HB1822 (SB1828) - Allows public schools and colleges to teach about the positive impacts of religion in American history.**

[State Website](#)

M. Cochran (R), P. Rose (R)

**HB1822:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1828:** Mar. 19, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013683), which enacts the Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act. Authorizes local education agencies (LEAs), public charter schools, public school teachers, and faculty at public institutions of higher education to provide instruction on the positive impacts of religion on American History when teaching American History. Permits instruction to include specified historical examples, including: (1) the religious history of the Pilgrims and the Mayflower Compact; (2) references to divine authority in the Declaration of Independence; (3) the influence of religious leaders; (4) the role of religion in the First and Second Great Awakenings; (5) religious influences on the United States Constitution; (6) the role of the Ten Commandments in American legal

tradition; (7) the impact of religion on the Civil Rights Movement; and (8) the history of the national motto and pledge language. Applies to the 2026-2027 academic year and every year thereafter.

As introduced, specifies that local education agencies, public charter schools, public school teachers, and faculty or other instructors employed at public institutions of higher education may provide instruction on the positive impacts of religion on American history whenever instruction in American history is being provided. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013683) enacts the Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act. Authorizes local education agencies (LEAs), public charter schools, public school teachers, and faculty at public institutions of higher education to provide instruction on the positive impacts of religion on American History when teaching American History. Permits instruction to include specified historical examples, including: (1) the religious history of the Pilgrims and the Mayflower Compact; (2) references to divine authority in the Declaration of Independence; (3) the influence of religious leaders; (4) the role of religion in the First and Second Great Awakenings; (5) religious influences on the United States Constitution; (6) the role of the Ten Commandments in American legal tradition; (7) the impact of religion on the Civil Rights Movement; and (8) the history of the national motto and pledge language. Applies to the 2026-2027 academic year and every year thereafter.

### **HB1805 (SB1890) - Requires schools to teach students age-appropriate history of communism.**

[State Website](#)

J. Barrett (R), J. Bowling (R)

**HB1805:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1890:** Mar. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013035), which directs the Standards Education Committee of the State Board of Education (SBE), as part of the upcoming Social Studies standards review and adoption cycle, to recommend incorporating grade-appropriate instruction on the history of communism into the state's academic standards.

As introduced, requires LEAs and public charter schools to provide age- and grade-appropriate instruction to students on the history of communism. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013035) directs the Standards Education Committee of the State Board of Education (SBE), as part of the upcoming Social Studies standards review and adoption cycle, to recommend incorporating grade-appropriate instruction on the history of communism into the state's academic standards.

### **SB1891 (HB1927) - Bonuses for teachers authorized under the Education Freedom Act of 2025.**

[State Website](#)

J. Bowling (R), R. Bricken (R)

**SB1891:** Mar. 19, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB1927:** Mar. 16, 2026 - House passed with amendment 2 (015479), which makes a technical correction.

As introduced, allows a local board of education or public charter school governing body that has not received funding from the department of education for purposes of awarding its teachers the bonus authorized in the Education Freedom Act of 2025 to pass the required resolution and notify the department of same by June 1, 2026, to receive funding from the department to award bonuses to teachers employed in the 2024-2025 school year.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013217) authorizes a local board of education or a public charter school governing board that has not yet received the one-time bonuses for teachers under the Education Freedom Act of 2025 to adopt the required resolution and submit it to the Department of Education (DOE) within 21 days after the acts become law, subject to available appropriations. Directs DOE to pay a one-time bonus of at least \$2,000 to each eligible teacher employed by a local education agency (LEA) or public charter school who was employed during the 2024-2025 school year. House amendment 2 (015479) makes a technical correction.

### **HB1934 (SB1931) - Notification to general assembly when an opportunity public charter school opens in Tennessee.**

[State Website](#)

W. Slater (R), F. Haile (R)

**HB1934:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1931:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014627), which requires the Department of Education (DOE), to annually collect and report specified data on the department's website regarding the performance of opportunity public charter schools. Requires the data collected to include: (1) the percentage of students in each freshman cohort who graduated within five and six years with a regular high school diploma; (2) credit attainment progress for students in grades nine through twelve, including the percentage of students in each grade level on track to graduate with their freshman cohort and the number of courses attempted and completed for academic credit annually, including, work-based learning credits, dual enrollment credits, and career and technical education credits;

and (3) the percentage of students meeting the state's college and career readiness metrics, including achieving a score of 21 or higher on the ACT, earning postsecondary credit-earning scores, earning a state recognized industry credential, or achieving a qualifying score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Requires all data collected and reported to be disaggregated by student subgroup, including race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, and socioeconomic status, at the school, district, and state levels. Requires a director of schools, juvenile court judge, or Department of Children's Services caseworker to provide an at-risk student and the student's parent or legal guardian information regarding a student's eligibility to enroll in an opportunity public charter school.

As introduced, requires the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to notify the chair of the education committee of the senate and the chair of the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over education when an opportunity public charter school opens in this state and the location of the opportunity public charter school. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014627) requires the Department of Education (DOE), to annually collect and report specified data on the department's website regarding the performance of opportunity public charter schools. Requires the data collected to include: (1) the percentage of students in each freshman cohort who graduated within five and six years with a regular high school diploma; (2) credit attainment progress for students in grades nine through twelve, including the percentage of students in each grade level on track to graduate with their freshman cohort and the number of courses attempted and completed for academic credit annually, including, work-based learning credits, dual enrollment credits, and career and technical education credits; and (3) the percentage of students meeting the state's college and career readiness metrics, including achieving a score of 21 or higher on the ACT, earning postsecondary credit-earning scores, earning a state recognized industry credential, or achieving a qualifying score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Requires all data collected and reported to be disaggregated by student subgroup, including race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, and socioeconomic status, at the school, district, and state levels. Requires a director of schools, juvenile court judge, or Department of Children's Services caseworker to provide an at-risk student and the student's parent or legal guardian information regarding a student's eligibility to enroll in an opportunity public charter school.

### **HB2395 (SB1953) - Ch. 629, Requirement for social studies curriculum in grades nine through 12.**

[State Website](#)

M. Reneau (R), A. Lowe (R)

**HB2395:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0629, effective March 26, 2026.

**SB1953:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Companion bill became Public Chapter 0629.

As enacted, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, requires each LEA and public charter school to, as part of the social studies curriculum, to present a civics instructional video approved by the state board of education at least once to students in grades six through eight and at least once to students in grades nine through 12.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (013338) beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school to present, at least once, a civics instructional video, recommended by the Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission (Commission) and approved by the State Board of Education (SBE), to students in grades six through eight and in grades nine through twelve as part of the Social Studies curriculum. Requires the Commission to recommend at least one civics instructional video by February 1, 2027, and the SBE to approve by July 1, 2027. Specifies required content elements for the approved video.

### **HB1857 (SB1960) - Requires LEAs and public charter schools to designate one instructional day to observe the Fourth of July.**

[State Website](#)

T. Rudd (R), M. Pody (R)

**HB1857:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1960:** Apr. 23, 2026 - Senate adopted conference committee report.

As introduced, requires each local education agency and public charter school to annually designate one instructional day each school year to observe the Fourth of July by providing students with age- and grade-appropriate instruction on the founding of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the fundamental rights and freedoms enjoyed by American citizens.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (015528) replaces this bill's requirement that each director of schools for an LEA and each director of a public charter school annually designate for the LEA or public charter school one instructional day each school year to observe the Fourth of July with a requirement that each public school, including a public charter school, that serves students in any of the grades K-12 ensure that students annually observe the Fourth of July during the school year. This amendment also requires that each public school, instead of the LEA, determine which classes, programs, and methods are used to ensure students receive the instruction required by this bill. If a public school provides the instruction on the Fourth of July

described in this bill to students during the school year, then the public school is not required to provide any additional instruction to students for the same purposes. If a public school has not provided the instruction required by this bill to students before the last school day of the school year, then this amendment requires the school principal to require the school to observe the Fourth of July on the last school day of the school year and on such date provide students with age- and grade-appropriate instruction on the founding of the United States, the separation of the original 13 colonies from Great Britain, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the fundamental rights and freedoms enjoyed by American citizens that is designed to accomplish the objectives in this bill.

### **HB1823 (SB1968) - Requirements for truancy referrals and tracking unexcused absences for transfer students in LEAs.**

[State Website](#)

K. Raper (R), A. Lowe (R)

**HB1823:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1968:** Mar. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013377), which requires a local education agency (LEA) or public school, including a public charter school, to provide a copy of a transferring student's attendance records to the receiving school within the same LEA or to the receiving LEA, within five business days after the records request is received, and to maintain the student's attendance records for the remainder of the school year when the student transfers or withdraws after the school year has commenced. Directs the receiving school or LEA to include a student's unexcused absences accrued earlier in the school year at the prior school or LEA in the student's total unexcused absence count for truancy determinations and juvenile court referrals. Requires the director of schools to report a student's absences to the juvenile court judge in the county of residence when a student withdraws from an LEA in which the student was receiving tier three truancy intervention and does not transfer to another LEA.

Authorizes a juvenile court judge, in the event such a student is adjudicated to be unruly because the student has accumulated five or more days of unexcused absences during any school year, to impose on the parent or legal guardian a fine of up to \$50 or community service. Requires any juvenile court referral in these cases to include a certification from the director of schools confirming the progressive truancy interventions of the LEA were applied while the student was enrolled in the LEA and that, at the time of referral, the student withdrew from the LEA and has not enrolled in another LEA.

As introduced, requires a director of schools to refer to juvenile court a student who was formerly enrolled in the LEA, who was receiving truancy interventions, who withdrew from the LEA, and who did not transfer to another LEA. Establishes that unexcused absences accumulated by a transfer student at their former school or LEA during the school year in which they transfer follow the student to the receiving school or LEA to determine habitual truancy, to implement a progressive truancy plan, and to identify cases of educational neglect.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013377) requires a local education agency (LEA) or public school, including a public charter school, to provide a copy of a transferring student's attendance records to the receiving school within the same LEA or to the receiving LEA, within five business days after the records request is received, and to maintain the student's attendance records for the remainder of the school year when the student transfers or withdraws after the school year has commenced. Directs the receiving school or LEA to include a student's unexcused absences accrued earlier in the school year at the prior school or LEA in the student's total unexcused absence count for truancy determinations and juvenile court referrals. Requires the director of schools to report a student's absences to the juvenile court judge in the county of residence when a student withdraws from an LEA in which the student was receiving tier three truancy intervention and does not transfer to another LEA. Authorizes a juvenile court judge, in the event such a student is adjudicated to be unruly because the student has accumulated five or more days of unexcused absences during any school year, to impose on the parent or legal guardian a fine of up to \$50 or community service. Requires any juvenile court referral in these cases to include a certification from the director of schools confirming the progressive truancy interventions of the LEA were applied while the student was enrolled in the LEA and that, at the time of referral, the student withdrew from the LEA and has not enrolled in another LEA.

### **HB1466 (SB1979) - Ch. 598, Requires LEAs and public charter school to administer the Presidential Fitness Test to assess student physical fitness.**

[State Website](#)

S. Cepicky (R), B. Watson (R)

**HB1466:** Mar. 23, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0598, effective March 18, 2026.

**SB1979:** Mar. 05, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As enacted, requires each LEA and public charter school to administer the Presidential Fitness Test to students to assess their strength, endurance, and flexibility.

### **SB2055 (HB2327) - Allows private pay providers access to students with autism or developmental delays in schools to deliver services during the school day.**

[State Website](#)

P. Walley (R), B. Martin (R)

**SB2055:** Apr. 23, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB2327:** Apr. 22, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (015610), which requires local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to allow a private pay provider who is under contract with a parent or legal guardian of a student with autism spectrum disorder or developmental delays who is enrolled in the LEA or public charter school, access to the student during the school day to provide the student with private pay services in educational settings that provide the least restrictive environment, including, but not limited to, classroom settings, as determined by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or service agreement. Requires a private pay provider to coordinate, when appropriate, with the student's IEP team and school staff and execute a memorandum of understanding with the LEA or public charter school before providing services to a student. Requires the student's parent or legal guardian to provide written consent and sign a waiver that absolves the LEA or public charter school from any liability arising solely from the acts or omissions of the private pay provider before and private pay services are provided during the school day. Requires a licensed behavior analyst, contracted for and privately compensated by the student's parent or legal guardian or by an external entity, to supervise private pay services delivered during the school day. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to provide reasonable accommodations necessary for private pay providers to deliver private pay services to a student during the school day. Prohibits an LEA or public charter school from charging a fee or otherwise imposing conditions or placing barriers that may hinder or prevent private pay providers from accessing a student during the school day. Establishes that an LEA or public charter school is not responsible for constructing special facilities or purchasing special equipment for the provision of private pay services. Requires a private pay provider to comply with background investigation requirements and to provide proof of licensure, certification, and professional insurance that covers the school as an additional insured party to the LEA or public charter school before providing any services on school premises. Establishes that an LEA or public charter school is not responsible for the costs of any private pay services provided to a student unless otherwise agreed to or required as part of a student's IEP or other legal agreement. Requires an LEA or public charter school to adopt and implement a policy for operationalizing private pay services in the LEA or public charter school. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop guidelines, best practices, and model agreements for private pay providers with LEAs and public charter schools, and to distribute such to each LEA and public charter school and post such documents on the department's website. Applies to the 2026-27 school year and subsequent years.

As introduced, requires an LEA or public charter school to allow a private pay provider for a student with autism spectrum disorder or developmental delays access to the student during the school day to provide the student with private pay services in educational settings, including classroom settings, as determined by the student's IEP or service agreement. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014086) requires local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to allow a private pay provider who is under contract with a parent or legal guardian of a student with autism spectrum disorder or developmental delays who is enrolled in the LEA or public charter school, access to the student during the school day to provide the student with private pay services in educational settings that provide the least restrictive environment, including, but not limited to, classroom settings, as determined by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or service agreement. Requires a private pay provider to coordinate with the student's IEP team and school staff and execute a memorandum of understanding with the LEA or public charter school before providing services to a student. Requires the student's parent or legal guardian to provide written consent and sign a waiver that absolves the LEA or public charter school from any liability arising solely from the acts or omissions of the private pay provider before and private pay services are provided during the school day. Requires a licensed behavior analyst, contracted for and privately compensated by the student's parent or legal guardian or by an external entity, to supervise private pay services delivered during the school day. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to provide reasonable accommodations necessary for private pay providers to deliver private pay services to a student during the school day. Prohibits an LEA from charging a fee or otherwise imposing conditions or placing barriers that may hinder or prevent private pay providers from accessing a student during the school day. Requires a private pay provider to comply with background investigation requirements and to provide proof of licensure, certification, and professional insurance that covers the school as an additional insured party to the LEA or public charter school before providing any services on school premises. Establishes that an LEA or public charter school is not responsible for the costs of any private pay services provided to a student unless otherwise agreed to or required as part of a student's IEP or other legal agreement. Requires an LEA or public charter school to adopt and implement a policy for operationalizing private pay services in the LEA or public charter school. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop guidelines, best practices, and model agreements for private pay providers with LEAs and public charter schools, and to distribute such to each LEA and public charter school and post such documents on the department's website. Applies to the 2026-27 school year and subsequent years. House amendment 1 (015610) requires local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to allow a private pay provider who is under contract with a parent or legal guardian of a student with autism spectrum disorder or developmental delays who is enrolled in the LEA or public charter school, access to the student during the school day to provide the student with private pay

services in educational settings that provide the least restrictive environment, including, but not limited to, classroom settings, as determined by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or service agreement. Requires a private pay provider to coordinate, when appropriate, with the student's IEP team and school staff and execute a memorandum of understanding with the LEA or public charter school before providing services to a student. Requires the student's parent or legal guardian to provide written consent and sign a waiver that absolves the LEA or public charter school from any liability arising solely from the acts or omissions of the private pay provider before and private pay services are provided during the school day. Requires a licensed behavior analyst, contracted for and privately compensated by the student's parent or legal guardian or by an external entity, to supervise private pay services delivered during the school day. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to provide reasonable accommodations necessary for private pay providers to deliver private pay services to a student during the school day. Prohibits an LEA or public charter school from charging a fee or otherwise imposing conditions or placing barriers that may hinder or prevent private pay providers from accessing a student during the school day. Establishes that an LEA or public charter school is not responsible for constructing special facilities or purchasing special equipment for the provision of private pay services. Requires a private pay provider to comply with background investigation requirements and to provide proof of licensure, certification, and professional insurance that covers the school as an additional insured party to the LEA or public charter school before providing any services on school premises. Establishes that an LEA or public charter school is not responsible for the costs of any private pay services provided to a student unless otherwise agreed to or required as part of a student's IEP or other legal agreement. Requires an LEA or public charter school to adopt and implement a policy for operationalizing private pay services in the LEA or public charter school. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop guidelines, best practices, and model agreements for private pay providers with LEAs and public charter schools, and to distribute such to each LEA and public charter school and post such documents on the department's website. Applies to the 2026-27 school year and subsequent years.

## **HB2121 (SB2072) - LEAs and public charter schools to submit expenditure reports to the office of research and education accountability.**

[State Website](#)

R. Williams (R), B. Watson (R)

**HB2121:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (012989), which enacts the Better Spending, Better Schools Act of 2026. Requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school to submit a planning and budgetary report for the upcoming school year and an expenditure report for the immediately preceding school year to the Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) and the Department of Education (DOE) by August 1 each year detailing expenditures from the immediately preceding school year. Requires the DOE to develop standardized reporting forms, with specified data requirements, for use by all LEAs and public charter schools and to publish each LEA's and public charter school's expenditure report on the state report card. Requires the state report card to display the total amount of state funds appropriated to each LEA and public charter school through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) formula, along with the required local contribution for the applicable school year, and to maintain each posted expenditure report on the state report card for no less than two consecutive school years. Takes effect upon becoming law for the purposes of developing and adopting policies. Effective October 1, 2026, for all other purposes.

**SB2072:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires each LEA and public charter school to submit an expenditure report to the office of research and education accountability in the office of the comptroller of the treasury and to the department of education by August 1 each year; requires the department to make the expenditure report submitted by each LEA and public charter school available to the public by posting the report on the state report card. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (012989) enacts the Better Spending, Better Schools Act of 2026. Requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school to submit a planning and budgetary report for the upcoming school year and an expenditure report for the immediately preceding school year to the Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) and the Department of Education (DOE) by August 1 each year detailing expenditures from the immediately preceding school year. Requires the DOE to develop standardized reporting forms, with specified data requirements, for use by all LEAs and public charter schools and to publish each LEA's and public charter school's expenditure report on the state report card. Requires the state report card to display the total amount of state funds appropriated to each LEA and public charter school through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) formula, along with the required local contribution for the applicable school year, and to maintain each posted expenditure report on the state report card for no less than two consecutive school years. Takes effect upon becoming law for the purposes of developing and adopting policies. Effective October 1, 2026, for all other purposes.

## **HB1895 (SB2087) - Parental notification of classroom evacuations due to another student.**

[State Website](#)

A. Maberry (R), R. Crowe (R)

**HB1895:** Apr. 14, 2026 - House passed.

**SB2087:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (015700).

As introduced, requires a principal or the principal's designee to notify the parent or legal guardian of each student who was evacuated from a classroom due to the violent, aggressive, or severely disruptive behavior of another student no later than the end of the school day in which the classroom evacuation occurred.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 2 (015700) requires the principal or the principal's designee, when a classroom evacuation occurs, to notify the parent or legal guardian of each student who was in the classroom or instructional area at the time that the classroom evacuation occurred no later than the end of the same day, unless the event that prompted the classroom evacuation is an ongoing emergency or is otherwise under investigation by a state or local law enforcement agency, in which case the notification must not be provided until the emergency is resolved or it is determined that providing notification does not impede an ongoing investigation, as applicable. Establishes certain requirements for a notification regarding a classroom evacuation. Requires each school to maintain a written or electronic record of each classroom evacuation. Requires local boards of education and public charter school governing boards to adopt a policy to implement the recordkeeping and notification requirements.

## **HB1973 (SB2106) - Licensure discipline for educators engaging in sexual misconduct.**

[State Website](#)

M. White (R), D. White (R)

**HB1973:** Apr. 09, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (015473).

**SB2106:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, adds former students to those students with which an educator is subject to licensure discipline for engaging in sexually related behavior; removes the optional penalty of licensure discipline for an educator who breaks a contract with a local board of education without a justifiable reason.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (015473) prohibits a local board of education from requesting that the State Board of Education (SBE) temporarily suspend a teacher's license when the teacher resigns without a justifiable reason, and prohibits the SBE from issuing a temporary suspension on that basis. Prohibits an educator from engaging in any sexually-related behavior with a student enrolled in a school or LEA where the educator currently serves or served within the preceding 12 months, or with a student who left such school or LEA within the preceding 12 months, regardless of consent or the medium used. Requires reporting violations to the SBE under its rules and makes a violation grounds for educator license discipline.

## **HB2146 (SB2201) - Allows juvenile courts to suspend driving privileges for students adjudicated unruly due to unlawful school absence.**

[State Website](#)

R. Jones (R), F. Haile (R)

**HB2146:** Apr. 07, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2201:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014406).

As introduced, authorizes a juvenile court to suspend a student's driving privileges or eligibility to obtain a driver license for up to one year upon an adjudication of unruly conduct based on unlawful school absences. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014406) changes the effective date of the bill from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027.

## **SB2228 (HB2533) - Terminates the dyslexia advisory council.**

[State Website](#)

J. Johnson (R), W. Lamberth (R)

**SB2228:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB2533:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016389), which requires the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT), rather than the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE), to hold the hearing regarding a local director or purchasing agent of a county legislative body failing to maintain records or follow accounting and budgetary procedures. Terminates the Dyslexia Advisory Council and the Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education within the DOE. Requires the Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities to advise DOE on matters related to dyslexia. Clarifies that the State Board of Education (SBE), the Textbook Instructional Materials Quality Commission, and the Public Charter School Commission are administratively attached to DOE but remain separate entities, and makes conforming shifts of responsibilities from DOE to those entities. Requires the SBE to adopt rules ensuring that employees of certain special schools and schools created after passage have the same right

to contest adverse employment actions as other LEA employees. Limits the Commissioner's waiver authority for innovative education programs by prohibiting waivers in specified areas. Renames the Division of Career and Technical Education to the Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness. Removes the requirement that the Commissioner of DOE approve in-service day plans that are recommended by a local director of schools. Removes the requirement that the DOE have the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) reviewed by relevant experts for purposes of a cost review and recommendations tied to the TISA report submitted to the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA). Revises the deadline for the DOE's required survey of laws related to the rights of students, parents, or legal guardians by changing it from within 60 days after TGA adjourns, to October 31 of each year. Requires the Title VI coordinator for DOE to issue an annual report on antisemitism in LEAs and public charter schools to the Attorney General and Reporter, as well as the TGA, by December 31 each year. Requires an LEA or public charter school's Title VI coordinator to investigate reported complaints of antisemitic discrimination or harassment before the incidents and complaints are formally reported to the DOE's Title VI coordinator, and requires the LEA or public charter school to conduct the investigation of a complaint in accordance with state law, and the applicable local or charter governing body policies. Extends the fingerprint-based state and federal criminal history check requirements, including periodic rechecks, to employees working in training schools operated by public and private colleges and universities. Extends the same screening requirements to contractors who will have direct contact with children or access school grounds when children are present, and requires the governing boards overseeing those training schools to adopt background check policies for contract workers and volunteers. Allows a child care program funded through the Department of Human Services (DHS) to use the Department's child care background check process as an alternative. Adds a school employee to the list of individuals permitted to conduct principal-authorized searches, including searches of vehicles on school property and student- or visitor-used containers, packages, lockers, or other storage enclosures, as well as physical searches of students based on locker-search results or other information deemed reasonable by the principal, provided the employee has completed the applicable orientation and training. Authorizes DOE to use a licensed attorney to conduct the school-search orientation and training program provided to LEAs and public charter schools. Extends school nutrition standards and specified attendance provisions to public charter schools. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to use funding for summer learning camps for the specified camp purposes first, allows any remaining funds to be used for the required tutoring, and requires the camp funding to supplement rather than replace existing funding for other out-of school-time educational programs. Postpones the requirement for fifth grade students to complete one semester of Tennessee History by one academic year, shifting implementation from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2027-2028 school year for LEAs and public charter schools. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to submit paid family leave reimbursement requests within the same fiscal year the leave is taken. Clarifies that a licensed teacher, principal, supervisor, or other public school employee who is on paid or unpaid family leave must be treated as having been employed full time, provided the individual has worked for the same LEA or public charter school for at least 12 consecutive months during that period of leave. Adds a requirement that, if an LEA or public charter school receives at least one early high school graduation intent form, it must report to DOE the total number of forms received for that school year. Sets the 1,500-student limit as a total enrollment cap for an LEA's public virtual school and sets the cap for a virtual school already operating as of January 1, 2026, at its 2025-2026 enrollment. Allows the virtual school to exceed the cap beginning in the 2026-2027 school year if it demonstrates at expectations growth and requires an automatic enrollment freeze when the virtual school is identified as a priority school. Requires closure when a virtual school is identified as a priority school for two consecutive cycles and excludes certain prior-year virtual school students from the LEA's formula payments following closure if those students do not remain enrolled in the LEA. Requires the virtual school to provide written notice to parents within one week of meeting criteria for closure, and requires the DOE to notify parents within 30 days of other enrollment options. Prohibits new student enrollment in a virtual school after a closure decision, and prohibits contracted providers of virtual schools from withholding student records. Expands authorization for public and nonpublic schools from maintaining and using only epinephrine auto-injectors to maintaining and using any epinephrine delivery system, and makes the corresponding prescribing authority apply to epinephrine delivery systems rather than only auto injectors. Expands eligibility for Individualized Education Act (IEA) funding to include children participating in the Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) Extended Option who are eligible to receive specified services. Removes Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account contributions as allowable use of IEA funds. Allows ABLE contributions made with IEA funds before July 1, 2026, to remain in the account for the participating student and be used only for the student's eligible education expenses if the student meets ABLE program requirements.

As introduced, terminates the dyslexia advisory council and directs the advisory council for the education of students with disabilities to advise the department of education on matters related to dyslexia; terminates the energy efficient schools council and creates an office of energy efficient schools within the department; expands student eligibility for an individualized education account; revises other various provisions of law related to education.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (016389) requires the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT), rather than the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE), to hold the hearing regarding a local director or purchasing agent of a county legislative body failing to maintain records or follow accounting and budgetary procedures. Terminates the Dyslexia Advisory Council and the Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education within the DOE. Requires the Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities to advise DOE on matters related to dyslexia. Clarifies that the State Board of Education (SBE), the Textbook Instructional Materials Quality Commission, and the Public Charter School Commission are administratively attached to DOE but remain separate entities, and makes conforming shifts of responsibilities

from DOE to those entities. Requires the SBE to adopt rules ensuring that employees of certain special schools and schools created after passage have the same right to contest adverse employment actions as other LEA employees. Limits the Commissioner's waiver authority for innovative education programs by prohibiting waivers in specified areas. Renames the Division of Career and Technical Education to the Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness. Removes the requirement that the Commissioner of DOE approve in-service day plans that are recommended by a local director of schools. Removes the requirement that the DOE have the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) reviewed by relevant experts for purposes of a cost review and recommendations tied to the TISA report submitted to the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA). Revises the deadline for the DOE's required survey of laws related to the rights of students, parents, or legal guardians by changing it from within 60 days after TGA adjourns, to October 31 of each year. Requires the Title VI coordinator for DOE to issue an annual report on antisemitism in LEAs and public charter schools to the Attorney General and Reporter, as well as the TGA, by December 31 each year. Requires an LEA or public charter school's Title VI coordinator to investigate reported complaints of antisemitic discrimination or harassment before the incidents and complaints are formally reported to the DOE's Title VI coordinator, and requires the LEA or public charter school to conduct the investigation of a complaint in accordance with state law, and the applicable local or charter governing body policies. Extends the fingerprint-based state and federal criminal history check requirements, including periodic rechecks, to employees working in training schools operated by public and private colleges and universities. Extends the same screening requirements to contractors who will have direct contact with children or access school grounds when children are present, and requires the governing boards overseeing those training schools to adopt background check policies for contract workers and volunteers. Allows a child care program funded through the Department of Human Services (DHS) to use the Department's child care background check process as an alternative. Adds a school employee to the list of individuals permitted to conduct principal-authorized searches, including searches of vehicles on school property and student- or visitor-used containers, packages, lockers, or other storage enclosures, as well as physical searches of students based on locker-search results or other information deemed reasonable by the principal, provided the employee has completed the applicable orientation and training. Authorizes DOE to use a licensed attorney to conduct the school-search orientation and training program provided to LEAs and public charter schools. Extends school nutrition standards and specified attendance provisions to public charter schools. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to use funding for summer learning camps for the specified camp purposes first, allows any remaining funds to be used for the required tutoring, and requires the camp funding to supplement rather than replace existing funding for other out-of-school-time educational programs. Postpones the requirement for fifth grade students to complete one semester of Tennessee History by one academic year, shifting implementation from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2027-2028 school year for LEAs and public charter schools. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to submit paid family leave reimbursement requests within the same fiscal year the leave is taken. Clarifies that a licensed teacher, principal, supervisor, or other public school employee who is on paid or unpaid family leave must be treated as having been employed full time, provided the individual has worked for the same LEA or public charter school for at least 12 consecutive months during that period of leave. Adds a requirement that, if an LEA or public charter school receives at least one early high school graduation intent form, it must report to DOE the total number of forms received for that school year. Sets the 1,500-student limit as a total enrollment cap for an LEA's public virtual school and sets the cap for a virtual school already operating as of January 1, 2026, at its 2025-2026 enrollment. Allows the virtual school to exceed the cap beginning in the 2026-2027 school year if it demonstrates at expectations growth and requires an automatic enrollment freeze when the virtual school is identified as a priority school. Requires closure when a virtual school is identified as a priority school for two consecutive cycles and excludes certain prior-year virtual school students from the LEA's formula payments following closure if those students do not remain enrolled in the LEA. Requires the virtual school to provide written notice to parents within one week of meeting criteria for closure, and requires the DOE to notify parents within 30 days of other enrollment options. Prohibits new student enrollment in a virtual school after a closure decision, and prohibits contracted providers of virtual schools from withholding student records. Expands authorization for public and nonpublic schools from maintaining and using only epinephrine auto-injectors to maintaining and using any epinephrine delivery system, and makes the corresponding prescribing authority apply to epinephrine delivery systems rather than only auto injectors. Expands eligibility for Individualized Education Act (IEA) funding to include children participating in the Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) Extended Option who are eligible to receive specified services. Removes Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account contributions as allowable use of IEA funds. Allows ABLE contributions made with IEA funds before July 1,

2026, to remain in the account for the participating student and be used only for the student's eligible education expenses if the student meets ABLE program requirements. Senate Education Committee amendment 1 (016142) requires the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT), rather than the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE), to hold the hearing regarding a local director or purchasing agent of a county legislative body failing to maintain records or follow accounting and budgetary procedures. Terminates the Dyslexia Advisory Council and the Governor's Advisory Council for Alternative Education within the DOE. Requires the Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities to advise DOE on matters related to dyslexia. Clarifies that the State Board of Education (SBE), the Textbook Instructional Materials Quality Commission, and the Public Charter School Commission are administratively attached to DOE but remain separate entities, and makes conforming shifts of responsibilities from DOE to those entities. Requires the SBE to adopt rules ensuring that employees of certain special schools and schools created after passage have the same right to contest adverse employment actions as other LEA employees. Limits the Commissioner's waiver authority for innovative education programs by prohibiting waivers in specified areas. Renames the Division of Career and Technical Education to the Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness. Removes the requirement that the Commissioner of DOE approve in-service day plans that are recommended by a local director of schools. Removes the requirement that the DOE have the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) reviewed by relevant experts for purposes of a cost review and recommendations tied to the TISA report submitted to the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA). Revises the deadline for the DOE's required survey of laws related to the rights of students, parents, or legal guardians by changing it from within 60 days after TGA adjourns, to October 31 of each year. Requires the Title VI coordinator for DOE to issue an annual report on antisemitism in LEAs and public charter schools to the Attorney General and Reporter, as well as the TGA, by December 31 each year. Requires an LEA or public charter school's Title VI coordinator to investigate reported complaints of antisemitic discrimination or harassment before the incidents and complaints are formally reported to the DOE's Title VI coordinator, and requires the LEA or public charter school to conduct the investigation of a complaint in accordance with state law, and the applicable local or charter governing body policies. Extends the fingerprint-based state and federal criminal history check requirements, including periodic rechecks, to employees working in training schools operated by public and private colleges and universities. Extends the same screening requirements to contractors who will have direct contact with children or access school grounds when children are present, and requires the governing boards overseeing those training schools to adopt background check policies for contract workers and volunteers. Allows a child care program funded through the Department of Human Services (DHS) to use the Department's child care background check process as an alternative. Adds a school employee to the list of individuals permitted to conduct principal-authorized searches, including searches of vehicles on school property and student- or visitor-used containers, packages, lockers, or other storage enclosures, as well as physical searches of students based on locker-search results or other information deemed reasonable by the principal, provided the employee has completed the applicable orientation and training. Authorizes DOE to use a licensed attorney to conduct the school-search orientation and training program provided to LEAs and public charter schools. Extends school nutrition standards and specified attendance provisions to public charter schools. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to use funding for summer learning camps for the specified camp purposes first, allows any remaining funds to be used for the required tutoring, and requires the camp funding to supplement rather than replace existing funding for other out-of-school-time educational programs. Postpones the requirement for fifth grade students to complete one semester of Tennessee History by one academic year, shifting implementation from the 2026-2027 school year to the 2027-2028 school year for LEAs and public charter schools. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to submit paid family leave reimbursement requests within the same fiscal year the leave is taken. Clarifies that a licensed teacher, principal, supervisor, or other public school employee who is on paid or unpaid family leave must be treated as having been employed full time, provided the individual has worked for the same LEA or public charter school for at least 12 consecutive months during that period of leave. Adds a requirement that, if an LEA or public charter school receives at least one early high school graduation intent form, it must report to DOE the total number of forms received for that school year. Sets the 1,500-student limit as a total enrollment cap for an LEA's public virtual school and sets the cap for a virtual school already operating as of January 1, 2026, at its 2025-2026 enrollment. Allows the virtual school to exceed the cap beginning in the 2026-2027 school year if it demonstrates at expectations growth and requires an automatic enrollment freeze when the virtual school is identified as a priority school. Requires closure when a virtual school is identified as a priority school for one cycle and excludes certain prior-year virtual school students from the LEA's formula payments following closure if those students do not remain enrolled in the LEA. Requires the virtual school to provide written notice to parents

within one week of meeting criteria for closure, and requires the DOE to notify parents within 30 days of other enrollment options. Prohibits new student enrollment in a virtual school after a closure decision, and prohibits contracted providers of virtual schools from withholding student records. Expands eligibility for Individualized Education Act (IEA) funding to include children participating in the Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) Extended Option who are eligible to receive specified services. Removes Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account contributions as allowable use of IEA funds. Allows ABLE contributions made with IEA funds before July 1, 2026, to remain in the account for the participating student and be used only for the student's eligible education expenses if the student meets ABLE program requirements.

### **SB2247 (HB2532) - Increases the maximum number of education freedom scholarships for 2026-2027.**

[State Website](#)

J. Johnson (R), W. Lamberth (R)

**SB2247:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 5 (018207).

**HB2532:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, increases, from 25,000 to 40,000, the maximum number of education freedom scholarships that may be awarded to eligible students in the 2026-2027 school year; directs the governor to elect for this state to participate in the federal education tax credit program created in The One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act and to comply with any and all requirements to maintain the state's participation in the program in the future. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate Education Committee amendment 1 (013975) requires the Department of Education (DOE) to make a maximum of 40,000 Education Freedom Scholarships (EFS) available to eligible students for the 2026-2027 school year. House amendment 2 (017308) requires the Department of Education (DOE) to make a maximum of 35,000 Education Freedom Scholarships (EFS) available to eligible students for the 2026-2027 school year. Requires DOE to provide additional funding to an LEA whose current-year Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) allocation is less than its 2025-2026 allocation, in an amount equal to the difference between the LEA's current-year allocation and its 2025-2026 allocation. Requires the DOE to annually report to the Education Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, non-identifying applicant data related to the EFS program. Establishes a deadline of June 1, 2026, for the first report, with October 1 as the annual due date thereafter. House amendment 3 (017499) revises the order in which DOE awards scholarships for the EFS program, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. House Amendment 8 (017909) prohibits a student from receiving a freedom scholarship if the student is enrolled in a private school that promotes or advocates for the support, adoption, or implementation of any foreign law, legal code, or system in Tennessee that would violate rights protected by the Tennessee or U.S. Constitution. House Amendment 9 (017918) requires the department of education to provide additional state funds to an LEA for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 school years if the LEA's TISA allocation falls below its 2025–2026 level and the LEA experienced disenrollment, calculated based on the prior year's average per-pupil state funding for each student who disenrolled and had provided a Social Security number at enrollment. Requires the LEA, as a condition of receiving these funds, to report the reason each non-virtual student disenrolled in the immediately preceding school year, whether or not that student provided a Social Security number. Limits the total additional funding an LEA may receive under this provision so that it does not exceed the LEA's 2025–2026 TISA allocation. Requires the department of education to allocate additional state funds based on each student who disenrolled and received an education freedom scholarship in the immediately preceding school year if an LEA's TISA allocation is below its 2025–2026 level and the LEA experienced disenrollment at the beginning in the 2028–2029 school year.

### **HB1974 (SB2285) - Requires principal of public school to separate students named in protection orders by removing the respondent from shared classes or activities.**

[State Website](#)

M. White (R), R. Briggs (R)

**HB1974:** Apr. 09, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2285:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014856).

As introduced, requires the principal of a public school in which the students named as the petitioner and respondent in an order of protection are both enrolled to remove the student who is named as the respondent from any classroom or school-sponsored event or activity shared with the student who is named as the petitioner for the period of time for which the order of protection is in effect. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014856) requires a public school, when it receives an order of protection between two students enrolled in the same public school, to develop and implement a student safety plan for the student named as the petitioner as soon as possible, but no later

than five school days after the receipt of the order. Requires the school principal and, when reasonably practicable and appropriate, the building-level school safety team to develop the plan with input from the petitioner student's parent or legal guardian. Requires the plan to include protocols for: (1) providing a copy of the order to school administration, campus security, or a school resource officer; (2) physically separating the students to the greatest extent possible; (3) reporting and documenting any contact or attempted contact between the students; and (4) notifying local law enforcement if a violation of the order is suspected. Requires the petitioner student's parent or legal guardian to notify the school within 48 hours of any changes to the order so the plan may be revised as necessary.

### **SB2310 (HB2393) - Students in grades K-5 prohibited from using digital devices at school.**

[State Website](#)

J. Hensley (R), M. Reneau (R)

**SB2310:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013758), which requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school serving students in kindergarten through grade five (K–5) to adopt a policy governing the age-appropriate, instructional use of digital devices by students to minimize unnecessary screen time while preserving instructional effectiveness. Authorizes digital device use for: (1) accommodations or services required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); (2) administration of specified state-adopted screeners and other assessments required by state or federal law; and (3) teacher preparation and other professional use. Exempts public virtual schools, homebound instruction, remote instructional days, and hybrid learning days from the section's requirements.

**HB2393:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, prohibits LEAs and public charter schools that serve students in any of the grades kindergarten through five from allowing students to access digital devices at school, from allowing employees to use a digital device to provide instruction, and from administering assessments to students in an electronic format except in certain circumstances. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013758) requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school serving students in kindergarten through grade five (K–5) to adopt a policy governing the age-appropriate, instructional use of digital devices by students to minimize unnecessary screen time while preserving instructional effectiveness. Authorizes digital device use for: (1) accommodations or services required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); (2) administration of specified state-adopted screeners and other assessments required by state or federal law; and (3) teacher preparation and other professional use. Exempts public virtual schools, homebound instruction, remote instructional days, and hybrid learning days from the section's requirements.

### **HB2000 (SB2318) - Allows private postsecondary institutions, including religious ones, to operate public charter schools.**

[State Website](#)

S. Cepicky (R), J. Hensley (R)

**HB2000:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2318:** Mar. 23, 2026 - Senate passed.

As introduced, allows private postsecondary institutions, including those that are religiously affiliated, to operate a public charter school; allows such institutions to apply to the local board of education or directly to the Tennessee public charter school commission to open a public charter school and to give an enrollment preference to children of the institution's employees or members of its governing body in the same manner afforded to public institutions of higher education. Broadly captioned.

### **HB2177 (SB2351) - Auditing of school funds.**

[State Website](#)

W. Slater (R), B. Watson (R)

**HB2177:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2351:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (018596), would put a cap of \$463,000, or up to 3% of the charter school's cost per pupil per state, that the State Charter Commission may charge a public charter school.

As introduced, allows certain schools to be exempt from conducting separate audits of certain school funds; establishes that if a local education agency fails to submit a financial report before December 1 of the following fiscal year, then the per pupil funding allocated to the public charter school shall not decrease; changes the enrollment lottery process for public charter schools; changes the requirements for public charter school replication applications; makes various other changes.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (015989) permits the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (Commission) to require a local education agency (LEA) to enter into a contract to provide existing school or student support services to public charter schools within the LEA's geographic boundaries that are authorized by the Commission. Provides that the LEA is not

required to establish new services for this purpose and requires the Commission to reimburse the LEA for the actual costs incurred. Authorizes a public charter school's governing body to establish the order of enrollment preferences through an approved lottery policy, rather than following a set order. Narrows the enrollment preference by removing eligibility for certain county-resident students who were enrolled in a different LEA within the same county during the prior school year, and limiting the preference to students residing within the LEA where the public charter school is located. Requires each public charter school authorizer to adopt a renewal policy establishing performance standards and procedures for approving or denying renewal of a public charter school, aligned with the authorizer's performance framework. Requires authorizers to annually notify each authorized public charter school of its renewal status and to publish that status in the annual authorizing report. Requires automatic renewal of a qualifying high-performing public charter school that meets specified multi-year performance, growth, and financial standards, mandates approval upon submission of the required state-developed application, and requires the authorizer to report the approval to the Commission and the DOE within 10 days. Revises the replication process by increasing the minimum operational requirement from one year to three full school years and by distinguishing eligibility based on whether the existing school is authorized by a local board of education or by the Commission. Requires use of a State Board of Education (SBE)-developed replication application submitted through the standard charter application process. Limits Commission-authorized governing bodies to seeking replication within the LEA where they currently operate and permits them to apply either to the Commission or to the local board in that LEA. Revises the appointment process for the student member for the SBE by requiring nominees to be chosen by a public charter school governing body to the Commission, rather than solely by local boards of education. Limits nominations to no more than one student by the Commission and no more than one student per school system, and clarifies that a local board may nominate a student enrolled in a public charter school it authorizes as its single nomination. Specifies that a public school or public charter school with less than \$50,000 in combined total funds from its internal school fund and student activity fund is not required to conduct separate audits for each fund. Clarifies that such schools must still include internal school funds and student activity funds in a general school audit. Requires each LEA to ensure its entire school budget and annual financial report submitted to the Commissioner of DOE is signed by the director of schools and by the local legislative body that serves as the LEA's funding body. Requires local legislative bodies to make records related to the local revenue collections used to fund public schools available upon request of the LEA or public charter schools that are funded by the local legislative body. Provides that any submission or revision to an LEA's financial report made after December 1 must not decrease the per-pupil funding for charter schools within the LEA. Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee amendment 1 (018596), would put a cap of \$463,000, or up to 3% of the charter school's cost per pupil per state, that the State Charter Commission may charge a public charter school.

### **HB2485 (SB2385) - Changes the definition of economically disadvantaged students for funding and requires additional allocations to certain LEAs under the Tennessee investment in student achievement formula.**

[State Website](#)

K. Haston (R), J. Hensley (R)

**HB2485:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (017942), which requires the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Review Committee to: (1) review how economically disadvantaged students have been identified in the state over the immediately preceding 10 years, including how such students were identified in the General Appropriations Acts for FY24-25 and FY25-26; (2) review how other states identify and fund such students in public schools; and (3) include, in its annual report submitted by November 1, 2026, recommendations for revising identification methods and improving support for such students.

**SB2385:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, changes the definition of economically disadvantaged for purposes of the weighted allocations generated for such students in the Tennessee investment in student achievement formula. Requires the department of education to allocate additional funds to an LEA that experiences a reduction in the LEA's TISA allocation in certain circumstances. Requires the department to seek an amendment to this state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan to change the definition of the economically disadvantaged student subgroup.

**Amendment Summary:** House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Amendment 1 (017942) requires the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Review Committee to: (1) review how economically disadvantaged students have been identified in the state over the immediately preceding 10 years, including how such students were identified in the General Appropriations Acts for FY24-25 and FY25-26; (2) review how other states identify and fund such students in public schools; and (3) include, in its annual report submitted by November 1, 2026, recommendations for revising identification methods and improving support for such students.

## **Family Law**

### **HB1904 (SB485) - Custody proceedings involving an Indian child.**

[State Website](#)

B. Terry (R), J. Bowling (R)

**HB1904:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB485:** Mar. 26, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014680), which establishes that an Indian tribe has exclusive jurisdiction over any child custody proceeding involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled within the reservation of such tribe. Requires, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, any proceeding for the foster care placement of or termination of parental rights to an Indian child who is not domiciled or residing within the reservation of the child's tribe to transfer such proceeding to the jurisdiction of the tribe upon the petition of either the parent or the child's tribe. Authorizes the child's tribe to intervene at any point in any proceeding regarding foster care placement or termination of parental rights. Requires the state to give full faith and credit to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of any Indian tribe applicable to Indian child custody proceedings. Requires the court to give notice to an Indian child's parents prior to a hearing. Authorizes the right of court-appointed counsel to any indigent parent or to a child. Requires voluntary foster care placement or termination of parental rights to be executed in writing and recorded before a judge of a court of competent jurisdiction, and allows for that consent to be revoked at any time for consent to a foster care placement, and in certain instances for termination of parental rights. Authorizes any parent, Indian custodian, or the Indian child's tribe to petition any court of competent jurisdiction to invalidate any foster care placement or termination of parental rights that are in violation with this legislation. Creates standards for the foster care placement of Indian children. Requires the court to inform an Indian individual who has reached 18 years of age and who was the subject of an adoptive placement of the tribal affiliation of the individual's biological parents. Authorizes the state and Indian tribes to enter into agreements with respect to the care and custody of Indian children. Requires any state court entering a final decree or order in any Indian child adoptive placement to provide the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services (DCS) with a copy of the decree or order with other pertinent information. Takes effect on the 13th day following the occurrence of either the federal Indian Child Welfare Act being repealed by Congress, or the issuance of the judgment in a decision of the United States Supreme Court.

Specifies that an Indian tribe has jurisdiction exclusive as to any state over any child custody proceeding involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled within the reservation of such tribe, except where such jurisdiction is otherwise vested in the state by existing federal law. Specifies that where an Indian child is a ward of a tribal court, the Indian tribe retains exclusive jurisdiction, notwithstanding the residence or domicile of the child. In any state court proceeding for the foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights to, an Indian child not domiciled or residing within the reservation of the Indian child's tribe, requires the court to transfer such proceeding to the jurisdiction of the tribe, absent objection by either parent, upon the petition of either parent or the Indian custodian or the Indian child's tribe. Specifies that the Indian custodian of the child and the Indian child's tribe have a right to intervene at any point in any state court proceeding for the foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights to, an Indian child. Requires other procedures, currently found in the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, to be applied by courts in child custody proceedings involving an Indian child.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014680) establishes that an Indian tribe has exclusive jurisdiction over any child custody proceeding involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled within the reservation of such tribe. Requires, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, any proceeding for the foster care placement of or termination of parental rights to an Indian child who is not domiciled or residing within the reservation of the child's tribe to transfer such proceeding to the jurisdiction of the tribe upon the petition of either the parent or the child's tribe. Authorizes the child's tribe to intervene at any point in any proceeding regarding foster care placement or termination of parental rights. Requires the state to give full faith and credit to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of any Indian tribe applicable to Indian child custody proceedings. Requires the court to give notice to an Indian child's parents prior to a hearing. Authorizes the right of court-appointed counsel to any indigent parent or to a child. Requires voluntary foster care placement or termination of parental rights to be executed in writing and recorded before a judge of a court of competent jurisdiction, and allows for that consent to be revoked at any time for consent to a foster care placement, and in certain instances for termination of parental rights. Authorizes any parent, Indian custodian, or the Indian child's tribe to petition any court of competent jurisdiction to invalidate any foster care placement or termination of parental rights that are in violation with this legislation. Creates standards for the foster care placement of Indian children. Requires the court to inform an Indian individual who has reached 18 years of age and who was the subject of an adoptive placement of the tribal affiliation of the individual's biological parents. Authorizes the state and Indian tribes to enter into agreements with respect to the care and custody of Indian children. Requires any state court entering a final decree or order in any Indian child adoptive placement to provide the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services (DCS) with a copy of the decree or order with other pertinent information. Takes effect on the 13th day following the occurrence of either the federal Indian Child Welfare Act being repealed by Congress, or the issuance of the judgment in a decision of the United States Supreme Court.

### **SB1238 (HB1263) - Online adoption forms.**

[State Website](#)

J. Stevens (R), W. Slater (R)

**SB1238:** Apr. 20, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB1263:** Apr. 15, 2026 - House passed with amendment 2 (016931).

Requires the department of children's services to make forms promulgated for use by courts, agencies, and persons in the adoption process available on the department's website. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 2 (016931) creates a process and procedures for the voluntary surrender of parental rights for a surrendering parent who does not wish to appear personally before a judge and who meets specific requirements. Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to develop and make available to the public on its website: a notice form, which must include an acknowledgment of rights and consequences associated with surrendering parental rights; an out-of-court surrender form; and, a revocation of out-of-court surrender form. Effective upon becoming law for the purpose of the development of forms. Effective January 1, 2027, for all other purposes.

### **SB1622 (HB1966) - Development of a statewide, outcomes-based, county-level quality assurance program by DCS.**

[State Website](#)

P. Walley (R), A. Farmer (R)

**SB1622:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014078).

**HB1966:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires the commissioner of the department of children's services to develop and implement a statewide, outcomes-based, county-level quality assurance program no later than July 1, 2027. Directs the commissioner to send reports to the general assembly detailing the department's progress toward implementing the program at the end of each fiscal year quarter until the program is fully implemented.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014078) requires the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to develop a quality assurance program (Program) to ensure quality control through monitoring, evaluation, and feedback on the performance of the best practices in the service delivery system, and utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data in outcomes-based approaches at the regional level. Requires that the Program include a State Quality Assurance Committee and Quality Assurance Systems in each region, including regional quality assurance coordinators. Establishes that the program should review various systems and outcomes of DCS services.

### **HB1692 (SB1751) - Allows courts to waive home study for adoption if the child has lived with the adoptive parent for six months and it serves the child's best interest.**

[State Website](#)

M. Reneau (R), F. Haile (R)

**HB1692:** Apr. 08, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016412), which rewrites the bill to, instead, clarify that a court is authorized to waive the requirement for a home study in an adoption when the prospective adoptive parent or parents are not related to the child if all of the following requirements are met: The child has resided in the home of the prospective adoptive parent or parents for at least 12 months; The prospective adoptive parent or parents were granted custody of the child pursuant to a final order entered by a court of competent jurisdiction following a full adjudication on the merits; The petition to waive the home study includes a current criminal history background check conducted through the Tennessee bureau of investigation and a current search of the Tennessee sexual offender and violent sexual offender registry; This amendment requires the court to enter a written order making specific findings to support a determination that waiving the home study is in the best interest of the child. Additionally, this amendment does not require a court to waive a home study. The decision to waive a home study remains within the sound discretion of the court.

**SB1751:** Apr. 09, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, authorizes a court to waive the home study required for adoption if the child has already resided in the adoptive parent's home for six months and the adoption is in the best interest of the child.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (016412) authorizes a court to waive the requirement for a home study in an adoption when the prospective adoptive parent or parents are not related to the child if: the child has resided in the home for at least 12 months; the prospective parent or parents were granted custody of the child pursuant to a final order entered by a court; and, the petition to waive the home study includes background and registry check information. Requires the court to enter into a written order making specific findings to support a determination that waiving the home study is in the best interest of the child.

### **SB1868 (HB2526) - Defines a child in need of heightened supervision.**

[State Website](#)

J. Johnson (R), W. Lamberth (R)

**SB1868:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014717).

**HB2526:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, defines a child in need of heightened supervision; makes various other changes regarding the commitment, detention, and shelter care of children.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014717) authorizes a court to order a child to remain in custody of the Department of Child's Services (DCS) for up to an additional six months if the court finds after a hearing or stipulation that the child has committed an assault against a staff member at the child's residential placement. Requires a court to notify the child that committing an assault against a staff member at the child's residential placement may result in an extension of the child's period of commitment. Requires DCS to create a Juvenile Commitment Review Task Force (Task Force) to examine specified system issues and service gaps for children found to be dependent and neglected and committed to the custody of DCS. Establishes the requirements of the Task Force regarding data review identifying necessary statutory or procedural changes. Requires DCS to submit a final report from the Task Force to the Governor and specified members of the General Assembly by February 1, 2027. The Task Force terminates on the date the report is filed.

## **HB2082 (SB1989) - Child abuse based on raising a child consistent with the child's biological sex.**

[State Website](#)

M. Littleton (R), P. Rose (R)

**HB2082:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1989:** Mar. 12, 2026 - Senate passed.

As introduced, specifies that a parent's or legal guardian's action of raising, guiding, or instructing the parent's or legal guardian's child in a manner consistent with the child's biological sex is not a basis for certain findings or actions by the court, does not constitute the criminal offense of child abuse, child neglect, or child endangerment, and must not be considered as a negative factor by a court in determining a custody arrangement in the best interest of the child.

## **SB2165 (HB2350) - Requires the Department of Children's Services to provide foster parents with copies of petitions to terminate parental rights after nine months of placement.**

[State Website](#)

F. Haile (R), M. Littleton (R)

**SB2165:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed.

**HB2350:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires the department of children's services to provide a copy of a petition to terminate parental rights for a child in the custody of the department to the child's foster parent, if the foster parent has served as the physical placement for the child for a period of nine or more consecutive months; requires the department to provide the required copy within seven days of the filing or being served with the petition.

## **HB1898 (SB2171) - "Artificial Intelligence Public Safety and Child Protection Transparency Act."**

[State Website](#)

J. Zachary (R), K. Yager (R)

**HB1898:** Apr. 16, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016460), amendment 2 (015780), and amendment 3 (017065). House amendment 1 (016460) makes the following changes: Clarifies that "covered chatbot" does not include (i) software that operates solely for the purpose of customer service, business operations, productivity and analysis related to source information, internal research, or technical assistance, regardless of the software's capability to use natural language inputs and generate natural language outputs; (ii) software that is incorporated into a video game and cannot discuss topics related to mental health, self-harm, or sexually explicit content, or maintain a dialogue on other topics unrelated to the video game; or (iii) software that operates solely in connection with a specific physical location, such as a theme park or location-based experience, at physical events, or for the promotion, marketing, or exhibition of a film, television program, or other audiovisual work, and which cannot maintain a dialogue on topics unrelated to the physical location, event, or such work. Provides that "frontier developer" means a person who has used, or initiated the use of, a quantity of computing power at least  $10^{26}$  integer or floating-point operations to train a frontier model, including computing used for the original training run and for any subsequent fine-tuning, reinforcement learning, or other modifications the person applies. Provides that "monthly active users" means the total global number of unique users who have directly interacted with a service at least once in the preceding 30 days, whether or not those users have registered accounts with the service. Provides that a large chatbot provider is not required to make a disclosure when integrating a modified version of an existing foundation model into its covered chatbot if (i) the modification to the foundation model was made by a person unaffiliated with the large chatbot provider; (ii) the modification does not increase child safety risks from the covered chatbot; or (iii) the modification was made automatically as part of a continuous learning process and the large chatbot provider has made a disclosure with respect to the foundation model in the preceding 90 days. House amendment 2, Senate Judiciary Committee amendment 1 (015780) adds the Tennessee bureau of investigation and the department of finance and administration for who the department of safety is required to consult with to promulgate rules. Changes the effective date from January 1, 2027, to July 1, 2027. House amendment 3 (017065) rewrites the bill to, instead, require a large chatbot provider to write, implement, comply with, and clearly and conspicuously publish on its internet website a child safety plan that describes in detail how the large chatbot provider does all of the following: Assess potential for child safety risks; Applies mitigations to address the potential for child safety risks based on the results of the assessments

undertaken pursuant to this amendment; Uses third parties to assess the potential for child safety risks and the effectiveness of mitigations of child safety risks; Revisits and updates the child safety plan, including any criteria that triggers updates and how the large chatbot provider determines when its foundation models are substantially modified enough to require disclosures; Identifies and responds to child safety incidents; Institutes internal governance practices to ensure implementation of the child safety plan. As used in this amendment, a "child safety risk" means a material and foreseeable risk that a frontier developer's foundation model, when used as part of a covered chatbot, will engaged in behavior when interacting with a minor that, if it had been engaged in by a human, would be deemed to intentionally or recklessly cause death or bodily injury to the minor or damage to the mental health of such minor that constitutes severe emotional distress. Also, a "child safety plan" means a documented technical and organizational protocol to manage, assess, and mitigate child safety risks. If a large chatbot provider makes a material modification to the large chatbot provider's child safety plan, then this amendment requires the large chatbot provider to publish the modified child safety plan and a justification for such modification within 30 days of making such material change. As used in this amendment, a "large chatbot provider" means a person who makes a covered chatbot available in this state and who, together with the person's affiliates, collectively had an annual revenue of at least \$25 million. Also, a "covered chatbot" means a service that allows an ordinary person to have conversations where humanlike responses are generated by a foundation model that is likely to be accessed by minors and has at least one million monthly active users. Before integrating a new foundation model, or substantially modifying an existing foundation model, this amendment requires a large chatbot provider to publish summaries of (i) assessments of child safety risks conducted pursuant to the large chatbot provider's child safety plan; (ii) the results of such assessments; (iii) the extent to which third-party evaluators were involved in the assessments; and (iv) other steps taken to fulfill the requirements of the child safety plan. However, such a disclosure is not required when integrating a modified version of an existing foundation model into its covered chatbot if (i) the modification was made by a person unaffiliated with the large chatbot provider; (ii) the modification does not increase the child safety risks from the covered chatbot; or (iii) the modification was made automatically as part of a continuous learning process and the large chatbot provider has made a disclosure with respect to the foundation model in the last 90 days. As used in this amendment, a "foundation model" means an artificial intelligence model that is trained on a broad data set, designed for generality of output, and adaptable to a wide range of distinctive tasks. This amendment prohibits a large chatbot provider from making a materially false or misleading statement or omission about child safety risks from the large chatbot provider's activities or the large chatbot provider's management of child safety risks. Further, a large chatbot provider is prohibited from making a materially false or misleading statement or omission about its implementation of, or compliance with, a child safety plan. These prohibitions do not apply to statements made in good faith that are reasonable under the circumstances. This amendment authorizes a large chatbot provider to make redactions to documents required to be published by this amendment. Such redactions must be necessary to protect the large chatbot provider's trade secrets or cybersecurity, or public safety, the national security of the United States, or to comply with federal or state law. However, the large chatbot provider must describe the character and justification of the redaction and retain the unredacted information for at least five years. This amendment requires the attorney general to establish a process for a large chatbot provider or member of the public to report a child safety incident. The report must include (i) the date of the child safety incident; (ii) the reasons the incident qualifies as a child safety incident; and (iii) a short and plain statement describing the child safety incident. A large chatbot provider must report any child safety incident within 15 days of discovery. Such a report is not open to public inspection. As used in this amendment, a "child safety incident" means a covered chatbot engaging in behavior when interacting with a minor that, if the behavior had been engaged in by a human, would be deemed to intentionally or recklessly cause death or bodily injury to such minor or damage to the mental health of such minor that constitutes severe emotional distress. The attorney general must transmit reports of child safety incidents and reports from employees to the general assembly, governor, federal government, or appropriate state agency. Further, the attorney general may consider any risks related to trade secrets, public safety, cybersecurity, or national security when transmitting such reports. This amendment requires the department of safety, in consultation with the attorney general, Tennessee bureau of investigation, and the department of finance and administration, to promulgate rules designating one or more federal laws or guidance documents that (i) impose or state standards for child safety incident reporting that are substantially equivalent to or stricter than those required by this amendment for child safety incidents; and (ii) are intended to assess, detect, or mitigate child safety risks. Such document does not need to require child safety incident reporting to this state. A large chatbot provider may comply with this amendment by complying with the requirements of such identified federal law or guidance document, but must declare its intent to do so to the attorney general and department of safety. A large chatbot provider is in compliance with this amendment if it complies with the identified federal law or guidance document, until it revokes such a declaration or until the department of safety removes the applicable federal law or guidance document from the rules. The failure to comply with the identified federal law or guidance document constitutes a violation of this amendment if the large chatbot provider is not otherwise in compliance with this amendment. This amendment provides that a large chatbot provider that violates this amendment is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 per violation. The attorney general has the exclusive authority to enforce this amendment. This amendment provides that the duties and obligations imposed by it are cumulative with any other duties or obligations imposed under another law. This amendment authorizes the department of safety to promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this amendment.

**SB2171:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

As introduced, enacts the "Artificial Intelligence Public Safety and Child Protection Transparency Act," which requires that a large frontier developer shall write, implement, comply with, and clearly and conspicuously publish on its internet website a public safety plan that describes in detail how the large frontier developer mitigations to address the

potential for catastrophic risks based on multiple-tiered thresholds. Requires that a large chatbot provider shall write, implement, comply with, and clearly and conspicuously publish on its internet website a child safety plan that describes in detail how the large chatbot provider assesses potential for child safety risks and how to mitigate those risks. Details safety plan requires and reporting deadlines. Details violations to this act. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate Judiciary Committee amendment 1 (016203) enacts the Artificial Intelligence Public Safety and Child Protection Transparency Act. Establishes various areas, premises, and instances in which large frontier developers and certain covered chatbot providers are required to clearly disclose to the public safety plans and mechanisms used for the implementation thereof. Establishes various offenses against catastrophic risks or critical safety incidents related to the publication and operation of such products. Requires the Department of Safety (DOS), in consultation with the Attorney General and Reporter (AG), the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), and the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A), to promulgate rules as necessary. Provides for civil penalties for violations. Effective July 1, 2027. House amendment 1 (016460) makes the following changes: Clarifies that "covered chatbot" does not include (i) software that operates solely for the purpose of customer service, business operations, productivity and analysis related to source information, internal research, or technical assistance, regardless of the software's capability to use natural language inputs and generate natural language outputs; (ii) software that is incorporated into a video game and cannot discuss topics related to mental health, self-harm, or sexually explicit content, or maintain a dialogue on other topics unrelated to the video game; or (iii) software that operates solely in connection with a specific physical location, such as a theme park or location-based experience, at physical events, or for the promotion, marketing, or exhibition of a film, television program, or other audiovisual work, and which cannot maintain a dialogue on topics unrelated to the physical location, event, or such work. Provides that "frontier developer" means a person who has used, or initiated the use of, a quantity of computing power at least  $10^{26}$  integer or floating-point operations to train a frontier model, including computing used for the original training run and for any subsequent fine-tuning, reinforcement learning, or other modifications the person applies. Provides that "monthly active users" means the total global number of unique users who have directly interacted with a service at least once in the preceding 30 days, whether or not those users have registered accounts with the service. Provides that a large chatbot provider is not required to make a disclosure when integrating a modified version of an existing foundation model into its covered chatbot if (i) the modification to the foundation model was made by a person unaffiliated with the large chatbot provider; (ii) the modification does not increase child safety risks from the covered chatbot; or (iii) the modification was made automatically as part of a continuous learning process and the large chatbot provider has made a disclosure with respect to the foundation model in the preceding 90 days. House amendment 2, Senate Judiciary Committee amendment 1 (015780) adds the Tennessee bureau of investigation and the department of finance and administration for who the department of safety is required to consult with to promulgate rules. Changes the effective date from January 1, 2027, to July 1, 2027. House amendment 3, Senate Commerce & Labor Committee amendment 1 (017065) rewrites the bill to, instead, require a large chatbot provider to write, implement, comply with, and clearly and conspicuously publish on its internet website a child safety plan that describes in detail how the large chatbot provider does all of the following: Assess potential for child safety risks; Applies mitigations to address the potential for child safety risks based on the results of the assessments undertaken pursuant to this amendment; Uses third parties to assess the potential for child safety risks and the effectiveness of mitigations of child safety risks; Revisits and updates the child safety plan, including any criteria that triggers updates and how the large chatbot provider determines when its foundation models are substantially modified enough to require disclosures; Identifies and responds to child safety incidents; Institutes internal governance practices to ensure implementation of the child safety plan. As used in this amendment, a "child safety risk" means a material and foreseeable risk that a frontier developer's foundation model, when used as part of a covered chatbot, will engaged in behavior when interacting with a minor that, if it had been engaged in by a human, would be deemed to intentionally or recklessly cause death or bodily injury to the minor or damage to the mental health of such minor that constitutes severe emotional distress. Also, a "child safety plan" means a documented technical and organizational protocol to manage, assess, and mitigate child safety risks. If a large chatbot provider makes a material modification to the large chatbot provider's child safety plan, then this amendment requires the large chatbot provider to publish the modified child safety plan and a justification for such modification within 30 days of making such material change. As used in this amendment, a "large chatbot provider" means a person who makes a covered chatbot available in this state and who, together with the person's affiliates, collectively had an annual revenue of at least \$25 million. Also, a "covered chatbot" means a service that allows an ordinary person to have conversations where humanlike responses are generated by a foundation model that is likely to be accessed by minors and has at least one million monthly active users. Before integrating

a new foundation model, or substantially modifying an existing foundation model, this amendment requires a large chatbot provider to publish summaries of (i) assessments of child safety risks conducted pursuant to the large chatbot provider's child safety plan; (ii) the results of such assessments; (iii) the extent to which third-party evaluators were involved in the assessments; and (iv) other steps taken to fulfill the requirements of the child safety plan. However, such a disclosure is not required when integrating a modified version of an existing foundation model into its covered chatbot if (i) the modification was made by a person unaffiliated with the large chatbot provider; (ii) the modification does not increase the child safety risks from the covered chatbot; or (iii) the modification was made automatically as part of a continuous learning process and the large chatbot provider has made a disclosure with respect to the foundation model in the last 90 days. As used in this amendment, a "foundation model" means an artificial intelligence model that is trained on a broad data set, designed for generality of output, and adaptable to a wide range of distinctive tasks. This amendment prohibits a large chatbot provider from making a materially false or misleading statement or omission about child safety risks from the large chatbot provider's activities or the large chatbot provider's management of child safety risks. Further, a large chatbot provider is prohibited from making a materially false or misleading statement or omission about its implementation of, or compliance with, a child safety plan. These prohibitions do not apply to statements made in good faith that are reasonable under the circumstances. This amendment authorizes a large chatbot provider to make redactions to documents required to be published by this amendment. Such redactions must be necessary to protect the large chatbot provider's trade secrets or cybersecurity, or public safety, the national security of the United States, or to comply with federal or state law. However, the large chatbot provider must describe the character and justification of the redaction and retain the unredacted information for at least five years. This amendment requires the attorney general to establish a process for a large chatbot provider or member of the public to report a child safety incident. The report must include (i) the date of the child safety incident; (ii) the reasons the incident qualifies as a child safety incident; and (iii) a short and plain statement describing the child safety incident. A large chatbot provider must report any child safety incident within 15 days of discovery. Such a report is not open to public inspection. As used in this amendment, a "child safety incident" means a covered chatbot engaging in behavior when interacting with a minor that, if the behavior had been engaged in by a human, would be deemed to intentionally or recklessly cause death or bodily injury to such minor or damage to the mental health of such minor that constitutes severe emotional distress. The attorney general must transmit reports of child safety incidents and reports from employees to the general assembly, governor, federal government, or appropriate state agency. Further, the attorney general may consider any risks related to trade secrets, public safety, cybersecurity, or national security when transmitting such reports. This amendment requires the department of safety, in consultation with the attorney general, Tennessee bureau of investigation, and the department of finance and administration, to promulgate rules designating one or more federal laws or guidance documents that (i) impose or state standards for child safety incident reporting that are substantially equivalent to or stricter than those required by this amendment for child safety incidents; and (ii) are intended to assess, detect, or mitigate child safety risks. Such document does not need to require child safety incident reporting to this state. A large chatbot provider may comply with this amendment by complying with the requirements of such identified federal law or guidance document, but must declare its intent to do so to the attorney general and department of safety. A large chatbot provider is in compliance with this amendment if it complies with the identified federal law or guidance document, until it revokes such a declaration or until the department of safety removes the applicable federal law or guidance document from the rules. The failure to comply with the identified federal law or guidance document constitutes a violation of this amendment if the large chatbot provider is not otherwise in compliance with this amendment. This amendment provides that a large chatbot provider that violates this amendment is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 per violation. The attorney general has the exclusive authority to enforce this amendment. This amendment provides that the duties and obligations imposed by it are cumulative with any other duties or obligations imposed under another law. This amendment authorizes the department of safety to promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this amendment.

## **HB2429 (SB2324) - Parent educational seminars in certain juvenile cases and revises related child provisions.**

[State Website](#)

A. Farmer (R), F. Haile (R)

**HB2429:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2324:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014353), which requires a court to consider the factor of whether a parent has failed to pay court-ordered child support when determining a child custody order. Authorizes a prevailing party in a juvenile court proceeding to recover reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other litigation

expenses from the non-prevailing party, but prohibits an award of these fees, costs, or expenses to be made for or against the Department of Children's Services (DCS). Requires parents, who were not married to each other when their child was born, to attend a parent educational seminar prior to a juvenile court proceeding to establish or modify custody or a permanent parenting schedule. Creates specific standards for the parent educational seminar. Requires each parent to file a certificate of completion with the juvenile court clerk as proof of compliance with the seminar requirement, but prohibits the court from denying the entry of an order due to the failure of a party to attend the educational seminar. Authorizes the court to punish a parent as in contempt of court if the parent fails or refuses to attend the seminar as ordered. Authorizes a court to order a parent of a child who is alleged or adjudicated to be dependent and neglected, or is participating in a juvenile proceeding, to attend a parent educational seminar. Authorizes a court to enter an order temporarily suspending the current child support obligation during the pendency of a dependency and neglect proceeding. Specifies that this act does not supersede, repeal, or abrogate any provision or rule or law and does not limit the authority of a court.

As introduced, revises various provisions regarding children, including requiring a parent educational seminar in certain juvenile cases. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014353) requires a court to consider the factor of whether a parent has failed to pay court-ordered child support when determining a child custody order. Authorizes a prevailing party in a juvenile court proceeding to recover reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other litigation expenses from the non-prevailing party, but prohibits an award of these fees, costs, or expenses to be made for or against the Department of Children's Services (DCS). Requires parents, who were not married to each other when their child was born, to attend a parent educational seminar prior to a juvenile court proceeding to establish or modify custody or a permanent parenting schedule. Creates specific standards for the parent educational seminar. Requires each parent to file a certificate of completion with the juvenile court clerk as proof of compliance with the seminar requirement, but prohibits the court from denying the entry of an order due to the failure of a party to attend the educational seminar. Authorizes the court to punish a parent as in contempt of court if the parent fails or refuses to attend the seminar as ordered. Authorizes a court to order a parent of a child who is alleged or adjudicated to be dependent and neglected, or is participating in a juvenile proceeding, to attend a parent educational seminar. Authorizes a court to enter an order temporarily suspending the current child support obligation during the pendency of a dependency and neglect proceeding. Specifies that this act does not supersede, repeal, or abrogate any provision or rule or law and does not limit the authority of a court.

## **HB2206 (SB2459) - Requires the Department of Children's Services to share its annual report on zero to three and safe baby courts with the Commission on Children and Youth.**

[State Website](#)

P. Sherrell (R), P. Bailey (R)

**HB2206:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2459:** Mar. 19, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014477), which prohibits the Department of Children's Services (DCS) from requesting information regarding the number or type of firearms or ammunition that a foster parent or prospective foster parent owns or possesses, and from requiring a foster parent or prospective foster parent to display or provide access to a firearm or ammunition owned or possessed by the parent. Authorizes DCS to inquire if firearms or ammunition are present in the foster parent or prospective foster parent's home and if they are secured safely, and authorizes DCS to request to see the storage of any firearms or ammunition, provided that DCS not request the secured storage compartment opened. Specifies that this prohibition does not apply to an investigation into an allegation of abuse or neglect within a foster home.

As introduced, requires the department to disseminate its annual report on zero to three courts and safe baby courts to the commission on children and youth.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014477) prohibits the Department of Children's Services (DCS) from requesting information regarding the number or type of firearms or ammunition that a foster parent or prospective foster parent owns or possesses, and from requiring a foster parent or prospective foster parent to display or provide access to a firearm or ammunition owned or possessed by the parent. Authorizes DCS to inquire if firearms or ammunition are present in the foster parent or prospective foster parent's home and if they are secured safely, and authorizes DCS to request to see the storage of any firearms or ammunition, provided that DCS not request the secured storage compartment opened. Specifies that this prohibition does not apply to an investigation into an allegation of abuse or neglect within a foster home.

## **HB2127 (SB2539) - Prioritizes certain categories of evidence and makes various changes to the child custody process.**

[State Website](#)

R. Alexander (R), T. Hatcher (R)

**HB2127:** Mar. 30, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (015027).

**SB2539:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, makes various changes to the requirements for child custody determinations. Permits the use of evidence that occurred before the current child custody plan was formulated. Requires a court in determining the best interests of a child to give highest weight to credible evidence of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or domestic violence, applied equally to abuse committed against any member of the child's household. Broadly Captioned.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (015027) requires a court to include written finding of fact in a child custody order, whether temporary or permanent, as to whether the limitations in the restrictions of a temporary or permanent parenting plan apply.

## **Government Organization**

### **SB1513 (HB1572) - Sunset - department of children's services.**

[State Website](#)

E. Jackson (R), J. Lafferty (R)

**SB1513:** Apr. 20, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (0149380).

**HB1572:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, extends the department of children's services to June 30, 2029. Requires the department to report back to the government operations committee by December 31, 2026, to update the committee on its progress in addressing the findings and observations set forth in the December 2025 performance audit report.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (014938) extends the termination date of the Department of Children's Services to June 30, 2028. Under the Tennessee Governmental Entity Review Law, the department is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2026. Requires the department to report back to the Education, Health, and General Welfare Joint Evaluation Committee by December 31, 2026, to update the committee on its progress in addressing the findings and observations set forth in the December 2025 performance audit report.

### **SB1549 (HB1606) - Ch. 538, Extends the Tennessee child fatality prevention team to June 30, 2031.**

[State Website](#)

E. Jackson (R), J. Lafferty (R)

**SB1549:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0538, effective February 23, 2026.

**HB1606:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Companion bill became Public Chapter 0538.

As enacted, extends the Tennessee child fatality prevention team to June 30, 2031.

### **SB1552 (HB1609) - Ch. 539, Extends the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder to June 30, 2031.**

[State Website](#)

E. Jackson (R), J. Lafferty (R)

**SB1552:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0539, effective February 23, 2026.

**HB1609:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Companion bill became Public Chapter 0539.

As enacted, extends the Tennessee council on autism spectrum disorder to June 30, 2031.

### **HB1811 (SB1586) - Ch. 608, Codifies the Acts passed during the 2025 regular and extraordinary legislative sessions.**

[State Website](#)

W. Lamberth (R), J. Johnson (R)

**HB1811:** Apr. 03, 2026 - Companion bill became Public Chapter 0608.

**SB1586:** Apr. 03, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0608, effective March 25, 2026.

As enacted, codifies the Acts of the 2025 regular and extraordinary sessions.

## **Government Regulation**

### **HB2567 (SB1726) - Deadline for court clerks to send domestic violence conviction records to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.**

[State Website](#)

S. Kumar (R), B. Massey (R)

**HB2567:** Apr. 13, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (015718).

**SB1726:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, changes the time within which a court clerk must forward a certified copy of a conviction of an offense committed against a domestic violence victim to the Tennessee bureau of investigation from within seven days of the conviction to within seven business days of the conviction. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: Senate Judiciary Committee amendment 1, House amendment 1 (015718) rewrites the bill to, instead, make the following changes to the present law pertaining to the persistent domestic violence offender registry: Changing the registry from being required to consist of a current photograph of the persistent domestic violence offender, to a photograph and other such identifying data as the TBI determines is necessary to properly identify the persistent domestic violence offender and exclude innocent persons. Removes the requirement for the court clerk to provide the TBI with a copy of the persistent domestic violence offender's driver license, or other state or federal identification, and such other identifying data as the TBI determines is

necessary to properly identify the persistent domestic violence offender and exclude innocent persons if it is available after reasonable inquiry. Provides that if a court orders a defendant to register, then the court clerk must forward to the TBI a copy of the final judgment. The court clerk must forward the information within seven days of the date of conviction. Clarifies that the defendant required to register must pay the \$150 registration fee to the clerk of the court imposing the sentence. Provides that upon ordering the defendant to register as a persistent domestic violence offender, the court must specifically set out the number of prior convictions against a domestic abuse victim relied upon to qualify for the registry. If the court does not specify the number of prior convictions in the order, then the registration period must default to the time period for one prior conviction. Defines what an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim means.

### **SB1775 (HB1797) - Requires meeting agendas publicly available in advance.**

[State Website](#)

T. Gardenhire (R), S. Lynn (R)

**SB1775:** Mar. 09, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013185).

**HB1797:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, adds the governing body of a local education agency and any other local governing body of a public body with the authority to make binding decisions or the ability to appropriate funds to the list of governing bodies that are required to make meeting agendas available to the public in advance of such meetings.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013185) requires the governing body of a local education agency (LEA), as well as any other applicable local governing body of a public body with authority to make binding decisions or to appropriate funds, to make an agenda for upcoming meetings available to the public, at no charge, in a public place at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Excludes private nonprofit community organizations that are eligible to receive funds from a community services block grant program.

### **HB1705 (SB1922) - Requires state and local government employers to use E-Verify for new hires.**

[State Website](#)

T. Rudd (R), R. Briggs (R)

**HB1705:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1922:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (015864).

As introduced, beginning July 1, 2026, requires all state and local governmental employers to verify the work authorization status of each prospective employee through the federal E-Verify program prior to employment. Authorizes the attorney general and reporter to enforce compliance with the requirement against local governments and subjects a noncompliant local government to the withholding of all funds of this state allocated to the local government via grant, contract, or statute, including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (015864) specifies that an employer who currently uses a third-party vendor for Form I-9 verification for prospective employees may continue to use such vendor until January 1, 2027, at which time the employer must begin using the E-Verify program.

### **HB2413 (SB2509) - "Tennessee Child Care Red Tape Reduction Act."**

[State Website](#)

H. Love, Jr. (D), C. Oliver (D)

**HB2413:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2509:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (015392).

As introduced, enacts the "Tennessee Child Care Red Tape Reduction Act," which requires expedited processing of child care agency permit applications and requires the state fire marshal to conduct, and establish standards for, fire safety inspections of child care agencies. Makes other related revisions.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (015392) requires local governments to establish and maintain an expedited review process for all child care agency permit applications. Specifies timelines and processes that local government must comply with in order to expedite such applications, including applications for child care agencies in commercial zones. Authorizes local governments to impose reasonable conditions in permitting the establishment of an agency relative to safety, hours, traffic, and outdoor play. Requires the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) to exclusively conduct fire safety inspections for a child care agency and establishes standards and timeframes for such fire safety inspections. Prohibits a local fire marshal, fire department, or municipal code enforcement office from conducting a separate or additional fire safety inspections for purposes of establishing a child care agency licensure. Requires an initial and any subsequent inspection conducted by a local fire official in consultation with or delegated under the authority of the SFMO to be coordinated and conducted at the same date and time as an inspection conducted by the SFMO or its designated agent. Requires local jurisdiction to ensure that local building and fire safety codes and align with the state

standards established and the pre-licensing standards and rules of the Department of Human Services (DHS), in a manner that imposes the least additional regulatory burdens practicable to child care agencies in the local jurisdiction.

## **Health Care**

### **SB259 (HB853) - Review of a child's health and medical records by parent or legal guardian.**

[State Website](#)

M. Pody (R), M. Reneau (R)

**SB259:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (016740).

**HB853:** Apr. 16, 2026 - House passed.

Clarifies that a child's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian may access and review all health and medical records of the child, including those records related to treatments available to unemancipated minors without parental consent. Allows an employee of a local education agency to provide bandages, gauze, or ice packs for the treatment of minor cuts, scrapes, bumps, and bruises. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (016740) certain amendments to the Family Rights and Responsibility Act to clarify that a parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian may access and review all health and medical records in terms of diagnosis, treatment recommendation, and discharge summary of a minor. Additionally, it allows employees of an LEA or a public college to provide bandages, gauze, or ice packs to treat minor injuries. House Health Committee amendment 1 (013710) clarifies that parents have the right to access and review all health records and medical records of their unemancipated child, including mental health records, rehabilitation records, and prescription records. Establishes that, to the extent allowable by federal privacy laws and regulations, the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian of an unemancipated minor age 16 or older with serious emotional disturbance or mental illness may access all medical records resulting from outpatient or inpatient mental health treatment for the child. Authorizes an unemancipated minor's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person with medical decision-making authority for the unemancipated minor to access, and be provided by a healthcare provider or healthcare facility, all medical records resulting from treatment of the minor, even if the treatment was provided to the unemancipated minor without parental consent. Prohibits a child's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian from accessing an unemancipated minor's medical records if the treating professional is required to report abuse of the unemancipated minor and the treating professional believes that access to the patient's records is reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the minor.

### **HB1807 (SB1597) - Allows surviving parents to challenge a suicide death ruling and request the child's death certificate if under 18.**

[State Website](#)

A. Parkinson (D), L. Lamar (D)

**HB1807:** Mar. 23, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1597:** Feb. 23, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013796), which names the bill "April's Law of 2026."

As introduced, authorizes a surviving parent, in addition to another next of kin, to formally disagree with the county medical examiner's determination that the manner of death for the parent's child was suicide and request reconsideration from the state chief medical examiner. Allows the other parent of a child of the decedent to request a copy of the decedent's death certificate if the child is under 18 years of age.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013796) names the bill "April's Law of 2026."

### **HB1943 (SB1681) - Protects pregnant women in active labor from denial of emergency medical screening and restricts transfers until stabilized.**

[State Website](#)

H. Love, Jr. (D), L. Lamar (D)

**HB1943:** Apr. 07, 2026 - House refused to recede from its actions in adopting House amendment 1 (015486).

**SB1681:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, prohibits hospital emergency departments from denying an appropriate medical screening examination to a pregnant woman who presents at the emergency department reporting to be in active labor or experiencing an emergency medical condition. Prohibits transferring the pregnant woman unless her condition has been stabilized. Requires that a transfer be under certain conditions and only upon the recommendation of an examining physician or qualified medical professional. Imposes civil penalties and licensing sanctions for violations by a hospital.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013331) prohibits a hospital emergency department, including a satellite emergency department, from denying an appropriate medical screening within the capability of the emergency department to a woman who presents at such facility and purports or appears to be pregnant and experiencing active labor, or an emergency medical condition, to determine whether or not active labor or an emergency medical condition exists. Requires a hospital, if the hospital emergency department determines that such situation exists, to

provide for such further medical examination and treatment as may be required to stabilize the medical condition, or for transfer of the pregnant woman to another medical facility. Prohibits a hospital from transferring a pregnant woman who has not been stabilized, unless certain conditions are satisfied. Prohibits a hospital that has specialized capabilities or facilities from refusing to accept an appropriate transfer of a pregnant woman who requires such specialized capabilities or facilities if the hospital has the capacity, pursuant to federal regulations, to treat the pregnant woman. Prohibits a hospital from delaying provision of a required medical screening examination or further medical examination and treatment in order to inquire about the pregnant woman's method of payment or insurance status. Prohibits a hospital from penalizing or taking adverse action against: (1) a qualified medical professional or a physician because the qualified medical professional or physician refuses to authorize the transfer of a pregnant woman with an emergency medical condition that has not been stabilized; or (2) any hospital employee because the employee reports a violation of the legislation. Authorizes the Executive Director of the Health Facilities Commission (HFC) and the Department of Health (DOH) to investigate and enforce violations of the legislation, as appropriate. Establishes that a hospital or satellite emergency department that violates the legislation may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation, with a limit of one civil penalty per patient encounter. Establishes that a physician who is responsible for the examination, treatment, or transfer of a pregnant woman in a hospital, including a physician on-call for the care of such pregnant woman, and who knowingly and willingly violates the legislation is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation and licensure sanction by the Board of Medical Examiners (BME) or the Board of Osteopathic Examination (BOE), as applicable. Establishes that a physician, qualified medical professional, or hospital employee is not subject to a civil penalty, licensure sanction, or other adverse action if such individual acts in good faith and exercises reasonable clinical judgment based upon the information available at the time care is rendered or a transfer decision is made. Prohibits a civil penalty or licensure sanction from being imposed for conduct that is the subject of an enforcement action, settlement, corrective action plan, or final determination under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. House amendment 1 (015486) prohibits a hospital emergency department, including a satellite emergency department, from denying an appropriate medical screening within the capability of the emergency department to a woman who presents at such facility and purports or appears to be pregnant and experiencing active labor, or an emergency medical condition, to determine whether or not active labor or an emergency medical condition exists. Requires a hospital, if the hospital emergency department determines that such situation exists, to provide for such further medical examination and treatment as may be required to stabilize the medical condition, or for transfer of the pregnant woman to another medical facility. Prohibits a hospital from transferring a pregnant woman who has not been stabilized, unless certain conditions are satisfied. Prohibits a hospital that has specialized capabilities or facilities from refusing to accept an appropriate transfer of a pregnant woman who requires such specialized capabilities or facilities if the hospital has the capacity, pursuant to federal regulations, to treat the pregnant woman. Prohibits a hospital from delaying provision of a required medical screening examination or further medical examination and treatment in order to inquire about the pregnant woman's method of payment or insurance status. Prohibits a hospital from penalizing or taking adverse action against: (1) a qualified medical professional or a physician because the qualified medical professional or physician refuses to authorize the transfer of a pregnant woman with an emergency medical condition that has not been stabilized; or (2) any hospital employee because the employee reports a violation of the legislation. Establishes that the legislation does not authorize an abortion unless necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman. Authorizes the Executive Director of the Health Facilities Commission (HFC) and the Department of Health (DOH) to investigate and enforce violations of the legislation, as appropriate. Establishes that a hospital or satellite emergency department that violates the legislation may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation, with a limit of one civil penalty per patient encounter. Establishes that a physician who is responsible for the examination, treatment, or transfer of a pregnant woman in a hospital, including a physician on-call for the care of such pregnant woman, and who knowingly and willingly violates the legislation is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation and licensure sanction by the Board of Medical Examiners (BME) or the Board of Osteopathic Examination (BOE), as applicable. Establishes that a physician, qualified medical professional, or hospital employee is not subject to a civil penalty, licensure sanction, or other adverse action if such individual acts in good faith and exercises reasonable clinical judgment based upon the information available at the time care is rendered or a transfer decision is made. Prohibits a civil penalty or licensure sanction from being imposed for conduct that is the subject of an enforcement action, settlement, corrective action plan, or final determination under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

B. Terry (R), P. Walley (R)

**HB2075:** Apr. 22, 2026 - House passed with amendment 3 (018655), which enacts the HOPE Treatment Act. Authorizes a Tennessee-based research institution to participate in one or more clinical trials involving ibogaine, whether alone or in participation with a multistate research consortium, as long as all clinical trial activity is conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal law. Authorizes a research institution to receive and administer federal, private, or philanthropic funding for purposes of conducting such research. Establishes that ibogaine may only be administered in this state as part of a clinical trial conducted at a hospital or qualified research facility and under the medical direction of a physician licensed in this state.

**SB2149:** Apr. 23, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, enacts the "Helping Open Pathways to Effective (HOPE) Treatment Act.." This bill authorizes a cohort established and selected by the department of mental health and substance abuse services ("department") to conduct drug development clinical trials with ibogaine for the purpose of obtaining approval from the United States food and drug administration ("FDA") for ibogaine as a medication to treat opioid use disorder, co-occurring substance use disorder, and other neurological or mental health conditions for which ibogaine demonstrates efficacy. A cohort must include one or more drug developers, one or more research institutions, which may be an institution of higher education, and one or more hospitals. This bill requires a cohort to select a project lead from among the cohort's members to represent the cohort and perform administrative functions, including contracting with and reporting to the department. A project lead selected by the department is authorized to employ clinical, administrative, and data management personnel necessary to support cohort activities, which may include participation in the Texas consortium for clinical trial collaboration. The cohort project lead must submit a proposal and request for funding to the department. This bill grants the department sole discretion to select a cohort for the purpose of conducting clinical trials. After making a selection, the department must enter into an interagency agreement with the project lead to provide funding. The contract must specify goals, objectives, proposed budgets, timelines, collaborating entities, the percentage of revenue arising from the trials to be paid to the state, and any other information requested by the department. After entering into the interagency contract, the department must report the existence of the contract to the chief clerks of the senate and the house of representatives. The department is prohibited from disbursing funds until it verifies the cohort's receipt of matching funds from non-state sources. This bill requires the selected cohort to submit an investigational new drug application to the FDA and seek breakthrough therapy designation as soon as practicable. However, only research institutions or hospitals are permitted to serve as a trial site. This bill authorizes the department and cohort members to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from non-state sources. Disbursements by the department may be made incrementally based on the completion of defined objectives as negotiated in the interagency contract. This bill requires selected cohorts to submit quarterly reports to the department regarding trial progress and financial status, including verification of expenditures for state and matching funds. The department must submit an annual progress report to the general assembly no later than December 1 of each year. This bill requires that revenue attributable to intellectual property and commercial rights arising from the trials, including (i) intellectual property, technology, and inventions; (ii) patents, trademarks, and licenses; (iii) proprietary and confidential information; (iv) trade secrets, data, and databases; (v) tools, methods, and processes; (vi) treatment models or techniques; (vii) administration protocols; and (viii) works of authorship, to be allocated as follows: No less than 5% to the state; The remainder to cohort members in amounts specified by written agreement. This bill requires the commissioner to administer the fund to support proposals from behavioral health providers to train and support staff in best practices for patients undergoing ibogaine therapy. This bill requires a licensed physician who has prescribed ibogaine to supervise its administration at a hospital or other licensed healthcare facility to ensure patient safety. However, this bill does not preclude a physician from administering ibogaine in accordance with federal law. Further, this bill applies only if ibogaine is approved by the FDA to treat a medical condition. If the department determines a federal waiver is necessary for implementation, then the department must request the waiver and may delay implementation of this bill until the waiver is granted. However, the department must begin accepting cohort proposals no later than September 1, 2026.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 2 (017063) enacts the Helping Open Pathways to Effective (HOPE) Treatment Act. Creates the Council on Emerging Behavioral Health Treatments (Council), composed of 11 members, to oversee this state's participation in emerging behavioral health treatment research. Requires appointments to the Council to be made no later than September 1, 2026. Establishes that the Council may authorize one or more qualified institutions in the state to participate as members in a multistate ibogaine drug development clinical trial consortium for the purpose of conducting coordinated ibogaine drug development clinical trials. Authorizes a qualified institution to participate individually, or jointly with other institutions in the state, in which case the Council shall designate one institution as the coordinating institution for the purposes of contracting with and reporting to the Council. Requires the Council to begin accepting applications to participate in a multistate ibogaine consortium no later than September 1, 2026. Requires the Council to enter into an interagency agreement with the coordinating institution to provide funding to implement the authorized ibogaine drug development clinical trials. Requires the Council to send notice of the existence of such contract to the Chief Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives as soon as practicable. Requires a participating institution conducting clinical trial activities in the state to ensure that such activities are conducted pursuant to a valid investigational new drug (IND)

application submitted to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Prohibits the Council from disbursing funds to or for a participating institution under the interagency contract until the institution receives matching funds from sources other than the state, unless a majority of the Council finds that compliance with such requirement is impracticable. Authorizes the Council and participating institutions to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations of any kind received from sources other than the state for purposes of funding drug development clinical trials under the legislation. Establishes that disbursements of funds by the Council may be made incrementally based on the completion of clearly defined objectives as negotiated, including verifiable documentation demonstrating the efficient expenditure of both state and matching funds. Requires each participating institution authorized to conduct ibogaine drug development clinical trials to submit quarterly reports on the progress of the drug development clinical trials, and to verify expenditures of state funds and required matching funds. Requires the Council to submit a report to the General Assembly on the progress of the drug development clinical trials conducted pursuant to the legislation no later than December 1 of each year. Establishes that no less than two percent of the revenue attributable to the state's financial interest or monetary return on any FDA approved medication that is developed by the drug development clinical trials be allocated to the state, and the remainder of the revenue be allocated to the members of the participating institutions as specified by written agreement of the members. Creates a special account within the General Fund known as the Emerging Behavioral Health Treatment Innovation Fund (Fund). Requires the State Treasurer to deposit no less than 50 percent of state revenue from any FDA-approved medication that is developed into the Fund and the remainder into the General Fund. Establishes that the Council may accept by gift or grant to the Fund, public or private funds. Requires the Council to administer the Fund and requires moneys in the Fund to be expended and obligated only in accordance with the legislation. House amendment 3 (018655) enacts the HOPE Treatment Act. Authorizes a Tennessee-based research institution to participate in one or more clinical trials involving ibogaine, whether alone or in participation with a multistate research consortium, as long as all clinical trial activity is conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal law. Authorizes a research institution to receive and administer federal, private, or philanthropic funding for purposes of conducting such research. Establishes that ibogaine may only be administered in this state as part of a clinical trial conducted at a hospital or qualified research facility and under the medical direction of a physician licensed in this state.

### **SB2153 (HB2313) - Establishes a voluntary early childhood mental health home visiting program for children birth to five and their families.**

[State Website](#)

P. Walley (R), D. Hawk (R)

**SB2153:** Mar. 12, 2026 - Senate passed.

**HB2313:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, authorizes the Department of Health to establish a voluntary, clinician supported early childhood mental health home visiting program for children aged 0-5 identified as having issues related to behavior, poverty, or parents with substance abuse issues.

### **Judiciary**

#### **HB1965 (SB1683) - Tennessee Child Care Hosting Safe Harbor Act.**

[State Website](#)

A. Farmer (R), F. Haile (R)

**HB1965:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1683:** Feb. 09, 2026 - Senate passed.

Tort Liability and Reform - As introduced, enacts the "Tennessee Child Care Hosting Safe Harbor Act." Specifies that an employer or host entity is not liable in a civil action for damages arising from the acts or omissions of a child care provider that is licensed under state law and provides child care services on property owned, leased, or otherwise made available by the employer or host entity. Defines "host entity" to mean a person or entity, including but not limited to, a nonprofit organization, faith-based organization, community organization, educational institution, or property owner or lessee, that permits a child care provider to operate on property the person or entity owns or controls, regardless of whether the children served are children of employees of the host entity.

#### **HB1971 (SB1958) - Limits the ability of individuals to seek court orders challenging the legality or constitutionality of state government actions.**

[State Website](#)

A. Farmer (R), J. Stevens (R)

**HB1971:** Mar. 30, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (014939).

**SB1958:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, removes the right of a cause of action for any affected person who seeks declaratory and injunctive relief in any action brought regarding the legality or constitutionality of a state governmental action.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (014939) limits the cause of action for any affected person to seek declaratory and injunctive relief against a government action to just actions of political subdivisions of this state. Specifies that such cause of action does not apply to challenges to the validity or constitutionality of state law. Authorizes an individual to seek damages and legal costs from an institution of higher education, if the individual believes that they were subjected to discrimination, on the basis of one's race, color, ethnicity, or national origin, including those resulting from affirmative action practices, by an institution of higher education.

## **Juveniles**

### **SB1605 (HB2083) - Ch. 611, Expands zero to three court programs to include children up to five years old, prioritizing those under three.**

[State Website](#)

F. Haile (R), M. Littleton (R)

**SB1605:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0611, effective March 25, 2026.

**HB2083:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Companion bill became Public Chapter 0611.

As enacted, expands the goals of zero to three court programs to include cases involving children five years of age or younger, with priority given to cases involving children younger than three years of age.

### **SB1850 (HB2283) - Prohibits requiring relative caregivers to provide a child with their own bedroom for custody placement decisions.**

[State Website](#)

P. Rose (R), M. Carringer (R)

**SB1850:** Mar. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013839), which prohibits a court that issues an order granting custody or guardianship of a child and the Department of Children's Services (DCS) from requiring a relative caregiver to provide a child with their own bedroom, unless there are specific safety or medical reasons that would make placement of the child with another child unsafe.

**HB2283:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, prohibits the department from requiring a relative caregiver, including relatives in the kinship foster care program, to provide a child with the child's own bedroom in determining whether to place the child in the custody of the relative caregiver.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (013839) prohibits a court that issues an order granting custody or guardianship of a child and the Department of Children's Services (DCS) from requiring a relative caregiver to provide a child with their own bedroom, unless there are specific safety or medical reasons that would make placement of the child with another child unsafe.

### **HB2081 (SB1937) - Adds commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services to second look commission.**

[State Website](#)

M. Littleton (R), E. Jackson (R)

**HB2081:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016401), which adds the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), or their designee, and one at large member with experience advocating for children, to the Tennessee Second Look Commission (Commission). Authorizes the Commission to request data and information from any representative involved in services to dependent and neglected youth. Authorizes the Commission to request and have access to any records held by a state agency that are relevant to a case being reviewed and are necessary for performing its duty. Expands the definition of severe child abuse to include strangulation. Expands the criteria of the offense of aggravated child abuse, aggravated child neglect, or aggravated child endangerment to include abuse, neglect or endangerment that involved strangulation. Requires the Commission to provide a report detailing its findings and recommendations from a review of appropriate sampling by July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to the General Assembly, Governor, and appropriate committees. Authorizes a court to order a child's parent, guardian, or other custodian to submit documentation of compliance with preventative pediatric care until the child reaches one year of age, and to submit to drug testing at regular intervals, if the child who is under one year of age has been found to be dependent and neglected and diagnosed by a licensed physician with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Authorizes the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to initiate a visit to ascertain the well-being of the child if the documentation provided contains allegations of abuse or neglect.

**SB1937:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, adds the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services as a member of the Tennessee second look commission. Makes various other changes relating to child abuse and child sexual abuse. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (016401) adds the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), or their designee, and one at large member with experience advocating for children, to the Tennessee Second Look Commission (Commission). Authorizes the Commission to request data and information from any representative involved in services to dependent and neglected youth. Authorizes the Commission to request and have access to any records held by a state agency that are relevant to a case being reviewed and are necessary for performing its duty. Expands the

definition of severe child abuse to include strangulation. Expands the criteria of the offense of aggravated child abuse, aggravated child neglect, or aggravated child endangerment to include abuse, neglect or endangerment that involved strangulation. Requires the Commission to provide a report detailing its findings and recommendations from a review of appropriate sampling by July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to the General Assembly, Governor, and appropriate committees. Authorizes a court to order a child's parent, guardian, or other custodian to submit documentation of compliance with preventative pediatric care until the child reaches one year of age, and to submit to drug testing at regular intervals, if the child who is under one year of age has been found to be dependent and neglected and diagnosed by a licensed physician with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Authorizes the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to initiate a visit to ascertain the well-being of the child if the documentation provided contains allegations of abuse or neglect.

### **SB2219 (HB2352) - Limits access to juvenile delinquency and unruly case records to specific court and legal personnel.**

[State Website](#)

F. Haile (R), M. Littleton (R)

**SB2219:** Mar. 23, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014201), which requires each juvenile court to report to the administrative office of the courts (AOC) each new dependency and neglect case, along with supporting information, on a monthly basis.

**HB2352:** Apr. 08, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, establishes that only certain people, such as a judge, magistrate, officer, or professional staff of a court with juvenile jurisdiction, district attorneys generals, and public defenders, may access delinquency or unruly proceeding petitions and orders.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014201) rewrites the bill to, instead, require each juvenile court, through the juvenile court clerk or juvenile court staff, to, each month, within the statewide juvenile case management system prescribed by the administrative office of the courts, report to the administrative office of the courts each new dependency and neglect case, including for each child named in the petition, all of the following information: The date the case was filed or opened; The referring agency or person filing the petition; The statutory allegations in the petition; The child's unique child ID number, which may be the same number used if the child has a delinquent or unruly case; The unique case or docket number, followed by -01, -02, -03 for each child named in the petition; The child's name, date of birth, race, sex, ethnicity, and social security number. For each such case reported, this amendment additionally requires the following information, as applicable, along with the unique case or docket number: The beginning and ending date and type of out-of-home placement; The beginning and ending date of a trial home placement; The date the child was adjudicated a dependent and neglected child or the date the case was dismissed or transferred to another court; For a child in the custody of the department of children's services, the permanency goal achieved or the reason for not achieving permanency; The date of case closure; The beginning and ending date of an extension of foster care.

### **SB2220 (HB2262) - Requires the department of children's services to complete most child care agency abuse investigations within 45 days.**

[State Website](#)

A. Lowe (R), G. Martin (R)

**SB2220:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB2262:** Apr. 02, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (015693).

As introduced, requires the department of children's services to complete any investigation of a child care agency involving allegations of child abuse or child sexual abuse within 45 days of commencing the investigation, except for good cause shown and for investigation into allegations that an operator or employee of a child care agency committed child abuse or child sexual abuse.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (015693) requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to make an initial screening, and potentially an assessment, upon receiving a report of harm that includes a report of harm alleging facts that involve a caregiver. Extends the amount of time an assessment must be completed, from 45 days to 90 days, after receiving a report of potential harm. Requires DCS to consult with a caregiver about available services and potential interventions to address their needs following the completion of an assessment. Takes effect January 1, 2027.

### **HB2527 (SB2225) - Requirements for child protective teams for cases involving human trafficking offense.**

[State Website](#)

W. Lamberth (R), J. Johnson (R)

**HB2527:** Mar. 30, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (014757).

**SB2225:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires, rather than permits, the child protective team for a case involving a human trafficking offense to include a representative from a non-governmental agency specialized in combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of minors. Extends the time within which the department or child protective team must determine whether reported abuse was indicated or unfounded from 60 days to 90 days or, in cases involving a child fatality, 180 days.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013355) requires, instead of authorizes, child protective teams to include a representative from one non-governmental agency specialized in combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of minors for cases involving an allegation that a child is a victim of a human trafficking offense. Requires members of every child protective team to annually complete 15 hours of training related to severe child abuse and child sexual abuse provided by the Department of Children's Services (DCS). Requires DCS, or a child protective team, to determine if reported abuse was indicated or unfounded and report its findings to DCS's abuse registry within 90 days after receiving an initial report, and within 180 days after receiving the initial report if the investigation concerns a child fatality. Authorizes the Commissioner of DCS to provide one extension for up to 180 additional days for an investigation for good cause. House amendment 1 (014757) requires, instead of authorizes, child protective teams to include a representative from one non-governmental agency specialized in combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of minors for cases involving an allegation that a child is a victim of a human trafficking offense. Requires members of every child protective team to annually complete 15 hours of training related to severe child abuse and child sexual abuse provided by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), to be developed in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Courts, the state chapter of the Child Advocacy Centers, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association, and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police. Requires DCS, or a child protective team, to determine if reported abuse was indicated or unfounded and report its findings to DCS's abuse registry within 90 days after receiving an initial report, and within 180 days after receiving the initial report if the investigation concerns a child fatality. Authorizes the Commissioner of DCS to provide one extension for up to 180 additional days for an investigation for good cause.

## **HB2188 (SB2362) - Interagency Services and Oversight for Children With Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities.**

[State Website](#)

M. Littleton (R), B. Massey (R)

**HB2188:** Apr. 08, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2362:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013741), which requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to collaborate with the Department of Disability and Aging (DDA) to ensure that children in state custody or at risk of coming into state custody and who have intellectual or developmental disabilities receive appropriate services and supports. Authorizes the DDA to develop training for DCS related to identification of and supports for a child with a disability, and to provide consultation on oversight tools and monitoring of residential services for children with a disability. Authorizes DCS to refer children suspected to have an intellectual or developmental disability to DDA for service recommendations. Requires DCS to submit a report outlining its compliance with this legislation on January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to various legislative committee chairs.

Children's Services, Dept. of - As introduced, requires the department to enter into an interagency agreement with the department of disability and aging to leverage their expertise to provide services and oversight for children in state custody, or at risk of coming into state custody, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and to implement recommendations from the department of disability and aging in regard to service evaluations for children in or at risk of coming into state custody, placements for such children, oversight of placements for such children, training for department staff working with such children, and care coordination of such children. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 8; Title 9; Title 33; Title 37 and Title 52.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013741) makes the following changes: Removes that the department of children's services must enter into an interagency agreement with the department of disability and aging (DDA) and implement recommendations from DDA on service evaluations for children with an intellectual or developmental disabilities, such children's placement, oversight of placement, training for department of children's services staff and providers, and disability-specific care coordination; Authorizes collaboration between the two departments on training, oversight tools, referrals of children suspected to have an intellectual or developmental disability, and authorizes interagency agreements to further such collaboration; Removes that the annual report must include reports on oversight of placement; Requires that the annual report include the status of the development of quality oversight tools for the monitoring of department of children's services contractors providing residential services to a child with a disability.

## **Labor Law**

## **SB1469 (HB1723) - Sharing of video content by minors for compensation prohibited.**

[State Website](#)

P. Walley (R), R. Travis (R)

**SB1469:** Mar. 19, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013625), which prohibits minors under 14 years of age from sharing video content filmed in this state on an online platform in exchange for compensation. Requires a content creator whose video content features a minor who is 14 years of age or older, but under 18 years of age, engaged in the work of content creation to maintain certain records until the minor reaches 21 years of age. Requires a parent or other adult who features a minor in video content shared on an online platform for compensation to set aside an amount of gross earnings on the video content in a trust account for the minor. Authorizes a minor to commence civil action against a content creator for certain violations. Requires video content containing the likeness of a minor to be deleted and removed from an online platform if requested by a minor who is 14 years of age or older whose likeness appears in the content, or by an adult who was under 18 years of age when the person's likeness was used in the content. Requires a social media platform to develop and implement a risk-based strategy to help mitigate risks related to monetization of the intentional sexualization of known minors. Requires the strategy to be documented and reassessed on a reasonable recurring basis.

**HB1723:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Prohibits minors under 14 years of age from sharing video content on an online platform for compensation. Requires a parent or other adult who features a minor in video content shared on an online platform for compensation to set aside a specified amount of gross earnings on the video content in a trust account to be preserved for the benefit of the minor. Allows an adult who was a minor featured in such video content shared by a parent or other adult to request the permanent deletion of the video.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013625) prohibits minors under 14 years of age from sharing video content filmed in this state on an online platform in exchange for compensation. Requires a content creator whose video content features a minor who is 14 years of age or older, but under 18 years of age, engaged in the work of content creation to maintain certain records until the minor reaches 21 years of age. Requires a parent or other adult who features a minor in video content shared on an online platform for compensation to set aside an amount of gross earnings on the video content in a trust account for the minor. Authorizes a minor to commence civil action against a content creator for certain violations. Requires video content containing the likeness of a minor to be deleted and removed from an online platform if requested by a minor who is 14 years of age or older whose likeness appears in the content, or by an adult who was under 18 years of age when the person's likeness was used in the content. Requires a social media platform to develop and implement a risk-based strategy to help mitigate risks related to monetization of the intentional sexualization of known minors. Requires the strategy to be documented and reassessed on a reasonable recurring basis.

## **Local Government**

### **HB2018 (SB1486) - Law enforcement agencies to honor federal immigration detainers.**

[State Website](#)

M. Cochran (R), B. Taylor (R)

**HB2018:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1486:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (016827).

Requires a memorandum of understanding entered between a law enforcement agency and federal officials concerning enforcement of federal immigration laws to include a requirement that the law enforcement agency accept and honor any immigration detainer received from federal immigration authorities, including maintaining custody of the subject of an immigration detainer for 48 hours beyond the time when the subject would have otherwise been released to allow federal immigration authorities to take custody of the subject and notifying federal immigration authorities as soon as possible prior to releasing the subject.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 2 (016827) requires sheriff's departments currently a party to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to accept and honor any immigration detainer received from federal immigration authorities.

### **HB1710 (SB1915) - Requires local governments to verify citizenship or lawful presence for public benefits and authorizes investigations of violations.**

[State Website](#)

D. Powers (R), E. Jackson (R)

**HB1710:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016345), which requires local governmental entities to verify that an individual who is 18 years of age or older and applies for a federal, state, or local public benefit is a United States (U.S.) citizen or otherwise lawfully present in the U.S. Requires local government entities, upon the first reprinting of forms or updating of the phone systems after July 1, 2026, to include on all forms and all automated phone systems a statement: (1) that an applicant for public benefits must attest to the applicant's status as either a U.S. citizen or is lawfully present in the U.S.; and (2) describing the penalties associated with violating applicable laws. Clarifies that a "state or local public benefit" does not include a privilege to practice a profession or engage in an occupation in this state granted by a licensee's participation in an interstate portability licensure compact, provided that the licensing agency in this state is not required to take any action to grant or allow the licensee to practice.

Clarifies that both state and local governmental entities are subject to the laws, and the liability associated with the violation of such laws, governing the verification of the citizenship of persons applying for federal, state, or local public benefits. Requires each state governmental entity, local governmental entity, and local health department, except as prohibited under federal law, to report individuals and all identifying information about such individuals who are not U.S. citizens or are not lawfully present in the U.S. and who receive federal, state, or local public benefits from the entity or health department to the Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division (CIED) of the Department of Safety (DOS), unless the entity or health department is required to report Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients discovered to be in the U.S. unlawfully to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services pursuant to federal code and regulations. Establishes that an employee's or official's intentional failure to report such information is a Class A misdemeanor. Establishes that the Department of Children's Services (DCS) is exempt from providing any of the aforementioned information that would identify a child or family receiving services from the department. Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to investigate credible allegations or complaints that a local governmental entity or local health department is not verifying the citizenship of persons applying for public benefits in accordance with the law. Authorizes the AG, if the AG concludes the local governmental entity or health department is not in compliance, to withhold all funds of the state allocated to the local governmental entity or local health department via grant, contract, or statute including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes.

**SB1915:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, adds local governments to the entities that must verify that each applicant for public benefits is a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States. Authorizes the attorney general and reporter to investigate violations of requirements for verification of citizenship or presence for public benefits; requires certain reporting related to such verification for benefits.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (015237) requires local governmental entities to verify that an individual who is 18 years of age or older and applies for a federal, state, or local public benefit is a United States (U.S.) citizen or otherwise lawfully present in the U.S. Requires local government entities, upon the first reprinting of forms or updating of the phone systems after July 1, 2026, to include on all forms and all automated phone systems a statement: (1) that an applicant for public benefits must attest to the applicant's status as either a U.S. citizen or is lawfully present in the U.S.; and (2) describing the penalties associated with violating applicable laws. Clarifies that both state and local governmental entities are subject to the laws, and the liability associated with the violation of such laws, governing the verification of the citizenship of persons applying for federal, state, or local public benefits. Requires each state governmental entity, local governmental entity, and local health department to report individuals who are not U.S. citizens or are not lawfully present in the U.S. and who receive federal, state, or local public benefits from the entity or health department to the Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division (CIED) of the Department of Safety (DOS), unless the entity or health department is required to report Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients discovered to be in the U.S. unlawfully to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services pursuant to federal code and regulations. Establishes that an employee's or official's intentional failure to report such information is a Class A misdemeanor. Establishes that the Department of Children's Services (DCS) is exempt from providing any of the aforementioned information that would identify a child or family receiving services from the department. Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to investigate credible allegations or complaints that a local governmental entity or local health department is not verifying the citizenship of persons applying for public benefits in accordance with the law. Authorizes the AG, if the AG concludes the local governmental entity or health department is not in compliance, to withhold all funds of the state allocated to the local governmental entity or local health department via grant, contract, or statute including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes. House amendment 1 (016345) requires local governmental entities to verify that an individual who is 18 years of age or older and applies for a federal, state, or local public benefit is a United States (U.S.) citizen or otherwise lawfully present in the U.S. Requires local government entities, upon the first reprinting of forms or updating of the phone systems after July 1, 2026, to include on all forms and all automated phone systems a statement: (1) that an applicant for public benefits must attest to the applicant's status as either a U.S. citizen or is lawfully present in the U.S.; and (2) describing the penalties associated with violating applicable laws. Clarifies that a "state or local public benefit" does not include a privilege to practice a profession or engage in an occupation in this state granted by a licensee's participation in an interstate portability licensure compact, provided that the licensing agency in this state is not required to take any action to grant or allow the licensee to practice. Clarifies that both state and local governmental entities are subject to the laws, and the liability associated with the violation of such laws, governing the verification of the citizenship of persons applying for federal, state, or local public benefits. Requires each state governmental entity, local governmental entity, and local health department, except as prohibited under federal law, to report individuals and all identifying information about such individuals who are not U.S. citizens or are not lawfully present in the U.S. and who receive federal, state, or local public benefits from the entity or health department to the Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division (CIED) of the Department of Safety (DOS), unless the entity or health

department is required to report Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients discovered to be in the U.S. unlawfully to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services pursuant to federal code and regulations. Establishes that an employee's or official's intentional failure to report such information is a Class A misdemeanor. Establishes that the Department of Children's Services (DCS) is exempt from providing any of the aforementioned information that would identify a child or family receiving services from the department. Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to investigate credible allegations or complaints that a local governmental entity or local health department is not verifying the citizenship of persons applying for public benefits in accordance with the law. Authorizes the AG, if the AG concludes the local governmental entity or health department is not in compliance, to withhold all funds of the state allocated to the local governmental entity or local health department via grant, contract, or statute including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes.

## **HB2186 (SB2160) - Allows metropolitan counties to tax or exempt retail food sales at rates below the local option sales tax.**

[State Website](#)

W. Lamberth (R), B. Watson (R)

**HB2186:** Apr. 06, 2026 - House passed.

**SB2160:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, authorizes counties with a metropolitan form of government, by resolution of their governing bodies, to levy a tax on the retail sale of food and food ingredients for human consumption within the county at a rate less than the local option sales tax rate or exempt the retail sale of such food and food ingredients from the local option sales tax. Deletes obsolete provisions relating to the timing for reducing the membership of metropolitan councils. Broadly captioned.

## **Media & Publishing**

### **SB1720 (HB1659) - Confidentiality of addresses on nominating petitions for the office of judge, chancellor or district attorney general.**

[State Website](#)

F. Haile (R), J. Moon (R)

**SB1720:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (014365) and amendment 2 (016923). Senate amendment 1 (014365) removes the application materials submitted by an individual when seeking employment with the governmental entity exemption. Senate amendment 2 (016923) expands the public records exception to include the addresses on a nominating petition for the office of judge, chancellor, district attorney general, and public defender, unless requested by a candidate or law enforcement authority in anticipation of or as part of a contest of candidacy or contest of election. Requires a person requesting such information to certify on a form provided by the Coordinator of Elections the reason for the request under the penalty of perjury. .

**HB1659:** Apr. 14, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, makes the addresses on a nominating petition for the office of judge, chancellor, district attorney general, and public defender confidential; makes the application materials submitted by an individual when seeking employment with a governmental entity confidential.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014365) removes the application materials submitted by an individual when seeking employment with the governmental entity exemption. Senate amendment 2 (016923) expands the public records exception to include the addresses on a nominating petition for the office of judge, chancellor, district attorney general, and public defender, unless requested by a candidate or law enforcement authority in anticipation of or as part of a contest of candidacy or contest of election. Requires a person requesting such information to certify on a form provided by the Coordinator of Elections the reason for the request under the penalty of perjury.

## **Professions & Licensure**

### **HB1709 (SB1901) - Requires U.S. citizenship or qualified alien status for eligibility for various professional licenses and permits.**

[State Website](#)

M. Cochran (R), P. Bailey (R)

**HB1709:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1901:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (016341).

As introduced, specifies in various provisions that for a person to be eligible for a particular license, certificate, permit, or authorization, the person must be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (014986) establishes that a person must be a United States citizen or a qualified alien in order to be eligible for certain licenses, certificates, permits, authorizations, or registrations issued by a state department, board, commission, agency or other governmental entity. Encourages the Tennessee Supreme Court to establish guidelines to limit a person's eligibility for a license to practice law or engage in law business to a person who is a United

States citizen or a qualified alien. Establishes that each licensing agency related to professions of the healing arts must comply with certain reporting requirements contained in HB 1711/SB 2108 of the 114th General Assembly, subject to such legislation being enacted into law. Senate amendment 2 (016341) makes certain technical changes related to health related boards.

## **HB1909 (SB2585) - Updates terminology and regulations related to marriage and family therapists.**

[State Website](#)

G. Hicks (R), E. Jackson (R)

**HB1909:** Mar. 30, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016297).

**SB2585:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, changes references to marital and family therapists to marriage and family therapists throughout the code, and makes other changes relative to marriage and family therapists. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014241) renames the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists as the Board for Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists (Board). Redesignates "licensed marital and family therapists" as "licensed marriage and family therapists." Requires the Board to license by endorsement a marriage and family therapist applicant who is licensed to practice independently in another state or territory who satisfies certain requirements. Establishes that a student intern or trainee in marriage and family therapy who is pursuing a program of studies in marriage and family therapy at an accredited institution of higher learning under supervision as part of a supervised program of study may use the titles "marriage and family therapy intern," "family therapy intern," or "student therapist." Establishes that a person who is under a supervisory arrangement recognized and approved by the Board and who is working in certain approved facilities may use the title "pre-licensed marriage and family therapist" or a postgraduate degree designation. Authorizes a Board-approved supervisor use and indicate designation as an approved supervisor using the abbreviation "LMFT-S." Requires an approved supervisor to provide proof of completion of six hours of supervision continuing education every two years, in addition to any continuing education requirements for maintaining licensure. Requires at least three hours of supervision continuing education to be relevant to ethics and state laws governing the practice of marriage and family therapy. House amendment 1 (016297) renames the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists as the Board for Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists (Board). Redesignates "licensed marital and family therapists" as "licensed marriage and family therapists." Requires the Board to license by endorsement a marriage and family therapist applicant who is licensed to practice independently in another state or territory who satisfies certain requirements. Establishes that a student intern or trainee in marriage and family therapy who is pursuing a program of studies in marriage and family therapy at an accredited institution of higher learning under supervision as part of a supervised program of study may use the titles "marriage and family therapy intern," "family therapy intern," or "student therapist." Establishes that a person who is under a supervisory arrangement with an approved supervisor and who is working under certain approved facilities may use the title "pre-licensed marriage and family therapist" or a postgraduate degree designation. Requires a Board-approved supervisor to provide proof of completion of six hours of continuing education in supervision every two years, in addition to any continuing education requirements for maintaining licensure. Requires at least three hours of supervision continuing education to be relevant to ethics and state laws governing the practice of marriage and family therapy. The provisions of the legislation relating to licensure by endorsement and exemptions take effect on July 1, 2026. All other provisions become effective on January 1, 2027.

## **Public Employees**

### **SB1467 (HB1484) - Memphis Safe Task Force Accountability Act.**

[State Website](#)

B. Taylor (R), J. Gillespie (R)

**SB1467:** Apr. 09, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (016166).

**HB1484:** Apr. 20, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Enacts the "Memphis Safe Task Force Accountability Act," which requires a report by the district attorney general detailing why the felony perpetrator was entered into a plea agreement, lowered the charged offense against them, or dismissed or otherwise declined to prosecute the offense against them. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (016905) requires the district attorney general of any judicial district in which the Memphis Safe Task Force or a federal task force to combat violent crime is in effect to submit a report whenever the district attorney enters into a plea agreement, lowers the charged offense, or dismisses or otherwise declines to prosecute a serious offense which

resulted from the Memphis Safe Task Force or a federal task force to combat violent crime. Requires the report to be submitted to specified recipients at the end of each month that the district attorney enters into a plea agreement, lowers the charged offense, or dismisses or otherwise declines to prosecute a serious offense. Requires the report to be submitted no later than 10 business days of the entry of an agreed plea, reduction in charged offense, issuance of an order of nolle prosequi or dismissal, or another formal action indicating a declination to prosecute. Applies to charges filed on or before June 30, 2028.

### **SB1612 (HB2268) - Allows state employee child care programs to be located in state-leased office buildings.**

[State Website](#)

P. Bailey (R), M. Hale (R)

**SB1612:** Apr. 06, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013422), which authorizes the waiver of tuition and fees at institutions of higher education for full-time state employees to be used for more than one course at a time.

**HB2268:** Apr. 13, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, authorizes a child care program operated for state employees of a state agency to be located in an office building leased by the state. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (013422) authorizes the waiver of tuition and fees at institutions of higher education for full-time state employees to be used for more than one course at a time.

### **SB2162 (HB2616) - Allows governing bodies to hold executive sessions to discuss employment of director-level staff.**

[State Website](#)

R. Briggs (R), J. Moon (R)

**SB2162:** Apr. 15, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB2616:** Apr. 14, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (017236).

As introduced, authorizes governing bodies to conduct executive sessions for the purpose of considering employment and interviewing of director-level staff for such governing body.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (017236) rewrites the bill to, instead, authorize a governing body to conduct an executive session for the purpose of interviewing applicants for employment as director-level staff of the body without providing public notice of such session. However, the governing body is prohibited from making hiring decisions or deliberating in such session. All deliberation and voting must be done in an open, publicly notice meeting. Attendance at any executive session for the purpose of interviewing applicants must be limited to members of the governing body, relevant staff, and the applicants. The minutes of the session must be disclosed to all persons who were in attendance, except for applicants. If requested by the applicant, application materials must be kept confidential and are not open to public inspection. However, interviews and application materials must be kept as public records if the applicant is selected for employment or appointment. As used in this amendment, "director-level" means a position that is filled by the mayor or a vote of the governing body or by the mayor with confirmation by the governing body, excluding the chief of police; and has authority over the operation and employees of a department, agency, or division of the governmental entity.

## **Public Finance**

### **SB2061 (HB2270) - Study on state funding sources derived from litigation that are used to support the protection of children's mental health and safety online.**

[State Website](#)

B. Watson (R), G. Hicks (R)

**SB2061:** Mar. 05, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (014001).

**HB2270:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, urges the department of finance and administration, in consultation with the attorney general and reporter or other departments or agencies of state or local government, to study and submit a report to the general assembly on state funding sources derived from litigation or investigations in this state that are used to support the protection of children's mental health and safety online, including, but not limited to, any civil penalties recovered by the state in any actions brought pursuant to the Protecting Children from Social Media Act.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 2 (014001) creates the "Children's Digital Protection Fund (CDPF)" to facilitate expenditures for the following purposes, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly: (1) Mental health supports, programs, and treatment services for minors; (2) Research related to the impact of social media and technology on the mental health and wellbeing of minors; (3) Criminal and civil law enforcement resources for addressing the impact of social media and technology on the mental health and wellbeing of minors; (4) Criminal and civil law enforcement resources for addressing the exploitation of minors through technology; (5) Education relating to the impact of social media and technology on the mental

health and wellbeing of minors; (6) Allocation to, and deposit of, funds in the K-12 Mental Health Endowment Fund; and (7) Suicide prevention for minors. Establishes that moneys received by the state pursuant to the resolution of legal claims concerning the effects of the use of a social media platform, an online gaming platform, or other digital technology on the mental health and wellbeing of minors, as determined by the Attorney General and Reporter (AG), must be deposited in the Fund and used only to implement and administer the purposes of the CDPF. Requires the AG to determine the amount of the net recovery and direct the deposit of that amount in the CDPF. Establishes that moneys in the CDPF may be expended only in accordance with appropriations made by the General Assembly. Requires moneys in the CDPF to be invested by the State Treasurer, and any interest accruing on investments to be credited to the CDPF.

## **State Government**

### **SB1713 (HB1664) - Requires state and local entities to annually certify they have not used DEI preferences.**

[State Website](#)

J. Johnson (R), A. Maberry (R)

**SB1713:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**HB1664:** Apr. 21, 2026 - House passed with amendment 2 (015709), which authorizes the attorney general and reporter to investigate any allegation that a state department, agency, or other unit of state government is acting in violation of any state law prohibiting the use of a discriminatory preference in an effort to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion.

As introduced, requires the executive head of each state department or agency, local government, and public institution of higher education to submit an annual attestation to the comptroller of the treasury that such entity has not implemented a discriminatory preference to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014163) requires the executive head of each department, agency, or other unit of state government; the executive head of each county, municipal, metropolitan government; and the executive head or president of each public institution of higher education or the chief executive head of any of its campuses to submit an annual attestation of compliance with the prohibition on their use of discriminatory preferences to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion to the Comptroller of the Treasury (COT) by January 1, 2027 and by each January 1 thereafter. House amendment 2 (015709) authorizes the attorney general and reporter to investigate any allegation that a state department, agency, or other unit of state government is acting in violation of any state law prohibiting the use of a discriminatory preference in an effort to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion.

### **HB1696 (SB1823) - Requires state agencies to pay business invoices within 30 days and report late payments annually to legislative committees.**

[State Website](#)

J. McCalmon (R), A. Lowe (R)

**HB1696:** Apr. 14, 2026 - House passed with amendment 1 (016041).

**SB1823:** Apr. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires a state department, agency, or official who contracts with a business to acquire property or services to make payments under the contract to the business within 30 days rather than 45 days after receipt of the invoice from the business. Requires such state departments, agencies, and officials to annually report to the chairs of the appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of representatives by January 10 of each year the number and aggregate amount of late payments made for the preceding calendar year and the amount of interest paid and outstanding on such late payments.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (014675) reduces, from 45 days to 30 days, the time period after receiving an invoice in which a state agency must pay a business for the acquisition of property or services rendered pursuant to a contract, if no date or other provision for payment is specified. Requires each state agency that makes payments to a business under a contract to submit an annual report for the immediately preceding calendar year, containing: (1) the number of late payments made and that remain outstanding and the aggregate amount of such payments; and (2) the amount of interest paid on such late payments and that remains unpaid on outstanding late payments. Requires such reports to be submitted not later than September 15 of each year, beginning September 15, 2027, to the chairs of certain legislative committees. House amendment 1 (016041) reduces, from 45 days to 30 days, the time period after receiving an invoice in which a state agency must pay a business for the acquisition of property or services rendered pursuant to a contract, if no date or other provision for payment is specified. Requires each state agency that makes payments to a business under a contract to submit an annual report for the immediately preceding fiscal year, containing: (1) the number of late payments made and that remain outstanding and the aggregate amount of such payments; and (2) the amount of interest paid on such late payments and that remains unpaid on outstanding late payments. Requires such reports to be

submitted not later than September 15 of each year, beginning September 15, 2027, to the chairs of certain legislative committees.

## **HB2220 (SB2589) - Reconstitutes the Tennessee Arts Commission.**

[State Website](#)

R. Alexander (R), E. Jackson (R)

**HB2220:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2589:** Mar. 05, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013462), which reconstitutes the Tennessee Arts Commission (Commission). Makes revisions to the appointing authority, member terms, and composition of the Commission.

As introduced, reconstitutes the commission.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013462) reconstitutes the Tennessee Arts Commission (Commission). Makes revisions to the appointing authority, member terms, and composition of the Commission.

## **TennCare**

### **SB2167 (HB2411) - Includes TennCare on the statewide planning and policy council.**

[State Website](#)

K. Yager (R), R. Jones (R)

**SB2167:** Mar. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013459), which adds the Division of TennCare's (Division's) director of long-term care services as a member of the Statewide Planning and Policy Council (Council) for the Department of Disability and Aging (DDA). Requires the director to appoint an additional person to the Council from each of the Division's contracted Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Expands the responsibilities of the Council to include advising the Division on policy, budget requests, and developing and evaluating services and supports for persons with an intellectual or developmental disability. Requires the Council to recommend legislation and appropriations to the General Assembly for the implementation of TennCare waivers. Requires the Director of TennCare to make reports from the Council available to the public.

**HB2411:** Mar. 30, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, integrates the bureau of TennCare into the statewide planning and policy council's structure and mission by adding the director of long-term care services and a managed care organization representative to its membership. Expands the council's advisory and reporting duties to include TennCare's director, services, and waiver implementation alongside existing department programs.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate Health & Welfare Committee amendment 1, House Insurance Committee amendment 1 (013459), adds the Division of TennCare's (Division's) director of long-term care services as a member of the Statewide Planning and Policy Council (Council) for the Department of Disability and Aging (DDA). Requires the director to appoint an additional person to the Council from each of the Division's contracted Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Expands the responsibilities of the Council to include advising the Division on policy, budget requests, and developing and evaluating services and supports for persons with an intellectual or developmental disability. Requires the Council to recommend legislation and appropriations to the General Assembly for the implementation of TennCare waivers. Requires the Director of TennCare to make reports from the Council available to the public.

### **SB2255 (HB2389) - Requires TennCare to publish biannual reports on psychotropic medication use and costs statewide.**

[State Website](#)

B. Taylor (R), B. Martin (R)

**SB2255:** Mar. 05, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (013445).

**HB2389:** Mar. 16, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

As introduced, requires the bureau of TennCare to biannually publish two comprehensive statewide data reports on the use of psychotropic medications and the psychotropic medications' associated costs with certain list categories and data points that must be included in each report. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate amendment 1 (013445) requires the Division of TennCare (Division), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Children's Services (DCS), to publish two comprehensive statewide data reports on the use of psychotropic medication and the psychotropic medication's associated costs, utilizing data primarily derived from medical and pharmacy claims from the TennCare program. Requires the reports to be submitted by January 1, 2027, and biannually thereafter. Establishes that, beginning July 1, 2027, the biannual reports are due within 90 days of the end of each calendar year and the beginning of each state fiscal year. Requires the Division to post both reports in a conspicuous, publicly accessible location on the Division's website, and to transmit official copies of both reports to certain legislative committees. Authorizes the Division to promulgate rules to effectuate the legislation, in consultation with DOH and DCS.

## **Transportation Vehicles**

**HB1706 (SB1587) - Makes it a misdemeanor for unlawfully present individuals to operate commercial motor vehicles and requires notifying federal immigration authorities.**

[State Website](#)

J. Zachary (R), J. Johnson (R)

**HB1706:** Apr. 21, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1587:** Apr. 02, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (016288).

As introduced, creates a Class A misdemeanor for a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state. Requires the law enforcement agency of an officer who arrests a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state to ensure that federal immigration authorities are notified. Creates related civil actions that may be pursued by the attorney general and reporter or by a qui tam plaintiff.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 2 (016288) prohibits an employer from knowingly allowing, permitting, or authorizing an employee to operate a commercial motor vehicle in the United States during any period in which the employee is unlawfully present in the United States. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a direct employer to knowingly employ and allow a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state if the operation of the vehicle requires the operator to be issued and possess a valid commercial driver license. Requires a law enforcement officer who arrests a person for a violation to notify the officer's law enforcement agency of the arrest, and the agency must notify federal immigration authorities. Establishes that a direct employer who knowingly employs and permits a person unlawfully present to operate a commercial motor vehicle, and any official or employee of any state who recklessly issues a commercial driver license to a person knowing that the person is unlawfully present in the United States, are strictly, absolutely, jointly, and severally liable for any injuries or property damaged caused. Authorizes any person who suffers personal injury or property damage caused by an unlawfully present person operating a commercial motor vehicle to recover compensatory and punitive damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney's fees. Establishes that an employer's liability insurance policy must not be construed to cover an employer's liability for accidents committed by an employee that is unlawfully present. Establishes that a direct employer is presumed to have not acted knowingly if the employer is in compliance with the employment and verification requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 50-1-103(b) and (d) and 50-1-703. Establishes the language of the legislation does not impose liability on a person or entity that does not employ the person operating the commercial motor vehicle and does not have the legal authority to verify employment authorization for that person.

**HB1708 (SB1889) - Driver license restrictions and citizenship verification for applicants with limited English proficiency.**

[State Website](#)

K. Capley (R), B. Taylor (R)

**HB1708:** Apr. 23, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1889:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment amendment 2 (015556), which prohibits the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue (DOR) or a county clerk from processing an application for initial issuance of registration of a motor vehicle in which a license plate is issued until the applicant provides documentation, either in paper or electronic format, that the applicant is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States (U.S) or federally authorized to be in the U.S. for a specific purpose and for a specified period of authorized stay. Requires every registration or renewal of registration be accompanied with a notice that the owner and/or the operator of the vehicle is required to be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, or temporary lawful resident. Requires individuals applying for the initial issuance, renewal, duplicate, or reinstatement of a driver license, instruction permit, intermediate driver license, or photo identification license to provide documentation that the applicant is a U.S. citizen. Authorizes the administration of the written examination under certain circumstances for a driver license or intermediate driver license in a language other than English if an applicant is unable to speak and read the English language. Establishes a three-year non-renewable license (license) for such applicants. Requires, upon expiration of the license, the applicant to retake the written examination in English, without the use of any translation assistance, to obtain a driver license or intermediate driver license. Clarifies that: an applicant for a commercial driver license or a person who is capable of reading and writing in English, and presents a written statement from a physician that the applicant has a hearing impairment that impacts the applicant's ability to speak English sufficiently, is not required to be issued a license.

As introduced, specifies if an applicant for a driver license or intermediate driver license is unable to speak and read the English language, then the applicant may be administered the written examination in a language other than English. Requires an applicant for a driver license who cannot speak and read English sufficiently to be issued a restricted license for one year and to re-take the written driver license examination in English to be issued a driver

license thereafter. Requires evidence of U.S. citizenship, lawful permanent residence, or temporary lawful resident status prior to registering vehicles.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (015043) prohibits the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue (DOR) or a county clerk from processing an application for initial issuance of registration of a motor vehicle in which a license plate is issued until the applicant provides documentation, either in paper or electronic format, that the applicant is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States (U.S) or federally authorized to be in the U.S. for a specific purpose and for a specified period of authorized stay. Requires every registration or renewal of registration be accompanied with a notice that the owner and/or the operator of the vehicle is required to be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, or temporary lawful resident. Requires individuals applying for the initial issuance, renewal, duplicate, or reinstatement of a driver license, instruction permit, intermediate driver license, or photo identification license to provide documentation that the applicant is a U.S. citizen. Authorizes the administration of the written examination under certain circumstances for a driver license or intermediate driver license in a language other than English if an applicant is unable to speak and read the English language. Establishes an 18-month non-renewable restricted license for such applicants for limited purposes. Requires, upon expiration of the restricted license, the applicant to retake the written examination in English, without the use of any translation assistance, to obtain a driver license or intermediate driver license. Clarifies that: an applicant for a commercial driver license or a person who is capable of reading and writing in English, and presents a written statement from a physician that the applicant has a hearing impairment that impacts the applicant's ability to speak English sufficiently, is not required to be issued a restricted license. Effective January 1, 2027. House amendment 4 (017262) adds that the department may ensure that each driver services center in this state prominently displays a list of local entities or individuals that provide English as a second language (ESL) programs or instruction to assist persons who are seeking a driver license or intermediate driver license and are unable to speak and read the English language proficiently. Senate amendment 2 (015556) prohibits the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue (DOR) or a county clerk from processing an application for initial issuance of registration of a motor vehicle in which a license plate is issued until the applicant provides documentation, either in paper or electronic format, that the applicant is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States (U.S) or federally authorized to be in the U.S. for a specific purpose and for a specified period of authorized stay. Requires every registration or renewal of registration be accompanied with a notice that the owner and/or the operator of the vehicle is required to be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, or temporary lawful resident. Requires individuals applying for the initial issuance, renewal, duplicate, or reinstatement of a driver license, instruction permit, intermediate driver license, or photo identification license to provide documentation that the applicant is a U.S. citizen. Authorizes the administration of the written examination under certain circumstances for a driver license or intermediate driver license in a language other than English if an applicant is unable to speak and read the English language. Establishes a three-year non-renewable license (license) for such applicants. Requires, upon expiration of the license, the applicant to retake the written examination in English, without the use of any translation assistance, to obtain a driver license or intermediate driver license. Clarifies that: an applicant for a commercial driver license or a person who is capable of reading and writing in English, and presents a written statement from a physician that the applicant has a hearing impairment that impacts the applicant's ability to speak English sufficiently, is not required to be issued a license.

## **Welfare**

### **HB1979 (SB2062) - Promising Futures Act.**

[State Website](#)

M. White (R), B. Watson (R)

**HB1979:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB2062:** Apr. 22, 2026 - Senate passed with amendment 2 (018471), which adds that subject to available funding the department shall administer a Smart Steps Plus program to provide child care scholarships on a sliding scale basis, after application of any federal or state child care assistance including any federal temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) funds set aside to be transferred to the child care and development fund (CCDF), for which the child or family is otherwise eligible to receive.

As introduced, creates the promising futures fund within the state treasury that consists of certain revenues collected from taxes, fees, and assessments for vapor and hemp-derived cannabinoid products to support a variety of programs administered by the department to provide child care assistance to working families, including the CareShare Tennessee pilot program, the smart steps plus program, and the child care workforce scholarship pilot program.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (018309) enacts the Promising Futures Act. Establishes the Child Care Workforce Scholarship Pilot Program and the CareShare Tennessee Pilot Program to begin no later than January 1, 2027. Requires the CareShare Tennessee Pilot Program to be

administered by a third-party administrator contracting with the Department of Human Services (DHS). Requires DHS to enter into a contract with one or more marketing and outreach vendors by November 1, 2026 to conduct recruitment and outreach activities for the Child Care Workforce Scholarship Pilot Program. Establishes the Smart Steps Plus Program to be administered by DHS beginning January 1, 2027, subject to available funding. Establishes the Promising Futures Fund (Fund) within the State Treasury. Authorizes deposits to the Fund through: (1) any amounts credited to the Fund through the state sales tax on certain money transfers established through Senate Bill 2166/House Bill 2502, herein referred to as SB 2166 (2026), should it be enacted; (2) appropriations by the General Assembly; (3) any federal funds, grants, gifts, or donations; and (4) any other moneys authorized by law to be deposited into the Fund. Requires the Fund to be used to establish and operate the Child Care Workforce Scholarship Pilot Program, CareShare Tennessee Pilot Program, and the Smart Steps Plus Program. Allocates moneys from the Fund over the three-year period the programs are open as follows: \$5,000,000 to the Child Care Workforce Scholarship Pilot Program; \$5,000,000 to the CareShare Tennessee Pilot Program; and any remaining funds to the Smart Steps Plus Program. Requires DHS to annually evaluate and report on each of the pilot programs. Requires such reports to be independently verified by the Comptroller of the Treasury's (COT's) Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) or by an independent entity selected by the COT. Requires, by March 31 immediately following a year for which one or more of the programs operated in the state, DHS to submit the reports to the Governor, the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the Chairs of the Finance, Ways and Means Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Authorizes DHS, subject to the approval of the Governor, to continue or expand the programs beyond the three-year period. Effective upon becoming a law for the purposes of promulgating rules and the procurement and selection of a third-party administrator and marketing and outreach vendors. Effective January 1, 2027, for all other purposes. Senate amendment 2 (018471) adds that subject to available funding the department shall administer a Smart Steps Plus program to provide child care scholarships on a sliding scale basis, after application of any federal or state child care assistance including any federal temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) funds set aside to be transferred to the child care and development fund (CCDF), for which the child or family is otherwise eligible to receive.