

Legislative Update – Week of March 29, 2021

Peak Performance

The coffers are full of stimulus money and the cupboards are now empty of bills. With the call for last calendars in all but the largest committees. This means that more than one thousand bills are set to be heard in committee next week. The legislators will debate good and bad ideas as the finance committees prepare to receive both before the final budget amendment is submitted in less than a month. No announcements of possible adjournment dates have been made at this point.

Updates

[HB 155 SB 244](#) The bill seeking to add and education influence on community economic and development boards has been amended to give them input but not a seat on the boards and the State Chamber is now neutral.

[HB 562 SB 196](#) The bill states that once the current landfills were full there would be no or very few landfills in Tennessee and waste would have to be shipped out of state. The bill has died.

[SB 608 HB1011](#) Adds 15 days to the current six-month extension of time in which taxpayers can file a franchise and excise tax has passed committee and is heading to the floor in both chambers.

[SB 681 HB 241](#) Allows restaurants and bars to continue to do curbside alcoholic drinks to go. It has advanced out of subcommittee but continues to face an uphill climb.

Items to Watch this Week

Business Restrictions

[SB 1554 HB 1467](#) (Bell/ Garrett)

Data Privacy- The bill seeks to implement a regulations scheme to any business that profits from data collected from its customers. The bill, which was filed as a caption currently has over sixty business associations and individual companies opposing it. A new amendment is expected this week to be model after data privacy legislation currently filed in Florida and Virginia. If passed Tennessee would be one of only a handful of states with state data regulation.

The bill is set to be heard on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and can be seen [here](#).

[SB 1359 HB 1330](#) (Campbell/ Harris)

This bill would prohibit an employer from taking any adverse action against an employee or prospective employee who drug test positive for marijuana.

You can watch this bill in Senate Commerce on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. [here](#).

Workforce Development

[HB 768 SB 749](#) (Lamberth/ Johnson)

This bill creates the quality childcare rating system for childcare facilities in the state as well as makes it easier for quality childcare centers to be licensed in the state while at the same time maintaining quality standards. The bill is supported with new positions in the Governor's budget that will expedite and help process childcare applications.

This bill will be heard in House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tuesday and can be seen [here](#).

Building Materials

[HB 749 SB 631](#) (Boyd/ Bell)

Brought by the Tennessee Safe Building Materials and Construction coalition to promote free market principles prohibits a local government from banning safe materials. Allows those governments to continue to make rules around community aesthetics but those rules must be made in a meeting in which they are announced and an agenda item or in a meeting by themselves in which the public has an opportunity for input.

This bill will be heard Wednesday in House Business and Utilities Subcommittee and can be seen [here](#).

Taxes

[SB 775 HB 776](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

The bill has a proposed amendment that would make some state level relief afforded to Tennessee by the federal government tax deductible. The amendment proposed by the state chamber and other would provide for more than twenty million dollars in deductions for business that received monies from state relief programs that were not deductible in the same manner PPP loans were.

You can watch this bill in Senate Finance Ways and Means on Tuesday at 8:30 am [here](#).