

### **Personal Liberty at the Heart of the Debate**

The legislature is debating a slew of bills that center on a person's right to wear a mask or to get a vaccination. This has been particularly poignant when determining who can make regulations around a pandemic and what a private business can require of its employee and customers when entering its premises. This week that played out in the defeat of [HB 0010](#) ( Reedy/Pody). This bill as presented would have prohibited a private business from requiring customers or employees from getting an immunization or wearing a medical device, like a facemask, while on their property.

The Governor's amended budget is expected in the next two weeks.

### **Items to Watch this Week**

#### ***TANIF Funds***

[HB137 SB144](#) (Hawk/Watson)

This is the leading bill to try to distribute the over \$750 million in reserve Tennessee Assistance for Needy Families funds that the Department of Human Resources. The bill proposes to set up a department and legislature run program that would issue grants to local governments, cities, counties, and non-profits to promote improving education, health and economic outcomes for children that qualify and the adults in their lives.

You can watch the bill in House Health Subcommittee Tuesday at 12:00 pm [here](#).

#### ***COVID Regulation***

[HB 37](#) [SB 467](#) (Ogles/Rose)

This bill prohibits governmental entities and officials from mandating or limiting the number of persons who may congregate in a residence, or in a church if the number of congregants complies with occupancy limits applicable to the church. by both the Nashville Area Chamber and the State Chamber as overly burdensome on small business.

The bill is being heard in Public Service Subcommittee on Wednesday at 9:00 am and can be watched [here](#).

[HB1147 SB1308](#) (Grills/ Hensley)

This bill prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to receive an immunization or vaccination for COVID-19 against the will of the employee as a condition of maintaining employment; prohibits the employer from taking adverse action against an employee refusing such immunization or vaccination.

This bill will be heard in Banking and Consumer Affairs on Wednesday at 9:00 am [here](#).

#### ***Unemployment***

[SB416 HB564](#) (Yarbro/ Dixie)

This bill it removes the requirement that a claimant for unemployment benefits be determined and certified as eligible for the three consecutive weeks following the initial waiting period

The bill is being head in Senate Commerce on Tuesday at 1:00 pm an can be heard [here](#).