

Legislative Update – Week of May 15, 2021

112th Heads Home.

Session is over. The Legislators will return home this week after a marathon session that saw the first part of the 112th General Assembly end late last Wednesday night. The legislators worked through more than 1,600 bills and more than 700 resolutions filed this session in a little under four months while using 34 of the constitutionally 90 days allotted. While the legislators did significantly rewrite the governor's budget proposal, they have adjourned without addressing the spending of the American Recovery Plan funds expected to start coming into the state on May 11th. They also did not have the opportunity to look at redistricting after the 2020 census. The county level numbers from the census are not expected till at least the end of August.

Updates

[SB 915 HB 1072](#) (Kelsey/ Curcio)

The bill as originally filed said that if the state appealed any injunction that injunction was automatically stayed until a ruling from the Supreme Court. After much debate, the bill was amended to give the state a right to an interlocutory (during trial) appeal when a chancery, general session or circuit court places an injunction on a state action.

[SB 1552 HB 1522](#) (Bailey/Sexton)

This bill will wind down the TNVestco state entity created by the Tennessee Small Business Investment Company Credit Act by December 31, 2024.

[SB 852 HB 484](#)

(Haile/ Terry)

This bill creates the state's first Medical Marijuana Commission in Tennessee tasked with making recommendations for treatments with medical marijuana when it is rescheduled. The bill requires the Commission to consider the development of a recommended standard of care which includes qualifying medical conditions, treatment methods, all patient medical history, alternative modalities, dosing recommendations and drug interactions and contraindications related to medical use of cannabis. Further it requires that anyone licensed to dispense medical cannabis, must consider and adopt a policy appropriate to the standard of care recommended by the Commission. The bill finally requires the Commission to appoint an Executive Director. Attaches the Commission to the Department of Health (DOH) for administrative purposes. Requires the Commission to include a strategy, with its recommendations for self-sufficiency, for repaying the General Fund for any appropriations it receives during establishment.

[SB 868 HB 1130](#) (Farmer/ Bell)

This bill creates a new special court of appeals consisting of three appellate court judges appointed by the governor and confirmed by the general assembly that would then stand on a statewide retention ballot. The judges would be appointed from existing trial judges. The court's original jurisdiction would be to hear cases against the state of Tennessee and any redistricting issues.