

The Calm Before the Storm

The first whole week of the 112th General Assembly has ended with about two hundred new bills filed. With more than one thousand fourteen hundred new bills expected, this is certainly a slow start and may indicate legislators wanting to get out early to introduce themselves to newly redrawn districts as quickly as possible. While redistricting continues to be the most substantial bill moving through the legislature, the state senate voted to send Sen. Katrina Robinson (D. Memphis) to trial in front of the whole senate and recommended her expulsion. The problem is expected to be held in the next two weeks.

Items of Interest

Data Privacy

[HB 1467 / SB 1554](#) (Garrett/ Bell), the bill touted as the Tennessee Data Privacy Act, is still being worked on after the sponsors met with stakeholders throughout the summer to get the account in a better posture. While the final language is still not released, the bill resembles the law recently implemented in Ohio.

COVID-19 Policy

[SB 1823/ HB1867](#) (Johnson/ Zachery)

Employers with a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy must grant medical exemptions to any person who provides a statement from a licensed healthcare practitioner acting within the practitioner's scope of practice. Grants religious exemptions to any person without requiring proof beyond the person's initial statement. Prohibits employers from taking longer than two business days to render a decision on the request or denying an exemption request without a written explanation. Prohibits employers from discharging or reducing compensation for persons granted an exemption

Items to Watch this Week

Redistricting

[SB780 / HB 1037](#) (Johnson/ C. Johnson) enacts the redistricting plans created by the redistricting committees led by the majority party. The bill continues to move through the legislature with some minor changes.

The bill is calendared on the House Floor on 1/24/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Transportation

[HB 1392/ SB 825](#) (Freeman/ Yarboro) The bill authorizes local governments to regulate transportation entertainment vehicles.

The bill is calendared for the House Transportation committee on 1/25/2022 and can be seen [here](#).