

## **Bills, Bills, Bills**

The bill filing deadline in the State House and State Senate has passed. Over the two-year session, close to two thousand nine-hundred bills have been filed, with about half of that number coming this year. Tennessee allows all bills filed in the first year of the session that did not pass or get defeated to be viable in the second year of the two-year session. This means that around one thousand five hundred proposed changes to the law are still in a position they can pass. The Governor also filed his administration's bills, and as expected, his focus is on education, criminal justice, and improving the state's infrastructure.

## **Items of Interest**

### *Administration bills*

[SB 2396/ HB 2143](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

This BEP bill will be used to rewrite the Basic Education Program.

[SB 2407/ HB 2154](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

This is the "Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022"; the bill requires each public school to maintain and post on the school's website a list of the materials in the school's library collection; requires each local board of education and public charter school governing body to adopt a policy to establish procedures for the development and review of school library collections.

### *Bill with international effect*

[SB 1993/ HB 2050](#) ( Watson/ Williams)

The bill would prohibit a public entity from entering into a contract with a company unless the agreement includes a written certification that the company is not currently engaged in, and will not for the duration of the contract engage in, a boycott of Israel; provides exemptions for contracts with a total value of less than \$250,000 and contractors with fewer than ten employees.

## **Items to Watch this Week**

### *Education*

[HB 1681/ SB 1770](#) (Cepicky/ Briggs)

The bill requires the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) to develop and administer a two-year pilot program beginning in the academic year 2022-2023 to award grants to students enrolled in non-credit workforce training programs, including pre-apprentice lineworker programs. Eligible institutions include any TBR community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) that offers a program that leads to an industry-validated certification. Outlines specific qualifications for student grant eligibility. Requires TBR to establish the amount of a grant awarded. Requires TBR to collect and analyze specific data throughout the pilot program and submit the outcome of such data to the Education Committee of the Senate and the Education Administration Committee and Education Instruction Committee of the House of Representatives no later than June 30, 2024.

The bill is calendared for the House Government Operations on 2/14/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[HB 2670/ SB 2290](#) (C. Sexton/ Bell)

The bill prohibits a public institution of higher education from taking specific actions with regard to divisive concepts and the ideologies or political viewpoints of students and employees; revises the duties of an institution's employees whose primary responsibilities include diversity; requires each institution to conduct a survey of its students and employees to assess the campus climate about the variety of thought and the respondents' comfort level in speaking freely on campus and to publish the results on the institution's website.

The bill is calendared for the House Higher Education subcommittee on 2/15/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[SB 2426/ HB 2176](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

The bill removes youth apprenticeships from being considered apprenticeships for the Tennessee Registered Apprenticeship Program Act, making them easier to obtain and certify.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Commerce Committee on 2/15/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

### *Telehealth*

[HB 2655/ SB2453](#) (Hawk/ Yager)

The bill extends the existing law regulating reimbursements for healthcare services provided during a telehealth encounter beyond April 1, 2022; tolls, for the duration of any state of emergency, the 16 months that a provider can offer telemedicine services to the patient without having an in-person encounter; permits a healthcare provider to provide medical services through telehealth if the service is not otherwise outside the provider's license.

The bill is calendared for the House Insurance subcommittee on 2/15/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

### *COVID-19 Liability*

[SB 2448/ HB 2671](#) (White/ Farmer)

The bill extends the COVID-19 liability protections to private businesses until 2023.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Judiciary committee on 2/15/2022 and can be seen [here](#).