

President's Day

President's day will create a short week for the legislature, but the week will not be short on the action as more than four hundred and ninety bills are scheduled to be heard in two days. The most anticipated bill of the next week will arrive on Wednesday. The Governor has set that date as to when expects to unveil his new Basic Education Program along with the weights and dollar amounts his department of Education and many subcommittees worked on leading up to the session.

Items of Interest

Administration bills

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

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

[SB 2395/ HB 2142](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

This bill creates June 19 also known as Juneteenth as a state holiday and day of special observance.

Items to Watch this Week

Health

[HB 1843/ SB 1846](#) (Terry / Watson)

The bill expands the definition of provider-based telemedicine to include HIPAA compliance audio-only conversations for the provision of healthcare services beyond behavioral health services when other means are unavailable. This definition would require a private insurance provider to cover this visit at the same rate as an in-person visit in this circumstance.

The bill is calendared for the House Health on 2/22/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Local Control

[HB 2130/ SB 2122](#) (Marsh/ Gardenhire)

The bill specifies the powers that the state funding board may exercise with respect to the local government investment pool, including establishing limits, restrictions, or conditions on the acceptance of money into and the withdrawal of money from the fund and other various powers; makes other related revisions to the administration of the local government investment pool.

The bill is calendared for the House Cities and Counties subcommittee on 2/22/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Workforce

[HB 1853/SB 1780](#) (Clark/ Lundbuerg)

Lowers the threshold for employers having to verify the work authorization status of new hires through E-Verify from those with 50 or more employees to those with 25 or more employees. Requires the office of employment verification assistance to offer, at no charge, E-Verify sign-ups and work authorization status checks for employers with less than 50 employees. Specifies that an employer is not in violation of the Tennessee Lawful Employment Act if the employer acts upon false results generated by the E-Verify program concerning an employee's work authorization status. Prohibits certain wrongful or retaliatory discharge or discrimination actions by employees who are not authorized to work in the US under federal immigration laws when the employer is unaware that the employee is not authorized to work in the US. Prohibits certain rehires.

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

[HB 2313/ SB 2298](#) (Griffey/ Pody)

Prohibits entities from requiring employees or applicants to participate in a training or orientation that promotes discriminatory concepts about race or sex. Violations permit an employee or applicant to bring a civil action and receive compensation.

The bill is calendared for the House Banking and Consumer subcommittee on 2/23/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

COVID-19 Liability

[SB 2448/ HB 2671](#) (Hulsey / Bowling)

Requires private businesses who require

COVID-19 vaccinations for a specific group of people to require COVID-19 vaccinations to all employees, irrespective of vaccination or booster status. Defines "private business" as a person, sole proprietorship, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, association, a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income tax, or other non-government entities engaged in business or commerce.

The bill is calendared for the House Banking and Consumer subcommittee on 2/23/2022 and can be seen [here](#).