

## **From Basic Education Plan to Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement**

The governor released his long-awaited draft of the new funding formula for Tennessee's public education system on Thursday. If passed, the governor's new funding framework, the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA), would overhaul and replace the current funding formula called the Basic Education Program (BEP). The BEP was introduced in 1992 and has seen only minor modifications in the last thirty years. However, experts across the state agree that a significant overhaul is needed. Governor Lee hopes to move from a system-based complex formula with slight transparency to a student-based procedure where the public can follow and hold school systems accountable for their education dollars.

### **Items of Interest**

#### *Administration bills*

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

This BEP bill will be used to rewrite the Basic Education Program. It includes \$250 million in new funds to cover teacher salaries and annual inflation costs and \$750 million additional to fund the new formula. Further, another \$750 million will be available in the next fiscal year to address infrastructure upgrades and move schools away from flood plains. We expect the bill to be heard the week of March 7.

#### *Diversity*

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

This bill died this week. It would have prohibited a private business from requiring an individual, employee, or applicant for employment to complete or participate in training, orientation, or any other instructional or informational program that promotes certain discriminatory concepts.

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

#### *COVID-19*

[HB 2117/ SB 2156](#) ( Ragan/ Hensley)

The bill requires employers mandating a medical procedure for their employees to provide a reasonable accommodation and exemption based on religious beliefs. Defines medical procedure as a drug, device, or biological product for which use is authorized by an emergency use authorization from the United States Food and drug administration and includes the COVID-19 vaccine.

The bill is calendared for the House Civil Justice subcommittee on 3/1/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[HB 2501 /SB 2474](#) (Rudd/ Bowling)

The bill prohibits employers or other specified places of public accommodation to discriminate or refuse service based on a person's COVID-19 vaccination status or possession of a vaccine passport. Violations can receive a fine of \$5,000.

The bill is calendared for the House Civil Justice subcommittee on 3/1/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

## *Gun Rights*

[HB 2770/ SB 2698](#) (Todd/ Bowling)

The bill declares that a person, private property, or private business that prohibits the possession of a firearm on the property by permitted firearm owners assumes absolute custodial responsibility for the safety and defense of those on the property without their gun. Adds liability to the property or entity for any injury, death, or compensable loss incurred by a permitted person on the property due to not having their firearm.

The bill is calendared for the House Civil Justice subcommittee on 3/1/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

## *Health*

[HB 2667/ SB 2550](#) (C. Sexton/ Jackson)

Authorizes the commissioner of health and the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services to allow specific rules to be waived for healthcare professionals, graduate students, and undergraduate upper respiratory care students for those persons to operate outside of standard licensure requirements during a healthcare staffing crisis. For example, it allows a graduate nurse to engage in the practice of practical nursing without a license under certain circumstances. Requires that out-of-scope tasks be performed in a licensed hospital or licensed behavioral healthcare facility. Allows the commissioner of health to determine whether a healthcare staffing crisis exists and requires notice be given to the governor and speakers of the senate and house of representatives.

The bill is calendared for the House Health subcommittee on 3/1/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

## *Higher Education*

[HB 2316/ SB 2153](#) (Ragan/ Hensley)

Prohibits males from participating in intercollegiate or intramural athletic teams or sports in higher education designated for females. Creates a cause of action in instances of violation of said policy by a public school if the violation deprives a student of an athletic opportunity or causes direct or indirect harm to the student.

The bill is calendared for the House Higher Education subcommittee on 3/1/2022 and can be seen [here](#).