

## **Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement**

This week, the main topic on Capitol Hill will be what is in and what is not in Governor Bill Lee's new funding formula. The formula called the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement or TISA is set to have multiple hearings in both the House and Senate before they move to close their education committees for the year. The funding formula will look very different when it finishes going through the process than it does now. Passage of the bill is difficult because it must pass multiple committees in both the House and the Senate. Still, it must also survive the scrutiny of all the elected members on the floor of both chambers, which will be asking what is in it for their constituents. Publically main parts of the formula have been lauded, but inside the chambers, many questions remain.

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

#### *Education*

[SB 2021/ HB 2092](#) (Lundberg/ White)

The bill requires that a school district with ten or more priority schools be termed a high priority school district. The bill further requires the state to put in an oversight committee to receive a corrective action plan from the district's mayor to remove it from high priority status. If the district were to remain in high priority status, the district's school board would roll from elected to appointed under the mayor of that district. If the district had less than ten high-priority schools, it would return to an elected school board.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Education committee on 3/16/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

#### *Taxes*

[HB 815/ SB 884](#) (Gant/ Stevens)

The bill would repeal the professional privilege tax in full.

The bill is calendared for a special House Finance Ways and Means committee yet to be scheduled.

#### *Healthcare*

[HB 2452/ SB2151](#) (Weaver / Hensley)

This bill creates an unlawful discriminatory practice for an individual or other governmental entity to withhold or deny service, insurance, or benefits based on vaccination status. Further extends to the hiring process; an employer may not refuse an employee a position based on any vaccination status. Finally, prohibits segregation within places of public accommodation based on any vaccination status.

The bill is calendared for the House Civil Justice subcommittee on 3/14/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[HB 2661/ SB 2548](#) (Sexton/ McNalley)

The bill seeks to change the way pharmacies interact with pharmacy benefit managers and insurance entities. It will increase from three to four business days the amount of time a pharmacy benefits manager or covered entity has to adjust the maximum allowable cost of a drug or medical product or device to which the full acceptable cost applies for all similar pharmacies in the network for claims submitted in the next payment cycle after an appealing pharmacy's appeal is determined to be valid by the pharmacy benefits manager or covered entity.

*COVID 19*

[HB 1871/ SB 1982](#) (Hulseley / Hensley)

The bill prohibits a governmental entity, LEA, or school from adopting or enforcing a statute, ordinance, rule, policy, or practice arising from COVID-19 that fails to recognize natural immunity as providing a level of immune protection least as protective as a COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, it prohibits a private business from adopting or enforcing a rule, policy, procedure, or practice arising from COVID-19 that fails to recognize natural immunity to COVID-19.

The bill is calendared for the House Commerce Committee on 3/15/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Employment Law

[SB 2538/ HB2598](#) ( Yarboro/ McKenzie)

The bill prohibits a person, firm, corporation, or association to discharge a person from employment due to the payment or failure to pay due, fees, or other charges to a labor union or employee organization. Provides that an employee is not required to become a union member. Stipulates that right to work provisions do not prohibit an employer and a labor union or employee organization, acting as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of the employer's employees or of a group of those employees but not public employees, to negotiate and enforce an agency-fee provision in a collective bargaining agreement.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Commerce Committee on 3/15/2022 and can be seen [here](#).