

Closing Time, Last Calendars!

With the announcement of the final calendars in most committees in the House and Senate, the legislature looks toward an early adjournment. With primary elections almost six months away and many legislators needing to introduce themselves to some new constituents, there is a feeling of urgency at the capitol. The call for the last calendar does not harken an immediate closure of the committee or the legislature's adjournment, but it does mean that all of the bills set to be heard must be scheduled for a hearing. This means we finally have an idea of what is left to look at before seeing the Governor's Budget Amendment.

Items to Watch this Week

Education

[HB 2153/ SB 2406](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide computer science courses, including online options, in which public school students across the state may enroll at no charge by the start of the 2023-24 school year. Requires DOE to provide a computer science education professional development program at no cost to educators that results in an endorsement for computer science education. Further, the bill establishes specific computer science requirements for kindergarten through twelve (K-12) students. Requires DOE to recommend specific academic standards for computer science education for students in grades K-12 to the State Board of Education (SBE). Finally, the bill requires schools to implement computer science standards beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

The bill is calendared for the House Education Instruction subcommittee on 3/9/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Transportation

[HB 2278/ SB 2602](#) (Powell/ Campbell)

The bill, as amended, states that a TACIR is required to prepare a report on proposed intercity passenger rail funded by the state in the past ten years. Requires that the information should include data from at least three state departments that have or are in the process of attempting to build a passenger rail service, stakeholders, costs, ridership estimates, and other relevant information that may occur in the building process. Requires that reports be delivered to transportation chairs in the house, senate, and the legislative librarian.

The bill is calendared for the House Property and Planning subcommittee on 3/8/2022 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 3/8/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Healthcare

[HB2641/ SB 2532](#) (Terry/ Haile)

The bill establishes a medical cannabis program under the purview of the medical cannabis commission. Further, the bill establishes a patient registry for qualified patients. Specifies that the patient registry must be accessible to law enforcement agencies and qualified physicians to verify the authorization of an eligible patient or a designated caregiver to possess medical cannabis. Specifies that a qualified patient or designated caregiver in actual possession of a qualified patient identification card or designated caregiver identification card shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty for the medical use of cannabis if the eligible patient or designated caregiver possesses an amount of cannabis less than or equal to the following three grams of concentrated product or 3,000 milligrams of infused products. Redefines the term "marijuana" to exclude consequences containing less than 0.9 percent delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol

The bill is calendared for the House Health subcommittee on 3/8/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

COVID 19

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

The 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 vaccination status. Prohibits segregation within places of public accommodation based on vaccination status.

The bill is calendared for the House Civil Justice subcommittee on 3/8/2022 and can be seen [here](#).