

Legislative Update – Week of April 11, 2022

Elections in April?

It is around this time in April when the filing deadline for election petitions produces early election results in an average year. In Tennessee, if you do not draw an opponent or, in many instances, not draw a primary opponent, you have won reelection. Such is the case for thirty-seven Republicans and twelve democrats across the state's ninety-nine newly minted house districts. The senate, however, cannot celebrate quite yet. A three-judge panel ruled last week that the senate must redraw its maps as the maps that passed do not meet the letter of the constitution. The Attorney General has appealed the decision and requested an expedited hearing from the State's Supreme Court. More than any bill, this outcome has the potential to keep the legislature in session until at least May.

Items to Watch this Week

Education

[HB 2193/ SB 2396](#) (Lamberth/ Johnson)

This bill is the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement Act. The Governor's funding proposal to replace the Basic Education Program. The bill currently has a competing version in the House and Senate. The bill has now moved out of both Education Committees and proceeded toward the floor in both chambers.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Finance Ways and Means on 4/12/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Firearms

[SB 890/ HB 1018](#) (Massey / Halford)

This bill requires an applicant for a renewal of a concealed handgun carry permit (CHCP) to pay a \$50 fee. Further, the bill requires the Department of Safety to conduct a name-based criminal history record check every four years after a person is issued a CHCP.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Finance Ways and Means on 4/12/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Grants

[SB 2342/ HB 2384](#) (Yager / Gant)

Authorizes the state treasurer to develop, implement, and administer a program to award grants to eligible employers to fund a length of the service award program.

The bill is calendared for the Senate Finance Ways and Means on 4/12/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Campaign Finance Reform

[HB 1201/ SB 1005](#) (C. Sexton/ McNally)

The bill deletes political action committee donations restrictions ten days before an election. Widens campaign finance reporting regulations by removing maximum and minimum dollar amounts from the requirements. Removes automatic campaign finance audit for un-itemized contributions over \$5,000 that are at least 30 percent of the campaign's contributions after January 16, 2022. The bill prohibits the mixing of the campaign and other funds. The bill establishes that tax-exempt organizations under the United States Internal Revenue Service Code § 501(c)(4) are deemed political campaign committees if they spend at least \$5,000 on political campaigns within 60 days of a primary or general election. The bill adds to the appointment process to the registry of election finance. The speaker of each chamber appoints two members, one in consultation with the majority caucus and one in consultation with the minority caucus. Further, the bill adds regulations for members of the general assembly contracting to do campaign services and adds required language to disclosure statements.

The bill is calendared for the House Local Government Committee on 4/12/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Property Rights

[HB 2536/ SB 2573](#) (Alexander/ Crowe)

The bill allows owners of real property used primarily for agricultural purposes who reside in territory previously by ordinance to petition the municipality to de-annex such property if it lies within 1 mile of existing municipal boundaries. Requires the city to determine debts owed within 30 days upon receiving the petition for de-annexation. Specifies where municipalities retain jurisdiction during the de-annexation process.

The bill is calendared for the House Local Government Committee on 4/12/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[HB 2435/ SB 2116](#) (Curcio/ Bell)

This bill requires that a public entity that enacts or enforces a new land use regulation that restricts or prohibits the uses of a parcel of the private property provide compensation to the private property owner if that restriction has caused a loss of at least 10% in fair market value. Further, the bill allows a private property owner to demand compensation by written notice by certified mail to the chief executive officer of the public entity. It must include a written appraisal or other evidence of a loss in market value. Thus requiring the public entity to remove the regulation, provide compensation, or deny the payment within 180 days of written notice. The bill would then give the owner a cause of action against the public entity in the local circuit court if the entity continues to enforce the regulation or denies compensation after the 180 days of written notice.

The bill is calendared for the House Civil Justice Committee on 4/13/2022 and can be seen [here](#).