

The budget is coming; the budget is coming!

The budget will be heard this week in the Finance Committees of both the House and Senate. This year's budget is the largest in the state's history, coming in at a proposed \$52.5 billion, one of the most significant single-year increases in spending in the state's history, totaling more than \$8.9 billion in new spending. Passing a balanced budget is the only constitutional requirement of the convening of the regular General Assembly. Therefore, many legislators get anxious to get home with campaigns on the horizon once a budget is passed. The Midstate will see twenty contested house seats and four contested senate seats. With the skullduggery clause of Tennessee law being triggered by Sen. Gilmore's retirement after qualification for an election, that seat will remain open for another week. Hence, challengers have a chance to qualify.

Items to Watch this Week

Finance

[SB 2882/ HB 2897](#) (Lamberth/ Johnson)

This bill is the budget document for the next fiscal year.

The bill is calendared for the House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee on 4/19/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[SB 2886/ HB 2901](#) (Lamberth/ Johnson)

This bill is the bill that sets the state's ability to issue bonds.

The bill is calendared for the House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee on 4/19/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

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. Therefore, any changes or differences in the Senate and House versions would have to be reconciled in the TISA and the budget bills.

The bill is calendared for the House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee on 4/19/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Education

[HB2454/ SB 2292](#) (Weaver/ Bell)

The bill requires Local Education Agencies (LEA) to have obscene material filters on computers and creates a breach of contract if not alleviated in five business days for failure to update or acquire the technology. Further, the bill requires a provider of digital or online resources for a local education agency's (LEA's) or state agency's computers to provide safeguards against users accessing materials that are harmful to minors. Requires a provider to review and remove inappropriate material upon the request of an LEA. Finally, the bill authorizes a person to file a complaint with an LEA or state agency for violations of this section. Requires an LEA or state agency to review complaints and determine any necessary action.

The bill is calendared for the House Floor on 4/18/ 2022 and can be seen [here](#).

[HB 2294/ SB 2174](#) (Love/ Akbari)

The bill encourages each local education agency and public charter school to require students in each grade six through eight to complete a financial literacy course that is age and grade-appropriate. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Tennessee Financial Literacy Commission, to provide each LEA and public charter school with a variety of age and grade-appropriate resources that may be used to implement the financial literacy instruction

The bill is calendared for the House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee on 4/19/2022 and can be seen [here](#).

Transportation

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

The bill requires the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) to prepare report surveying projects initiated over the past ten years involving the new state-sponsored Amtrak intercity passenger rail. When it assembles such a report, the bill requires TACIR to collect data from at least three state departments of transportation that have successfully initiated or are initiating a new Amtrak intercity passenger rail service. In addition, the bill specifies additional information that must be included in such a report. Finally, upon the report's conclusion, TACIR must report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the appropriate legislative entities.

The bill is calendared for the House Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee on 4/19/2022 and can be seen [here](#).