

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WEEK OF JANUARY 16TH, 2023

Following last week's organizational session, the legislature remained largely quiet this week in preparation for Governor Bill Lee's Inaugural ceremonies this weekend. The House Finance Committee began departmental budget hearings this week, and bills continued to be filed by legislators in anticipation of the rapidly approaching filing deadlines. The legislature will convene this morning for a Joint Convention before Governor Lee's second inauguration. The House will not meet next week, but Senate Committees will briefly meet to address organizational matters.

INAUGURAL EVENTS

Friday, January 20

- Tennessee: Leading the Nation Reception
8:00 p.m. CT - Wildhorse Saloon, 120 2nd Avenue North

Saturday, January 21

- Inaugural Worship Service
8:30 a.m. CT - Ryman Auditorium, 116 5th Avenue North
- Inaugural Ceremony
11:00 a.m. CT - Legislative Plaza, Union & 6th Avenue
- First Couple's Inaugural Dinner
6:30 p.m. CT - Grand Hyatt Hotel Grand Hall, 1000 Broadway, *ticketed event*
- Inaugural Ball
8:00 p.m. CT - The Fisher Center, 2020 Belmont Boulevard, *ticketed event*

IMPORTANT DATES

House Bill Filing Deadline: January 31

Senate Bill Filing Deadline: February 2

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST

482 bills and resolutions have been filed.

Education

Pilot Program for Students Pursuing Quality Non-Degree Credentials

[SB283/HB307](#), sponsored by Sen. Joey Hensley and Rep. Scott Cepicky, would require the Tennessee Board of Regents to develop and administer a two-year pilot program to award grants to students pursuing a quality non-degree credential. Valuable data would also be collected and analyzed by TBR as a result of the pilot.

Promotion of 3rd Grade Students

[HB270](#), sponsored by Rep. Bryan Terry, would allow third graders to be promoted if he/she tests proficient in reading on each universal reading screener, even if the student does not test proficient on the English language arts (ELA) portion of the student's TCAP test. Additionally, an LEA would be able to file an appeal regarding the student's promotion, in addition to the student's parents. This legislation follows the much-discussed 3rd grade retention law that passed in 2021 under the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation Act. The law has faced recent scrutiny for its tighter requirements on third graders' promotion to fourth grade based on ELA testing results.

Assessments of High School Seniors Career Readiness

[SB198/HB250](#), sponsored by Sen. Jon Lundberg and Rep. Kirk Haston, seeks to provide students with more choices in identifying career pathways by requiring that LEAs provide additional opportunities to take nationally recognized assessments. These additional assessments would measure a broad range of foundational workplace skills, including applied mathematics, workplace documents, and graphic literacy, in an effort to align research-based skill requirements for specific occupations.