

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2023

### 113<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Begins

The legislature gavelled in Tuesday for the start of the 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The legislature uses the first two weeks of session as an organizational period. During this time, legislators are sworn in, constitutional officers are elected, legislative leadership is elected, committees are appointed, and both legislative bodies' rules are adopted. Much of the conversation in the halls of Cordell Hull Building revolves around the Governor's Transportation Modernization Act, the legislation dealing with the size of local legislative bodies, and a new public legislative dashboard to increase governmental transparency.

#### Constitutional Officers:

- Secretary of State, Tre Hargett
- State Treasurer, David Lillard
- Comptroller of the Treasury, Jason Mumpower

#### House of Representatives Leadership:

- Speaker of the House, Cameron Sexton (R-Crossville)
- Majority Leader, William Lamberth (R-Portland)
- Minority Leader, Karen Camper (D-Memphis)
- Republican Caucus Chair, Jeremy Faison (R-Cosby)
- Democratic Caucus Chair, John Ray Clemmons (D-Nashville)
- Republican Caucus Whip, Johnny Garrett (R-Goodlettsville)
- Speaker Pro Tempore, Pat Marsh (R-Shelbyville)

#### Senate Leadership:

- Lt. Governor, Randy McNally (R-Oak Ridge)
- Majority Leader, Jack Johnson (R-Franklin)
- Minority Leader, Raumesh Akbari (D-Memphis)
- Republican Caucus Chair, Ken Yager (R-Kingston)
- Democratic Caucus Chair, London Lamar (D-Memphis)

[Click here](#) to view the newly appointed House and Senate committees.

### Important Dates

#### Governor Lee's Inauguration

- January 21

#### Regular Session Resumes

- Senate: January 24
- House: January 30

#### Bill Filing Deadlines

- Senate: February 2
- House: January 31

## Legislative Items of Interest

312 bills and resolutions have been filed.

### **Reduction in Size of Local Legislative Bodies**

[SB87/HB48](#), sponsored by Rep. William Lamberth and Sen. Bo Watson, caps the number of members that may be elected to the governing body of a metropolitan or municipal government to 20 members.

This legislation is a long-anticipated bill to reduce the size of Metro Nashville Council from 40 members to 20 members. The legislation would allow the city to redraw its districts and determine whether it keeps at-large seats.

### **HOPE Scholarship Eligibility Extension**

[SB74/HB27](#), sponsored by Rep. William Lamberth and Sen. Bo Watson, would allow a student who earns their first baccalaureate degree in less than the projected completion time to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship. These efforts could potentially help meet workforce demands by creating incentives for students to graduate sooner and by upskilling students with additional degrees.

### **Remedial Education in Four-Year Higher Education Institutions**

[SB89/HB29](#), sponsored by Sen. Joey Hensley and Rep. Scott Cepicky, would allow four-year institutions to offer remedial courses to address student remedial needs. Current law prohibits these institutions of higher education from offering such courses.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Adequate Growth Determinations**

[HB93](#), sponsored by Rep. David Hawk, would shift the responsibility of determining adequate growth of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who previously scored not proficient in English Language Arts from TDOE to local education agencies. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency has been a much-discussed issue since the passage of legislation in 2021 that created stricter requirements for the promotion of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.