

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2023

The relative calm and quiet that lingered in the halls of Cordell Hull Building are likely to end next week, as committees of both chambers will be in full swing. The amount of filed bills and resolutions nearly doubled this week in anticipation of the bill-filing deadline. As a result, plenty of caption bills are expected to accommodate the January 31 deadline, which will result in more amendments during the active legislative session.

IMPORTANT DATES

Governor Bill Lee's State of the State Address

Tennessee State Capitol

February 6, 2023

6pm C.T.

Annual Governor's Address, hosted by Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

JW Marriott

March 6, 2023

8-9:30am C.T

[Register here](#)

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST

997 bills and resolutions have been filed.

Termination of Future Taxes for Nashville Convention Center

[SB648](#), sponsored by Sen. Jack Johnson, aims to end Nashville's authority to impose extra sales taxes in its tourist zone, use privilege tax funds to pay off convention center bonds or charge a \$2 tax on vehicles hired at the airport. In a statement to the *Tennessean*, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally said, "Nashville has been afforded certain tools for the express purpose of encouraging convention tourism to the city. Over the last year, Metro has made it clear they are no longer interested in aggressively recruiting top-tier conventions to Nashville. That message has been received loud and clear by the General Assembly."

Veteran Commercial Driver's Licenses

[SB105/HB88](#), sponsored by Sen. Bo Watson and Rep. Pat Marsh, seeks to ease testing requirements on veterans seeking a commercial driver's license. Veterans who have operated commercial motor vehicles with the United States armed forces, representative of the license class and endorsement for which the person is applying, may obtain a temporary commercial learner's permit with fewer tests. This legislation could potentially help bridge a gap between full-time military service and employment and could address the truck driver shortages employers currently face.

Promotion of Students from Kindergarten to 1st Grade

[SB712/HB670](#), sponsored by Sen. Joey Hensley and Rep. Scott Cepicky, would alter requirements for the promotion of kindergarten students to the first grade. The proposed law would prohibit promotion to the first grade unless the student is 7 years old on or before August 15 or is proficient in the kindergarten academic standards, as evidenced by a new first-grade entry assessment.