

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023

The legislature had a busy week on Capitol Hill as committees addressed major legislative items and departments presented their budgets. President's Day will create a short week for the legislature, but the week will not be short on the action due to the high volume of bills that are scheduled to be heard in two days.

To view next week's legislative calendar, [click here](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

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

Legislation Adds Liability for Businesses that Post Notices Prohibiting Firearms

As amended, [HB1158](#), sponsored by Rep. Chris Todd and Sen. Frank Niceley, adds liability for businesses that post signage prohibiting firearms. If a business has signage prohibiting firearms, and a person enters the property with a firearm, the business would be liable for claims or damages associated with the firearm. This is a newly established precedent that could subject businesses to additional litigation requirements. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Civil Justice Subcommittee on Tuesday.

Brownfield Investments

Governor Lee's administration brought legislation ([SB271/HB319](#)) to assist in the development of rural brownfields, which are abandoned properties impacted by real or perceived environmental contamination. The legislation would specifically establish a brownfield grant program, incentivize brownfield cleanup, and establish tax credits.

3rd Grade Reading Retention Meeting

The House Education Administration Committee will conduct a special 3rd grade retention meeting on Wednesday the 22nd. Find committee meeting information [here](#).

The committee will hear from a variety of interested parties, including the Tennessee Department of Education, the University of Tennessee Reading Research Center, former Mississippi State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carey Wright, and several school system superintendents from across the state.

Update: Transportation Modernization Act

[HB321/SB273](#), sponsored by Rep. William Lamberth and Sen. Jack Johnson, is the legislation that carries Governor Lee's Transportation Modernization Act language. The bill hearing has been postponed to 2/28 so that interested parties can contact TDOT and sponsors with questions.

Update: Appointments of Nashville International Airport Board

[HB1176/SB1326](#), sponsored by Rep. Johnny Garrett and Sen. Paul Bailey, adds the governor and speakers of the General Assembly as appointing authorities for board positions for the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority. This legislation is scheduled to be heard in House Transportation Subcommittee on 2/22.

Update: Appointments for Metropolitan Nashville Sports Authority

[HB1197/SB1335](#), sponsored by Rep. Ryan Williams and Sen. Paul Bailey, would reconstitute the Metropolitan Nashville Sports Authority and give state elected officials more control over the board composition. This legislation will be heard in House Cities and Counties Subcommittee on 2/22.