

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Legislation continues to move through committees, with some committee chairmen announcing that their last calendars will be taken up in the next two weeks. Departments and agencies continue to present their budget proposals to committees, and budget discussions will soon dominate conversations at Cordell Hull Building.

The House held its third-grade retention discussion meeting, with several stakeholders testifying to the committee about the impacts of the legislation that passed last year. Third-grade retention bills will be heard in committees beginning March 7.

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 23, 2023

8-9:30am CT

[Register here](#)

**Please note that the Governor's Address has been rescheduled from March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Update: Legislation Adding Liability for Businesses that Post Notices Prohibiting Firearms**

As amended, [HB1005](#), sponsored by Rep. Rusty Grills, 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 Committee on Wednesday.

**Tennessee Reconnect Grant Expansion**

[SB968/HB1114](#), sponsored by Sen. Bill Powers and Rep. Justin Lafferty, aims to expand the Tennessee Reconnect Grant to give eligibility to students who completed high school or obtained a GED® or HiSET® diploma during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year, and who are at least 21 years of age by January 1 of the academic year in which they enroll in an eligible program of study.

**State Incentives for Allowing Secret Ballot Union Elections**

[SB0650/HB1342](#), sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson and House Speaker Cameron Sexton, aims to make a business ineligible for Tennessee state subsidies if they recognize a union based on card check instead of secret ballot elections. The legislation also prohibits businesses from sharing workers'

contact information with a labor group without an employee's knowledge. This legislation passed out of the House Business & Utilities Subcommittee and is now scheduled to be heard in the House Commerce Committee on Tuesday.

**Update: Nonresident Alien Ownership of Land**

[HB40/SB1022](#), sponsored by Rep. Jay Reedy and Sen. Frank Nicely, as amended prohibits sanctioned foreign businesses, sanctioned foreign governments, and sanctioned foreign aliens from purchasing real property in this state. Before its amendment was attached in subcommittee, the bill would have prohibited a nonresident alien, a foreign business or foreign government from purchasing or acquiring real property in this state, if the laws of the country where the nonresident alien resides or the foreign business is located, prohibit citizens of the United States from purchasing real property located within that country. The legislation will be heard in the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday.

**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 will be heard in full House Transportation Committee on 2/28.

**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 3/1.

**Update: Appointments for Metropolitan Nashville Sporty 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 3/8.