

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK OF MARCH 13, 2023

Several committees in the Senate and House will hold their last meetings this week, and the Governor's budget amendment is expected to arrive the first week of April. As legislators aim to finish the legislative session by May, there are still several major legislative issues that are sure to dominate committee conversations, including bills to change the composition of several of Nashville's authority boards, legislation related to the possession of firearms, and compromises on abortion legislation.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

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

JW Marriott

March 23, 2023

8-9:30am CT

[Register here](#)

### UPDATES ON LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST:

#### **Elimination of Runoff Elections**

[HB1399/HB1527](#), sponsored by Rep. Jason Zachary and Sen. Brent Taylor, aimed to eliminate runoff elections across the state. This legislation would have had significant impacts on Davidson County election protocols, but the Chamber and its advocacy partners successfully delayed its consideration for passage.

*The legislation's consideration was delayed until 2024 in Senate State and Local Committee, ending its ability to impact elections this year.*

#### **Transportation Modernization Act**

[HB321/SB273](#), sponsored by Rep. William Lamberth and Sen. Jack Johnson, carries Governor Lee's Transportation Modernization Act language.

*This legislation is scheduled to be heard in the House Finance committee Tuesday and on the Senate floor Monday.*

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Governor's transportation plan.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Retention**

The 16 bills that were filed this year to address 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade retention have been compiled into one piece of legislation. [HB437/SB300](#), sponsored by Rep. Mark White and Sen. Jon Lundberg, would require LEAs to consider results from a second state-approved benchmark test if students score in at least the 50th percentile, in addition to TCAP scores. Additionally, students who score "approaching proficiency" will have enhanced opportunities to appeal their retention or receive extra tutoring.

*This bill will be heard in House Education Administration Committee and Senate Finance this week.*

### **Convention Center Revenues**

[SB648/HB1279](#), sponsored by Sen. Jack Johnson and Rep. Elaine Davis, originally aimed 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. Since its initial filing, the Comptroller's office has indicated that eliminating revenue streams for the convention center could have financial implications for the city and state. A new amendment is expected to accompany the bill in committee this week.

*The bill is scheduled to be heard in Senate State and Local Tuesday.*

### **Appointments of Nashville International Airport Authority**

[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. An amendment was adopted this week to allow for an 8-member board, comprised of 6 state-appointed members and 2 mayor-appointed members. Originally, the bill allowed for a 10-person board, comprised of 9 state-appointed members and the Nashville Mayor serving as a non-voting member.

*This legislation passed out of Senate Transportation last week and will be heard on the Senate floor next week. It will be heard in House Finance Subcommittee on Wednesday.*

### **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 would add state elected officials as appointing authorities for board positions. Details of the board composition will be revealed in an amendment this week.

*This legislation is scheduled to be heard in House Local Government and in Senate State and Local Committees Tuesday.*

### **Data Access for Workforce Development**

[SB461/HB902](#), sponsored by Sen. Bo Watson and Rep. Chris Hurt, would strengthen Tennessee's use of data to improve education and workforce outcomes. This legislation would codify the existing advisory committee for the state's longitudinal data system. It would also direct the department to create more actionable, timely information for employers, practitioners, policymakers, and the public about preparing students for work. We believe that this legislation will improve alignment between education programs and workforce development needs, so that all Tennesseans can thrive in our dynamic economy.

*This legislation will be heard in the House Higher Education Subcommittee on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.*