

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2023

Thank you all for attending the Chamber's Annual Governor's Address this week. We are grateful for the Governor's continued partnership in ensuring that Tennessee maintains its strong economy and business friendly environment.

The legislature seems poised to adjourn at the end of April, leaving budget-related conversations for the last month of the legislative session. Lt. Gov. Randy McNally overwhelmingly survived a vote of confidence amongst his republican colleagues in the Senate this week, so the upper chamber will not see any leadership changes this year.

UPDATES ON LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST

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.

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. Due to financial and legal concerns raised by the Comptroller's office, the legislation is expected to change from its original version.

The bill was originally scheduled to be heard in Senate State and Local last week but was delayed to this Tuesday. It has not been calendared in the House.

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. A new amendment would allow for an 8-member board, comprised of 6 state-appointed members and 2 mayor-appointed members.

This legislation will be heard on the Senate floor Monday. It will be heard in House Finance Committee on Tuesday.

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 legislation has been delayed in committee for several weeks but is again 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, will now be heard in 2024.

The bill sought to strengthen Tennessee's use of data to improve education and workforce outcomes by directing the department to create more actionable public information about preparing students for work.

Tennessee's Office of Evidence and Impact has committed to creating and releasing a relevant report this year. Chamber staff will forward you those documents when they become available later this year.