

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WEEK OF APRIL 10, 2023

Governor Bill Lee signed [Executive Order 100](#) this week aimed at strengthening background checks for gun purchases. The Governor also encouraged legislators to consider order of protection gun legislation to keep firearms out of the hands of potentially dangerous individuals.

Despite the calls from the Governor to consider legislation before the end of this legislative session, the legislature is working to adjourn by the end of this week. An adjournment this week would require the General Assembly to pass the state's budget early this week, in addition to determining the fate of the active legislation that has not yet passed this session.

Updates On Legislative Items of Interest

Convention Center Revenues

[SB648/HB1279](#), sponsored by Sen. Jack Johnson and Rep. Elaine Davis, requires that excess tax revenues can only be used for the following purposes:

- The prepayment or defeasance of debt services or other contractual obligations related to the facility
- The payment of capital expenses. If the capital expenses are expected to exceed \$25 million, then the expenses must be pre-approved by the commissioner of finance and administration
- The payment of operating expenses, including expenses for cleanliness, safety, and maintenance of the development

Additionally, debt must not be issued or refunded without express approval of the state funding board. The legislation also adds the state's constitutional officers as ex-officio members of the authority's board of directors.

The bill passed on the Senate Floor Thursday. It is scheduled to be heard in House Finance Subcommittee on 4/18.

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. As amended in the Senate, the authority would consist of an 8-member board, comprised of 6 state-appointed members and the Metro Nashville mayor would appoint two members. The House's version would give 9 board appointments to state leadership with Metro Nashville's mayor serving as an ex-officio member. In both versions, all board members must be Davidson County residents. *This legislation passed on the Senate floor and passed in House Finance Committee last week*

Appointments for Metropolitan Nashville Sporty Authority

[HB1197/SB1335](#), sponsored by Rep. Ryan Williams and Sen. Paul Bailey, vacates and reconstitutes the board of directors for the Metropolitan Sports Authority of Nashville, effective January 1, 2024. Nashville's mayor would appoint three members, the Governor would appoint four members, and both legislative speakers would appoint three members.

This legislation is scheduled to be heard 4/17 on the House floor and is waiting to be scheduled in the Senate.