

Legislative Express

Session 2026 | Issue 5

AMENDMENTS TO CAPTION BILLS – HERE THEY COME

Article II, Section 17 of the Tennessee Constitution requires every bill filed with the General Assembly to have a caption with a short description of the bill's subject and of the portions of Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) which are affected by the bill. Once a bill has been filed, no amendment can be made to the bill which is broader or not covered by the original caption of the bill.

As a result, some bills are filed with broad captions which list several titles or parts of TCA which are affected and a very general description of the subject of the bill. When a bill has a broad caption, it can be used by legislators to amend the bill at any time, often with little notice, to cover any topic or subject allowed by the caption. Hence, a "caption bill."

[SB2213/HB2381 – Written Requests to the Public Utility Commission for Cost Recovery of Innovative Natural Gas Infrastructure](#)

An amendment was filed earlier this week which significantly changes the subject of this bill. You can view the amendment here: [Amendment to SB2213-HB2381 - \(012964\)](#). This amendment appears to be a revisit of legislation passed in 2025 which addressed the timing, process, and other aspects of the approval of plans for new developments by electric, gas, water, and sewer utilities. The amendment addresses the following:

- The purchase of materials and services by a developer or its contractor for a new development
- Establishes new conditions and time limitations for utilities which customarily prepare their own plans and designs for new utility infrastructure for a new development, including a 60-day period to provide the developer with plans upon request
- Under specific circumstances allows a developer to hire a "third-party inspector" to inspect the installation of utility infrastructure for new developments rather than the utility doing the inspection
- Places a limitation on the fees a utility can charge a developer for the review of plans for new developments when the utility does not customarily prepare its own plans for new developments to no more than 5% of the proposed cost of the infrastructure project
- Creates a cause of action for developers against utilities which fail to meet certain deadlines in the amendment with daily non-compliance penalties and the award of court cost and attorney fees if the developer prevails

TAUD is already working with other utility associations and with the bill sponsors to try to minimize the impact of this amendment on its members.

Bills

SB 564 (HB 803) - Hearing before the board of certification for water and wastewater operators regarding a revocation.

[State Website](#)

M. Pody (R), R. Grills (R) | Government Regulation

SB 564: Feb. 19, 2026 - Senate deferred to 03/12/26.

HB 803: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

Increases, from 60 to 65, the number of days that a party to a hearing before the board of certification for water and wastewater operators regarding a revocation or an appeal of an order or assessment of a civil penalty by the commissioner of environment and conservation has to appeal the order or assessment. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7; Title 8; Title 9; Title 62, Chapter 2; Title 65; Title 68, Chapter 221 and Title 69, relative to utilities.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 11, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

Progress:  House | Referred to Subcommittee

AI Summary: The deadline for a specified utility-related action under Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-221-914(b) is extended from sixty to sixty-five days. The amendment exempts counties with populations between 247,700 and 247,800, based on the 2020 or subsequent federal census, from the act's provisions. The changes take effect immediately upon becoming law.

Priority:  High Position:  Oppose

Comments:

Don Scholes, 1/29/2026, 11:06 AM: An amendment has been filed to this bill which will allow the developer of a new subdivision to construct a wastewater system for a new development in accordance with TDEC guidelines and give the existing wastewater utility the first right of refusal to take over and operate the system upon completion. The amendment allows the developer to completely bypass the utility. TAUD is opposed to this bill with this amendment. The bill amendment appears to address new subdivisions to be served with decentralized wastewater systems with drip irrigation.

SB 795 (HB 1173) - Purchasing of goods and services by local governments without bid or quotations.

[State Website](#)

P. Bailey (R), R. Williams (R) | Government Contracts

SB 795: Feb. 02, 2026 - **Senate passed.**

HB 1173: Mar. 27, 2025 - Sponsor(s) Added.

Authorizes local governments to purchase goods and services directly, without bid or quotations, from vendors awarded general services administration schedule contracts at prices equal to the vendor's current general services administration schedule price.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 12, Chapter 3, relative to public purchases.

Legislative  Senate | Referred to Subcommittee

Progress:  House | Recommended By Full Committee

AI Summary: Definitions of "goods" are expanded to include improvements to real property, excluding the property itself, under Tennessee public purchasing laws. Local governments are authorized to purchase goods and services directly from federal General Services Administration (GSA) schedule contracts without bidding, provided prices do not exceed GSA contract prices and local terms may replace GSA terms. Restrictions on purchasing motor vehicles are specified, allowing exceptions only for special-purpose vehicles.

Comments:

Don Scholes, 1/29/2026, 11:14 AM: Adds to current law that local government is not required to meet terms and conditions of GSA contract for goods, but can only pay no more than price in

SB 1142 (HB 898) - Certificate of analysis for any water sold by the utility system that contains fluoride.

[State Website](#)

R. Crowe (R), C. Todd (R) | Utilities

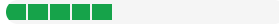
SB 1142: Mar. 31, 2025 - Rcvd. from S., held on H. desk.

HB 898: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

Requires each utility system to obtain a certificate of analysis for any water sold by the utility system that contains fluoride, and to post the certificate and the material safety data sheet for fluoride online.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 36; Title 7, Chapter 82 and Title 68, Chapter 221, relative to fluoride in water.

Legislative  Senate | Passed

Progress:  House | Feb. 17, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

AI Summary: Requirements are imposed on utility systems in Tennessee to obtain and publicly post a certificate of analysis and material safety data sheet for any fluoride in water sold. The information must be posted on the utility system's website or the board of utility regulation's website if the utility lacks its own site. The effective date for these provisions is set for July 1, 2026.

SB 1566 (HB 1500) - Humphreys County - Humphreys County Water Authority.

[State Website](#)

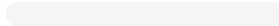
K. Roberts (R), J. Reedy (R) | Local Government

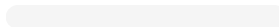
SB 1566: Jan. 14, 2026 - **Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Government Operations Committee**

HB 1500: Mar. 04, 2026 - House State & Local Government recommended. Sent to Calendar & Rules.

Local bill that creates the Humphreys County Water Authority.

Caption: AN ACT to create the Humphreys County Water Authority.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 07, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Jan. 12, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Humphreys County Water Authority is created as a public governmental body with powers to plan, acquire, operate, and finance water and wastewater systems within Humphreys County and surrounding areas. A board of commissioners is established with specified appointment and residency requirements, and the Authority is granted powers to issue bonds, notes, and refunding bonds, enter contracts, set rates, and exercise eminent domain for system development. Exclusive service areas are designated upon system acquisition, and the Authority's operations are exempt from state regulation and taxation, with financial and operational oversight provisions included.

SB 1575 - Published notice of public meeting.

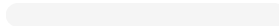
[State Website](#)

A. Lowe (R) | Government Regulation

Feb. 05, 2026 - Withdrawn in Senate.

As introduced, authorizes a governmental entity to publish notices of public meetings on a secure website of the governmental body. Authorizes a person to request an electronic or hard copy of an e-newsletter or notice published by the governmental body if the governmental body provides such documents electronically.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, relative to public meetings.

Legislative  Jan. 12, 2026: Filed

Progress:

AI Summary: Adequate notice of public meetings may be provided by publishing on a governmental body's secure internet website instead of traditional newspaper publication. A mechanism must be established for individuals to sign up to receive meeting notices and e-newsletters electronically or by regular mail. These provisions amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, under Senate Bill 1575.

bodies.

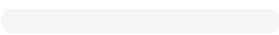
E. Jackson (R), R. Bricken (R) | Utilities

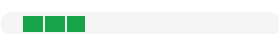
SB 1595: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 1673: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Commerce Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, makes various changes to laws regarding utilities, including the procedure for consolidation of utilities and continuing education requirements for members of utility governing bodies.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 34; Title 7, Chapter 82; Title 9, Chapter 21 and Title 68, Chapter 221, relative to utility regulation.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 12, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Feb. 18, 2026: Recommended By Subcommittee

AI Summary: Utility system consolidation procedures are revised to allow multi-county utility authorities to consolidate with specified public hearings and county mayor approvals. Continuing education requirements are imposed on utility system governing body members, including mandatory training hours, certification, and potential sanctions for noncompliance. Financial distress and merger protocols for utility systems are updated to enhance oversight, feasibility studies, and public input, with expanded authority for the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation to manage governance and financial stability.

SB 1600 - Requires certain data centers to register and report utility usage and rates to

[State Website](#)

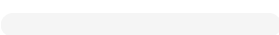
TPUC.

L. Lamar (D) | Utilities

Feb. 05, 2026 - Withdrawn in Senate.

As introduced, requires certain data centers to register with the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission; requires electric and water utilities that provide service to registered data centers to report usage and rates to the commission; requires the commission's executive director to compile and publish certain information based on reports received from utilities. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 10; Title 62; Title 65; Title 68 and Title 69, relative to data centers.

Legislative  Jan. 12, 2026: Filed

Progress:

AI Summary: Registration requirements are imposed on data centers in Tennessee with a power capacity exceeding 20 megawatts, mandating submission of operational and utility service information to the Tennessee Public Utility Commission starting January 1, 2027. Electric and water utilities are required to report monthly usage and service rates for these data centers, with the commission compiling and publishing this data publicly. Civil penalties and injunctive relief are authorized for noncompliance, and the commission is empowered to promulgate rules to implement these provisions under Senate Bill 1600.

Comments:

Don Scholes, 1/29/2026, 11:33 AM: As written, this bill requires water utilities providing water service to a data center to report usage to TPUC. If it moves forward, TAUD may seek to amend to require reporting usage to Comptroller rather than TPUC.

SB 1653 (HB 1456) - Increases the state's liability limits for damages in tort claims.

[State Website](#)

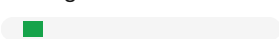
T. Gardenhire (R), G. Bulso (R) | Tort Liability

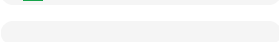
SB 1653: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate Judiciary Committee on Mar 9, 2026.

HB 1456: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Judiciary Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

Increases the amount for which the state may be liable for damages in causes of action arising in tort from \$300,000 per claimant to \$500,000 per claimant and from \$1 million per occurrence to \$1.5 million per occurrence.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 8 and Title 29, relative to damages.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 21, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Dec. 15, 2025: Filed

AI Summary: Damage caps for claims under Tennessee Code Annotated Title 9, Chapter 8, Section 9-8-307(e) are increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000 for individual claims and from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 for aggregate claims. The changes take effect on July 1, 2026.

SB 1657 (HB 1724) - Requires local approval of tipping fee for application of sludge from water treatment plants onto agricultural lands.

[State Website](#)

T. Gardenhire (R), R. Travis (R) | Local Government

SB 1657: Feb. 11, 2026 - **Taken off notice in Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.**

HB 1724: Jan. 22, 2026 - Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

As introduced, requires local approval of a tipping fee for application of sludge from water treatment plants onto agricultural lands, with proceeds earmarked for water treatment facilities, as a condition of such applications continuing in a locality. Places a moratorium on certain permits in jurisdictions that do not provide such local approval. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 1 - 3-105; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 13, Chapter 7; Title 43; Title 68 and Title 69, relative to waste from waste water facilities.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 21, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Jan. 22, 2026: Referred to Subcommittee

AI Summary: Authority is granted to counties, municipalities, and metropolitan governments in Tennessee to approve the application of sludge from wastewater treatment facilities to agricultural land within their jurisdictions by adopting a two-thirds vote resolution establishing a tipping fee per ton of sludge applied. The collected fees must be used exclusively for constructing and maintaining wastewater treatment or processing facilities in the respective jurisdiction. Permits for sludge application to agricultural land will only be issued or renewed if the land is located in a jurisdiction that has authorized such application, effective July 1, 2026.

SB 1679 (HB 1672) - Allows local governments to issue grant anticipation notes.

[State Website](#)

R. Crowe (R), R. Jones (R) | Local Government

SB 1679: Feb. 12, 2026 - **Senate passed.**

HB 1672: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, makes changes to the process by which local governments may issue and sell grant anticipation notes. Authorizes the comptroller to approve certain notes issued by a local government if the local government demonstrates that a natural disaster has caused economic distress.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 13, Part 2 and Title 9, Chapter 21, Part 7, relative to local government debt.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 12, 2026: Passed

Progress:  House | Feb. 11, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

AI Summary: Local governments are authorized to issue notes maturing beyond the fiscal year with approval from the comptroller and state funding board guarantees, especially in cases of economic distress caused by federally certified natural disasters. Interest-bearing grant anticipation notes may be issued for public works projects funded by state or federal grants, requiring comptroller approval and secured by grant funds, with optional additional security through general obligation or revenue pledges. Provisions allow local governments to levy ad valorem taxes to pay interest on these notes and permit issuance of capital outlay or bond anticipation notes alongside grant anticipation notes, provided proceeds are not used to pay the latter.

SB 1682 (HB 2061) - Requires certain data centers to register and report utility usage and rates to the TPUC.

[State Website](#)

L. Lamar (D), J. Jr (D) | Utilities

SB 1682: Mar. 03, 2026 - **Failed in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.**

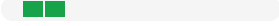
HB 2061: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Business and Utilities Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, requires certain data centers to register with the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission. Requires electric and water utilities that provide service to registered data centers to report usage and rates to the commission.

Requires the commission's executive director to compile and publish certain information based on reports received from utilities.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 10; Title 62; Title 65; Title 68 and Title 69, relative to data centers.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 21, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 04, 2026: Referred to House Business and Utilities Subcommittee

AI Summary: Data centers in Tennessee with power capacity over 20 MW are required to register with the Tennessee Public Utility Commission starting January 1, 2027, providing detailed operational and utility service information. Electric and water utilities must report monthly usage and service rates for registered data centers, with the commission publishing these reports publicly. Civil penalties and injunctive relief are authorized for noncompliance, and the commission is empowered to promulgate rules to implement these provisions under HB 2061/SB 1682.

SB 1689 (HB 1831) - Prohibits using or selling personal identifying information from government records for commercial purposes.

[State Website](#) 

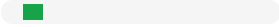
R. Briggs (R), L. Russell (R) | Media & Publishing

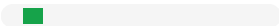
SB 1689: Feb. 05, 2026 - Withdrawn in Senate.

HB 1831: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Public Service Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, creates an offense for using or selling an individual's personal identifying information obtained from a governmental entity for commercial use, punishable as a Class B misdemeanor with a fine of \$500. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 10, Chapter 7, Part 5; Title 12; Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4; Title 39; Title 47, Chapter 18, Part 33; Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 8; Title 55, Chapter 25; Title 62, Chapter 36; Title 63, Chapter 10, Part 4; Title 66, Chapter 29, Part 1 and Title 68, Chapter 18, Part 2, relative to public records.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 21, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 02, 2026: Referred to Committee

AI Summary: Use of personal identifying information obtained from Tennessee governmental entities is restricted to non-commercial purposes unless the individual expressly authorizes commercial use. Persons requesting such information must present valid identification and sign an affidavit affirming the information will not be used or sold commercially. Violations are classified as Class B misdemeanors with a \$500 fine per offense.

SB 1713 (HB 1664) - Requires state and local entities to annually certify they have not used DEI preferences.

[State Website](#) 

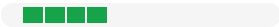
J. Johnson (R), A. Maberry (R) | State Government

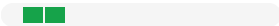
SB 1713: Mar. 03, 2026 - Senate State & Local Government recommended with amendment 1 (14163), which adds the chief executive head of a public institution of higher education's campuses subjects to the list of individuals who can submit the annual attestation of compliance that such entity has not implemented a discriminatory preference to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion. Sent to Calendar Committee.

HB 1664: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Departments and Agencies Subcommittee on Mar 10, 2026.

As introduced, requires the executive head of each state department or agency, local government, and public institution of higher education to submit an annual attestation to the comptroller of the treasury that such entity has not implemented a discriminatory preference to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 49, relative to discriminatory preferences.

Legislative  Senate | Mar. 03, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

Progress:  House | Jan. 21, 2026: Referred to House Departments and Agencies Subcommittee

AI Summary: Annual attestations of compliance with prohibitions on discriminatory preferences are required to be submitted by the executive heads of state departments, county governments, municipal governments, metropolitan governments, and public institutions of higher education to the Tennessee comptroller of the treasury starting January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter. The

SB 1720 (HB 1659) - Confidentiality of addresses on nominating petitions for the office of judge, chancellor or district attorney general.

[State Website](#)

F. Haile (R), J. Moon (R) | Media & Publishing

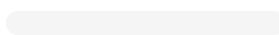
SB 1720: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 1659: Jan. 15, 2026 - Intro., P1C.

As introduced, makes the addresses on a nominating petition for the office of judge, chancellor, district attorney general, and public defender confidential; makes the application materials submitted by an individual when seeking employment with a governmental entity confidential.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2 and Title 10, Chapter 7, relative to public records.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 15, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Jan. 14, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Addresses on nominating petitions for judicial, chancellor, district attorney general, and public defender offices are made confidential and exempt from public inspection under Tennessee Code Annotated. Application materials submitted by individuals seeking employment with governmental entities are also exempted from public records disclosure. These provisions are enacted under HB 1659/SB 1720 in Tennessee.

SB 1769 (HB 1843) - Prohibits utility rate increases for customers aged 65 and older with an age verification process established by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.

[State Website](#)

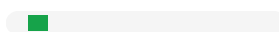
L. Lamar (D), L. Miller (D) | Utilities

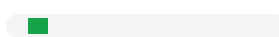
SB 1769: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 1843: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Business and Utilities Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, prohibits a utility that provides electric, water, wastewater, or natural gas services from increasing the rate charged to customers who are 65 years of age or older upon notice that the customer qualifies for such rate cap pursuant to an age verification process established by the Tennessee public utilities commission by rule. Requires notification to customers of the rate cap program within 90 days of a final rule. Authorizes TPUC to promulgate a rule to develop an age verification and notification process. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 7; Title 47, Chapter 18; Title 64; Title 65; Title 67 and Title 68, relative to utilities.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 22, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 02, 2026: Referred to Committee

AI Summary: A rate cap is imposed on electric, water, wastewater, and natural gas services for senior citizen customers aged 65 or older, effective January 1, 2027, provided they notify their utility through an age verification process established by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission. Utilities must notify all customers about the availability of this rate cap within 90 days of the commission's rule adoption, and noncompliance may result in sanctions and civil penalties payable to the commission. The commission is authorized to promulgate rules and enforce these provisions under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act.

SB 1771 (HB 1720) - Allows certain counties to restrict municipal or regional zoning authority beyond municipal boundaries.

[State Website](#)

A. Lowe (R), T. Hicks (R) | Local Government

SB 1771: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 1720: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, authorizes certain counties to adopt a resolution prohibiting a municipality or regional zoning commission from exercising zoning authority outside of the boundaries of the municipality. Specifies that bill is applicable to counties with a population of less than 341,500 according to the 2020 or a subsequent federal census. Also specifies that bill is not applicable to a county with a metropolitan form of government.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 13, relative to zoning outside of municipal boundaries.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 22, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 11, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

AI Summary: Zoning authority outside municipal boundaries is prohibited for municipalities and regional planning commissions in counties with populations under 341,500, excluding metropolitan counties, upon a county legislative body's majority vote. Existing zoning ordinances outside municipal limits become void and unenforceable following such a resolution, with provisions allowing interlocal agreements to manage ongoing development obligations. This restriction does not prevent counties and municipalities from entering lawful interlocal agreements.

SB 1792 - Rules for utility relocation cost reimbursement and mandates minimum

[State Website](#) 

reimbursement for high-cost projects.

S. Reeves (R) | Transportation General

Feb. 05, 2026 - Withdrawn in Senate.

As introduced, requires the commissioner of transportation to establish rules governing reimbursement of relocation costs to a utility. Requires reimbursement of at least \$2.5 million for projects with utility relocation costs exceeding \$2.5 million. Requires the department to approve a utility owner's plan to accomplish the proposed new location of utility facilities in highway rights-of-way if the proposal would effectuate the relocation at the lowest cost to the utility's ratepayers. Makes other related revisions. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 54, relative to utility relocation projects by the department of transportation.

Legislative  Jan. 20, 2026: Filed

Progress:

AI Summary: Senate Bill 1792 amends Tennessee Code Annotated to align the statutory definition of "utility" with existing Department of Transportation policy, explicitly including modern broadband and fiber optic infrastructure for relocation reimbursement. It establishes a statutory minimum reimbursement cap of \$2.5 million for utility relocation projects exceeding that amount, while granting the transportation commissioner discretion to authorize higher payments based on factors such as project complexity, utility impacts, and ratepayer protection. Rules are mandated to govern reimbursement procedures, promote financial prudence, and ensure equitable treatment of utilities and their customers during highway construction-related relocations.

SB 1810 (HB 1744) - Cash transactions if pennies are no longer produced.

[State Website](#) 

S. Reeves (R), C. Baum (R) | Commercial Law

SB 1810: Mar. 02, 2026 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

HB 1744: Feb. 23, 2026 - **House passed with amendment 1 (012839)** which authorizes a private entity, or its employees or contractors, engaged in business with the public and accepting cash payments for transactions, or a financial institution that provides currency in exchange for a payment instrument received, to round to the nearest nickel if exact change is unavailable. Specifies that rounding to the nearest nickel does not apply to electronic transactions or sales tax calculations.

As introduced, establishes requirements for entities engaged in business with the public in rounding a cash transaction to the nearest nickel if the penny is no longer in production. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9; Title 45; Title 47, Chapter 50; Title 47, Chapter 18 and Title 67, relative to cash transactions.

Legislative  Senate | Mar. 02, 2026: Engrossed Sent To Governor

Progress:  House | Feb. 11, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

AI Summary: Rounding of cash transactions to the nearest nickel is authorized in Tennessee when exact change is unavailable, with specific rounding rules based on the transaction's cent value. This applies to private entities and financial institutions handling cash payments, excludes electronic transactions, and requires exact sales tax calculation and remittance. HB 1744/SB 1810 modifies existing law to permit optional rounding under these conditions and clarifies that rounding does not affect tax obligations.

Amendment
Summary: House amendment 1 (012839) authorizes a private entity, or its employees or contractors, engaged in business with the public and accepting cash payments for transactions, or a financial institution that provides currency in exchange for a payment instrument received, to round to the nearest nickel if exact change is unavailable. Specifies that rounding to the nearest nickel does not apply to electronic transactions or sales tax calculations. Exempts rounding a cash transaction to the nearest nickel if the penny is no longer in production from claim eligibility under the Consumer Protection Act of 1977.

SB 1892 (HB 1928) - TDEC approval of proposed subdivision plans.

[State Website](#)

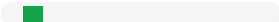
J. Bowling (R), R. Bricken (R) | Environment & Nature

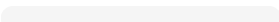
SB 1892: Feb. 02, 2026 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

HB 1928: Feb. 02, 2026 - Introduced in the House.

As introduced, requires proposed subdivision plans to be approved by a local planning commission or other agency authorized to approve such plans prior to their submission to the department of environment and conservation for approval rather than such plans being approved by the department first. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 13 and Title 68, Chapter 221, relative to permits.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Approval of proposed subdivisions is conditioned on local planning commission or authorized agency approval, and the Department of Environment and Conservation is required to update its website to allow upload of official subdivision approval documentation. Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-221-407 is amended to reflect these changes, effective July 1, 2026, applying to permit applications approved after that date.

Comments:

Don Scholes, 1/29/2026, 11:53 AM: This is probably a caption bill. As written, it appears to give the local planning commission the ability to approve water and wastewater infrastructure plans before the submission to TDEC. Poorly drafted is this is the intent. TAUD needs to oppose a written.

SB 1922 (HB 1705) - Requires state and local government employers to use E-Verify for new hires.

[State Website](#)

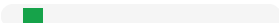
R. Briggs (R), T. Rudd (R) | Government Regulation

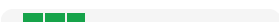
SB 1922: Feb. 02, 2026 - Referred to Senate Commerce and Labor.

HB 1705: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Commerce Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, beginning July 1, 2026, requires all state and local governmental employers to verify the work authorization status of each prospective employee through the federal E-Verify program prior to employment. Authorizes the attorney general and reporter to enforce compliance with the requirement against local governments and subjects a noncompliant local government to the withholding of all funds of this state allocated to the local government via grant, contract, or statute, including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 12 and Title 50, relative to employment.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Referred to Senate Commerce and Labor Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 18, 2026: Recommended By Subcommittee

AI Summary: Requirements are imposed on Tennessee state and local government employers to verify the work authorization status of all prospective employees using the federal E-Verify program starting July 1, 2026. Enforcement mechanisms authorize the attorney general to investigate violations and withhold state funds from local governments or local education agencies that fail to comply. Definitions of "employee," "employer," and "local government action" are clarified, and documentation of E-Verify results must be maintained throughout employment.

state and local public officials.

J. Yarbrow (D), S. Brooks (D) | Media & Publishing

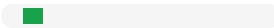
SB 1932: Feb. 02, 2026 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government.

HB 1862: Feb. 02, 2026 - Referred to House Public Service Subcommittee.

As introduced, requires that certain personally identifying information of elected state and local public officials be maintained confidentially with limited exceptions.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2 and Title 10, Chapter 7, relative to elected public officials.

Legislative Progress:  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Referred to Senate State and Local Government Committee

 House | Feb. 02, 2026: Referred to Committee

AI Summary: Personally identifying information of elected state and local public officials is made confidential and exempt from public inspection under Tennessee Code Annotated Section 10-7-504(f)(12), with required redaction wherever possible. Exceptions allow access by law enforcement, courts, governmental agencies performing official functions, and when the official consents to disclosure, without limiting access to currently open personnel records. This confidentiality provision takes effect July 1, 2026.

SB 1958 (HB 1971) - Limits the ability of individuals to seek court orders challenging the legality or constitutionality of state government actions.

[State Website](#)

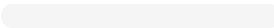
J. Stevens (R), A. Farmer (R) | Judiciary

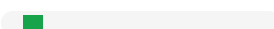
SB 1958: Feb. 17, 2026 - **Failed in Senate Judiciary.**

HB 1971: Mar. 04, 2026 - House Judiciary Committee deferred to 03/18/26.

As introduced, removes the right of a cause of action for any affected person who seeks declaratory and injunctive relief in any action brought regarding the legality or constitutionality of a state governmental action.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 3 and Title 49, relative to causes of action.

Legislative Progress:  Senate | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

 House | Feb. 04, 2026: Referred to Committee

AI Summary: Sovereign immunity is reaffirmed by repealing Tennessee Code Annotated Section 1-3-121 and limiting causes of action against the state and its officials. A new cause of action is established allowing affected persons to seek declaratory or injunctive relief solely against political subdivisions of Tennessee for governmental actions, excluding claims for damages or challenges to state statutes. Definitions of political subdivisions are clarified, and the act includes severability and immediate effective date provisions.

SB 1962 (HB 1983) - Limits hard water levels in public water systems.

[State Website](#)

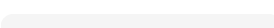
M. Pody (R), R. Grills (R) | Utilities

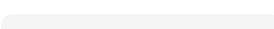
SB 1962: Mar. 05, 2026 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

HB 1983: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, establishes that public water systems have a maximum allowable hardwater level of 180 mg/L, measured as calcium carbonate equivalents. Creates compliance and reporting requirements. Exempts measurements that exceed the limit due to seasonal runoff in certain circumstances.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, Part 7, relative to hardwater standards.

Legislative Progress:  Senate | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

 House | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Maximum hardwater level standards of 180 mg/L as calcium carbonate equivalents are established for public water systems in Tennessee, effective July 1, 2026. Compliance is required for systems receiving state funds for upgrades costing \$25,000 or more, with exemptions allowed for seasonal runoff under specified notification and remediation conditions.

Priority: ●●● High Position: ● Oppose

SB 2022 (HB 2383) - Commissioner of TDOT to establish rules governing reimbursement of relocation costs to a utility. [State Website](#)

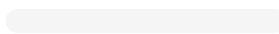
S. Reeves (R), K. Vaughan (R) | Transportation General

SB 2022: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate Transportation and Safety Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

HB 2383: Feb. 05, 2026 - Referred to House Transportation Subcommittee.

As introduced, requires the commissioner of transportation to establish rules governing reimbursement of relocation costs to a utility; requires reimbursement of at least \$2.5 million for projects with utility relocation costs exceeding \$2.5 million; requires the department to approve a utility owner's plan to accomplish the proposed new location of utility facilities in highway rights-of-way if the proposal would effectuate the relocation at the lowest cost to the utility and its ratepayers; makes other related revisions.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 54, relative to utility relocation projects.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Subcommittee

AI Summary: Utility relocation reimbursement policies are codified and expanded to explicitly include modern broadband and fiber optic infrastructure under HB 2383 (Tennessee). A statutory minimum reimbursement cap of \$2.5 million per project is established, with discretionary authority granted to the Commissioner to approve higher amounts based on factors such as project complexity, utility impacts, and ratepayer protection. Rules are mandated to govern reimbursement procedures, utility obligations, and dispute resolution, effective July 1, 2026.

SB 2057 (HB 2385) - Utility system providing waste water service. [State Website](#)

B. Taylor (R), K. Vaughan (R) | Utilities

SB 2057: Mar. 06, 2026 - Set for Senate Floor Consent on Mar 9, 2026.

HB 2385: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

As introduced, clarifies that a utility system providing waste water service must provide a connection to the owner of real property for waste water service when the utility system has an existing gravity sewer line located adjacent to the owner's property, not just where the utility system has an existing gravity sewer line on such property.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 35; Title 7, Chapter 82 and Title 68, Chapter 221, relative to sewer systems.

Legislative  Senate | Mar. 04, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

AI Summary: The definition of property eligibility for sewer system provisions is modified by specifying that the property must have an existing gravity sewer line located on or adjacent to the owner's property. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-82-710(a)(1), is amended to reflect this change. The act takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

SB 2127 (HB 2040) - Criminal offense of intentionally communicating a threat of harm to a public official or a member of official's family. [State Website](#)

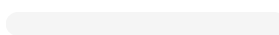
B. Taylor (R), A. Parkinson (D) | Criminal Law

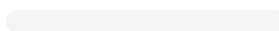
SB 2127: Feb. 03, 2026 - Withdrawn in Senate.

HB 2040: Feb. 02, 2026 - Withdrawn in House.

As introduced, creates the criminal offense of intentionally communicating a threat of harm to a public official or a member of the public official's immediate family; punishes a violation as a Class E felony.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, relative to threats against certain persons.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Jan. 23, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: An offense is created for intentionally communicating a threat of harm to a public official or their immediate family due to the official's capacity, punishable as a Class E felony. Definitions clarify "communicate," "immediate family," and "public official" consistent with existing statutes. The law takes effect July 1, 2026.

Comments:

Don Scholes, 1/23/2026, 12:14 PM: Only applies to elected officials.

SB 2147 (HB 2486) - Allows the Tennessee Duck River Development Agency to submit annual reports electronically. [State Website](#)

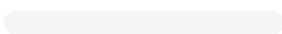
M. Pody (R), K. Haston (R) | Regional Authorities

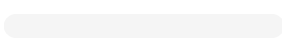
SB 2147: Feb. 19, 2026 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee

HB 2486: Feb. 05, 2026 - P2C, caption bill, held on desk - pending amdt.

As introduced, permits the board of directors of the Tennessee Duck River Development Agency to file annual reports electronically. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 14; Title 4, Chapter 31; Title 7; Title 13; Title 64; Title 66; Title 67 and Chapter 68 of the Private Acts of 2024, relative to development authorities.

Legislative  Senate | Jan. 23, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Feb. 03, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Electronic submission of annual reports by development authorities is authorized by amending Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 64-1-606. The change applies to reports required under Title 64 and related private acts of 2024. The amendment takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

Comments:

Don Scholes, 1/29/2026, 12:04 PM: This is a caption bill TAUD will track.

SB 2152 (HB 2024) - Makes changes to the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act. [State Website](#)

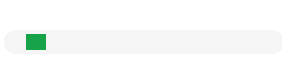
P. Walley (R), P. Marsh (R) | Utilities

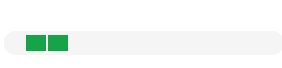
SB 2152: Mar. 03, 2026 - **Taken off notice in Senate State & Local Government.**

HB 2024: Feb. 04, 2026 - Referred to House Business & Utilities Subcommittee.

As introduced, increases, from 15 to 20, the number of calendar days that may pass from the actual date specified in the first notice after a person responsible for excavation or demolition has given the notice of the intent to excavate or demolish before the person is required to serve additional notice if the excavation or demolition has not yet been completed; makes other changes to the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65, Chapter 31, Part 1, relative to underground utility damage prevention.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Senate State and Local Government Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 04, 2026: Referred to House Business and Utilities Subcommittee

AI Summary: Underground utility damage prevention regulations are amended in Tennessee by extending the notification period from 15 to 20 calendar days and adding "dredging" to the definition of excavation activities. Digital locating is defined as applying visual indicators to digital imagery or electronic maps to mark underground utilities, and the requirement for electric white lining is replaced with a mandatory pre-excavation meeting between excavators and utility operators. The use of vacuum excavation is authorized for locating or protecting underground facilities after notification, and digital locating records are incorporated into facility record requirements.

SB 2162 (HB 2616) - Allows governing bodies to hold executive sessions to discuss employment of director-level staff. [State Website](#)

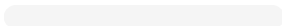
R. Briggs (R), T. Hill (R) | Public Employees

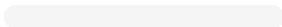
SB 2162: Feb. 02, 2026 - Filed for introduction

HB 2616: Feb. 03, 2026 - Filed for introduction

As introduced, authorizes governing bodies to conduct executive sessions for the purpose of considering employment and interviewing of director-level staff for such governing body.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, relative to executive sessions for consideration of employment by a governing body.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Feb. 03, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Executive sessions are authorized for governing bodies to interview director-level staff applicants without public notice, while decisions must be made in open meetings. Attendance is restricted to governing body members, relevant staff, and applicants, with minutes disclosing all attendees except applicants. Applicant materials remain confidential upon request unless the applicant is selected, in which case records may be subject to public disclosure under Tennessee law.

SB 2175 (HB 2205) - Gives priority to water system projects in rural counties for loan fund consideration.

[State Website](#) 

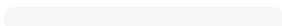
K. Yager (R), K. Keisling (R) | Environment & Nature

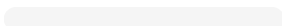
SB 2175: Mar. 05, 2026 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

HB 2205: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, requires the department of environment and conservation to add water system projects located in rural counties to the priority list for consideration for loans from the water system revolving loan fund.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, relative to water.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: A new subdivision is added to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-221-1205(c) to include water systems located in rural counties, defined as counties with populations under 57,000 based on the 2020 or subsequent federal census. The amendment expands regulatory provisions to specifically address rural counties. The act takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

SB 2191 (HB 2386) - Allows political subdivisions to share costs with developers for public infrastructure projects.

[State Website](#) 

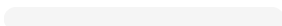
B. Taylor (R), K. Vaughan (R) | Utilities

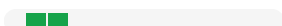
SB 2191: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 2386: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Cities and Counties Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, authorizes a political subdivision to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with a developer for the development of certain public infrastructure. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 13; Title 65 and Title 68, relative to infrastructure development.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Subcommittee

AI Summary: Cost-sharing arrangements are authorized between developers and political subdivisions in Tennessee for offsite public infrastructure improvements necessary to service private developments, with costs apportioned based on the development's impact or utilization. Political subdivisions must determine the need for such improvements within 60 days of a development approval request, and unresolved cost-sharing disputes may be referred to the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation for determination. Funding for the political subdivision's share may come from impact fees, bond proceeds, or unencumbered tax revenues.

Comments:

| Don Scholes, 2/5/2026, 5:01 PM: As written, this bill does not include utility districts or utility authorities.

SB 2199 (HB 1913) - Regulatory Freedom Act of 2026.

[State Website](#) 

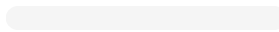
J. Johnson (R), C. Boyd (R) | Government Regulation

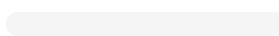
SB 2199: Feb. 02, 2026 - Filed for introduction

HB 1913: Feb. 02, 2026 - Introduced in the House.

As introduced, enacts the "Regulatory Freedom Act of 2026." Requires an agency holding a hearing as part of its rulemaking process to make a good faith effort to notify each trade association or organization operating in this state that represents the regulated community and that may be impacted by the new or amended rule at least 45 days prior to the public hearing for which there is a period of public comment regarding the new or amended rule. Specifies that the notice must be sent by electronic mail and must include a copy of the new or amended rule. Also specifies that the notice must request that the association or organization provide comments during any such period of public comment, or provide such comments directly to the agency, for the purpose of generating a fiscal impact statement. Defines "fiscal impact statement" to mean the estimate of the actual cost of compliance of a new or amended rule based on its projected and collective fiscal impact on the regulated industry, trade, business, or community, excluding speculative, anti-competitive, or hypothetical costs, and the assumptions and reasoning upon which the actual costs of compliance are based. Specifies other requirements for agencies in regard to fiscal impact statements. Makes other revisions related to public hearings by agencies.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5, relative to administrative rules.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

Progress:  House | Jan. 22, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Requirements are imposed on Tennessee state agencies to publish new or amended administrative rules prominently and notify relevant trade associations at least 45 days before public hearings. Fiscal impact statements estimating actual compliance costs must be generated after public comment periods, include feedback from affected industries, and be reviewed by the fiscal review committee if costs exceed specified thresholds, with rules exceeding \$1 million in impact requiring legislative approval. Provisions are added for annual reporting of fiscal impacts, repeal procedures for rules, and expiration or legislative approval processes for emergency rules with significant fiscal effects.

SB 2237 (HB 2552) - Local governments must respond to development applications within 30 days and formalize contract changes in writing. [State Website](#)

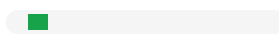
J. Johnson (R), W. Lamberth (R) | Local Government

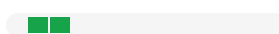
SB 2237: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 2552: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Cities and Counties Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, requires a local government to approve, deny, or identify deficiencies in a development application, development plan, or a site inspection submitted by a developer within 30 days. Requires changes in contracts between local governments and contractors or developers to be in writing; requires a local government to release a contractor or developer from its required bond within 30 days of receiving a determination from an independent inspector that the contractor or developer has completed all work required by the contract. Makes other related changes.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, relative to local governments.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Subcommittee

AI Summary: Local governments are required to approve or provide written deficiency reports for development applications within 30 business days, with applications deemed approved if no response is given. Contract modifications between local governments and developers or contractors must be mutually agreed upon in writing, and local governments must release bonds within 30 days following independent inspections confirming contract completion. Developers cannot be compelled to fund or build infrastructure not specified in their contracts, and the act applies prospectively from January 1, 2027, preserving existing contracts through December 31, 2026.

Comments:

Don Scholes, 2/5/2026, 5:07 PM: As written, this does not apply to utility districts or utility authorities

SB 2264 (HB 2073) - Defines certain government entities as employers of lobbyists when they hire contractors or representatives for lobbying purposes. [State Website](#)

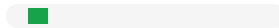
A. Lowe (R), L. Reeves (R) | Campaigns & Lobbying

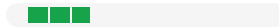
SB 2264: Feb. 05, 2026 - P2C, referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

HB 2073: Mar. 05, 2026 - Set for House State & Local Government Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, provides that a school board, municipal utility, utility district, and department, agency, or entity of county or municipal government that employs a contractor, subcontractor, or representative for purposes of lobbying is deemed to be an employer of a lobbyist. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2; Title 3 and Title 8, relative to lobbying.

Legislative Progress:  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Senate State and Local Government Committee

 House | Mar. 04, 2026: Recommended By Subcommittee

AI Summary: The definition of employer of a lobbyist in Tennessee Code Annotated § 3-6-301(15)(D) is amended to specify that when a state government department, agency, or entity employs a contractor, subcontractor, or representative to engage in lobbying, the department, agency, or entity is not considered the employer of the lobbyist. This change clarifies the scope of employer responsibility for lobbyists engaged by state government contractors. The amendment takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

SB 2313 (HB 2390) - Gibson County - utility district commissioners to serve more than two consecutive terms.

[State Website](#)

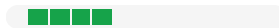
J. Stevens (R), B. Martin (R) | Local Government

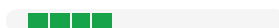
SB 2313: Feb. 26, 2026 - **Senate passed.**

HB 2390: Mar. 05, 2026 - Set for House Floor Consent on Mar 9, 2026.

As introduced, clarifies that commissioners for utility districts created pursuant to the Utility District Law of 1937 in Gibson County are not prohibited from serving more than two consecutive terms.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 82, Part 3, relative to utilities.

Legislative Progress:  Senate | Feb. 24, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

Progress:  House | Mar. 04, 2026: Recommended By Full Committee

AI Summary: Eligibility for serving more than two consecutive terms as a utility commissioner is expanded to include counties with populations within specific narrow ranges based on the 2020 federal census or any subsequent census. The population ranges specified are approximately 28,800 to 28,900, 42,700 to 42,800, and 50,400 to 50,500. This amendment to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 7-82-307(a)(2)(D) takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

SB 2334 (HB 2407) - Choosing project delivery method for qualified construction projects by local government.

[State Website](#)

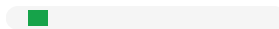
T. Gardenhire (R), R. Scarbrough (R) | Local Government

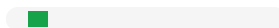
SB 2334: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for Senate State and Local Government Committee on Mar 10, 2026.

HB 2407: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Cities and Counties Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, authorizes a local government having revenues of at least 20 million dollars in the prior fiscal year to use any project delivery method that the local government determines most effectively meets the needs of the local government for the construction of qualified local projects.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 12, Chapter 3, Part 12, relative to construction project delivery methods.

Legislative Progress:  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

AI Summary: Local governments in Tennessee with revenues of at least \$20 million may select any construction project delivery method—construction manager at-risk, design-bid-build, or design-build—through a competitive proposal process authorized by local ordinances for qualified projects exceeding \$5 million. Definitions for project delivery methods and qualified local projects are established to clarify application. This authority overrides conflicting laws and applies to counties, municipalities, utility districts, local education agencies, and similar entities.

SB 2418 (HB 2069) - Requires attorney general approval of contingent fee contracts for legal services by local governments.

[State Website](#)

J. Stevens (R), C. Todd (R) | Government Contracts

SB 2418: Feb. 05, 2026 - P2C, referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 2069: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Cities and Counties Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, requires proposed contingent fee contracts for legal services between a political subdivision of this state and a private-sector attorney to be approved by the attorney general and reporter prior to execution of the contract. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7; Title 8 and Title 29, relative to lawsuits.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 04, 2026: Referred to House Cities and Counties Subcommittee

AI Summary: Contingent fee contracts for legal services by Tennessee political subdivisions are regulated by requiring public meetings with detailed disclosures, written findings justifying the contract, and approval by the attorney general and reporter before execution. Contracts must demonstrate a substantial need, inability to perform services internally or under hourly contracts, and be in the public interest, with the attorney general empowered to refuse approval or intervene in unauthorized cases. These provisions apply to contracts entered into or modified after July 1, 2026, under HB 2069/SB 2418.

SB 2450 (HB 2114) - Allows local governments to publish public notices online to meet legal requirements. [State Website](#)

B. Powers (R), J. Crawford (R) | Government Regulation

SB 2450: Feb. 05, 2026 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government.

HB 2114: Feb. 05, 2026 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

As introduced, permits local governments to meet certain public notice requirements by publishing notices electronically online. Broadly captioned.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 3 and Title 8, Chapter 44, relative to public notices.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Requirements are established for local governments in Tennessee to satisfy public notice publication by posting notices electronically online starting July 1, 2027, provided they pass an ordinance or resolution and adopt a policy ensuring accessibility, security, and legal compliance. Electronic public notice systems must offer free, barrier-free access and maintain standardized formats, archiving, and retention protocols, while third-party operators may charge reasonable fees for hosting. Notices mandated by law to appear in newspapers must continue to comply with existing publication requirements.

SB 2498 (HB 2492) - Requires the department of finance and administration to promulgate rules for cash transaction rounding. [State Website](#)

S. Kyle (D), J. Powell (D) | Taxes General

SB 2498: Feb. 24, 2026 - Referred to Senate Finance, Ways & Means Revenue Subcommittee

HB 2492: Feb. 05, 2026 - Referred to House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

As introduced, requires the department of finance and administration to promulgate rules relating to cash transaction rounding.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18 and Title 67, relative to cash transaction rounding.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 24, 2026: Referred to Subcommittee

Progress:  House | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Subcommittee

AI Summary: Cash transaction rounding to the nearest five cents is mandated, with rules prohibiting rounding practices that systematically favor sellers and requiring receipts to itemize subtotals, rounding adjustments, and total prices. The Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration is directed to promulgate and enforce these rules under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act using existing resources. Failure to comply with the cash transaction rounding rules is established as a violation under Tennessee Code Annotated Section 47-18-104(b).

Systems.

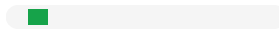
T. Hatcher (R), L. Russell (R) | Utilities

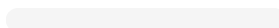
SB 2534: Mar. 05, 2026 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Mar 11, 2026.

HB 2164: Mar. 04, 2026 - Set for House Business and Utilities Subcommittee on Mar 11, 2026.

As introduced, permits a nonprofit property owners association that provides water and wastewater services exclusively to its members to elect regulation of those utility services by the Tennessee board of utility regulation.

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 82, Part 7 and Title 65, Chapter 4, Part 1, relative to utilities.

Legislative  Senate | Feb. 05, 2026: Referred to Committee

Progress:  House | Feb. 02, 2026: Filed

AI Summary: Jurisdiction of the Tennessee board of utility regulation is extended to include nonprofit utility systems created in 1985 that govern and maintain communities with at least 5,000 lots or units, provide water and wastewater services exclusively to members, fund some emergency services, and whose governing board has requested such jurisdiction. Tennessee Code Annotated Section 7-82-701(b)(4) is amended to add this provision. The act takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

HJR 726 - Supports rebuilding the Columbia Dam Project to ensure water supply for growth, development, and recreation.[State Website](#)

T. Warner (R) | Environment & Nature

Feb. 04, 2026 - Taken off notice in House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

Expresses support for the reconstruction of the Columbia Dam Project on the Duck River and recognizes it as a critical priority to establish an adequate water supply system for sustained growth, economic development, and recreational use.

Caption: A RESOLUTION supporting reconstruction of the Columbia Dam.

Legislative In Process

Progress:

AI Summary: Support is expressed for the reconstruction of the Columbia Dam on the Duck River in Tennessee to restore flood control, water supply, and recreational benefits lost after its demolition. The resolution emphasizes compliance with federal and state environmental and safety laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and Tennessee Safe Dams Act. The project is recognized as a critical priority to address water resource management, economic development, and population growth in Middle Tennessee.