

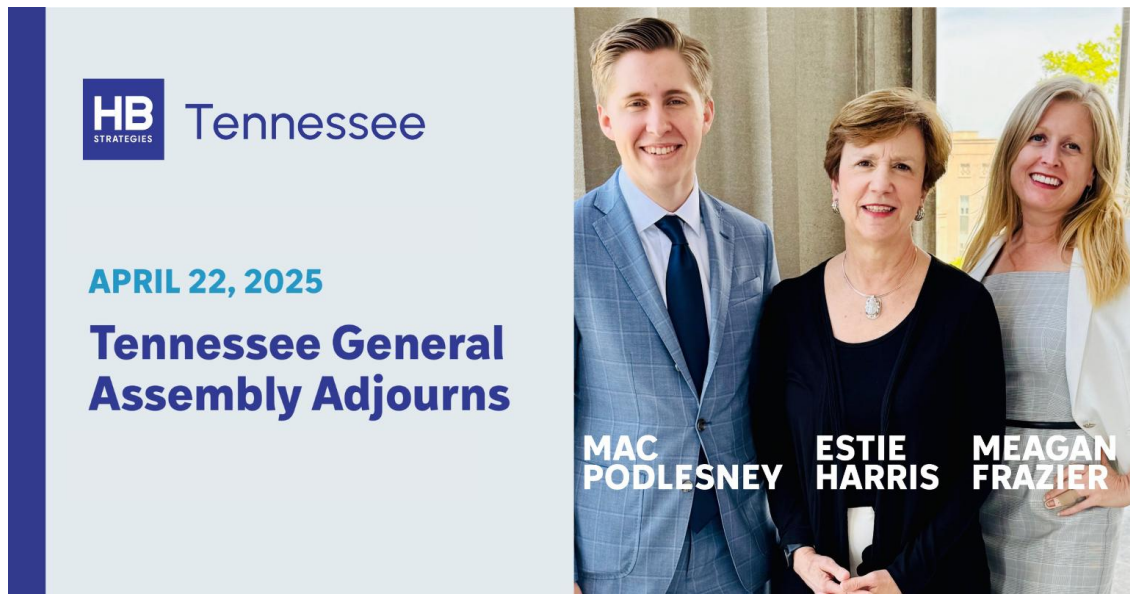
HB
STRATEGIES
Tennessee

NEWS

HB Tennessee
STRATEGIES

114TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

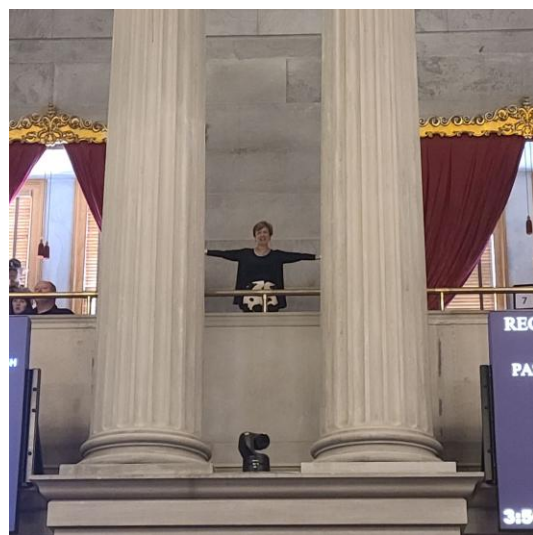
ADJOURNED



The gavel has fallen on the first half of the 114th General Assembly.

April 22 marked the close of the 2025 legislative session, and we're proud to have wrapped up our first full session under the HB Strategies banner. Since January, we've worked hard to represent our clients with focus, integrity, and trusted relationships — and we're grateful for the opportunity to deliver meaningful results across Tennessee.

The cow pants are out, which can only mean one thing... session is officially over.





25 Sessions and Counting!

Meagan Frazier is wrapping up her 25th consecutive legislative session at the Capitol! Time flies when you love what you do. Congrats, Meagan, on this amazing milestone!



Meagan had the pleasure of providing a state legislative update on behalf of our client, the Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, at their 2025 Spring Conference this morning. Affordable, safe, and stable housing remains a critical priority for families across the state.



Governor Bill Lee celebrated the end of the 2025 legislative session with the passage of his \$59.5 billion “Tennessee Innovates” agenda, prioritizing infrastructure, education, conservation, and workforce development. The FY25–26 budget includes major investments across key areas, marking Tennessee’s continued focus on innovation and fiscal responsibility.

Key Budget Highlights:

Economic Growth & Jobs

- \$45.8M for rural development grants, \$25M for workforce grants, and \$35.6M to grow the Rainy Day Fund to \$2.2B.
- \$50M for small modular nuclear reactor development and \$25M to expand the RevV research partnership program.

Education Investments

- \$244M to grow the K-12 TISA funding formula, including teacher pay raises.
- Over \$500M for higher education capital projects and workforce initiatives.
- \$27.3M for summer learning and \$20M for school safety.

Health & Families

- \$95.5M to strengthen long-term care, plus millions to expand child care access, support DCS services, and fund mental health initiatives.
- \$11.8M to reduce waitlists for senior programs and \$24M for dental access.

- \$3 million for the health care safety net
- \$744,500 was added to enable the TennCare bureau to open a new PACE project in middle or western Tennessee.

Behavioral Health

- \$4M in additional behavioral health safety net funding.
- \$4.4M for graduate scholarships in behavioral health fields, \$1.9M for provider rate increases in substance abuse treatment, and \$1M to expand school-based behavioral health liaisons.
- \$1M was allocated for a workforce development grant pool supporting community mental health centers.
- \$1 million in Community Mental Health Center Workforce Development

Public Safety

- \$100M for downtown safety grants, \$75M for violent crime prevention, and funding for 117 new state troopers and 22 new TBI agents.
- \$5M to grow the school resource officer program.

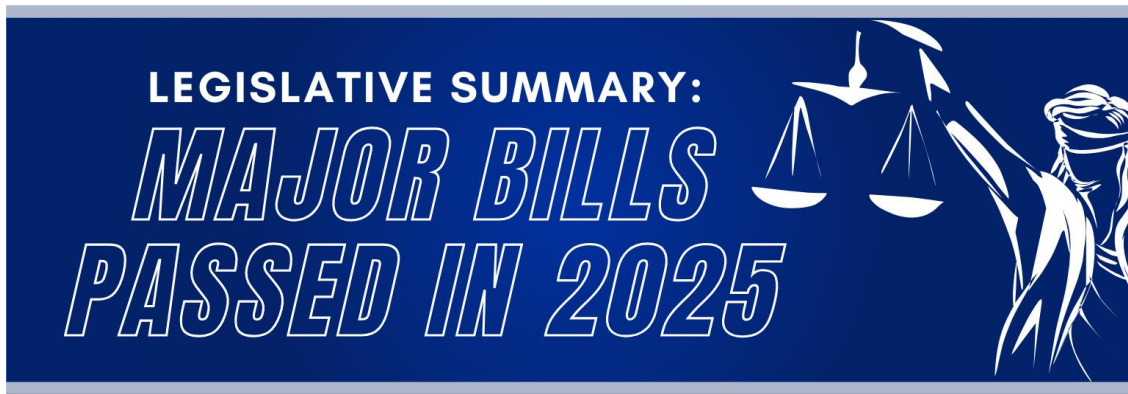
Conservation & Agriculture

- \$62.2M for Duck River water resource planning and \$52M for 5 new state parks, bringing the total to 14 under Lee.
- \$25M to create a farmland conservation fund.

Energy & Innovation

- \$50M for TVA's nuclear SMR project, \$10M for the Nuclear Energy Fund, and \$2.6M to develop the nation's first nuclear fusion regulatory framework.

PRESS RELEASE



DEI Restrictions in Public Institutions

Legislation was passed to prohibit local governments and public colleges from considering race, gender, or age in hiring decisions. The bill dismantled DEI offices and demographic-based board requirements, aligning Tennessee with national efforts to limit DEI initiatives. [See the full bill here.](#)

Immigration Enforcement Measures

A new law criminalizes the transport, housing, or concealment of undocumented immigrants for financial gain and creates a centralized state immigration enforcement office to support broader immigration crackdowns. [See the full bill here.](#)

Achievement School District Phase-Out

Lawmakers approved the phase-out of the underperforming Achievement School District, replacing it with a new tiered intervention model that gives more flexibility to local school districts.

Education Freedom Act

The legislature passed a universal school voucher program during the special session, offering taxpayer-funded scholarships for private school tuition and including bonuses for teachers and increased infrastructure funds for K-12

schools. [See the full bill here.](#)

Voting Rights Restoration Reform

A bill was enacted to separate the restoration of voting rights from gun rights for felons, simplifying the process but leaving existing barriers in place for those with outstanding financial obligations. [See the full bill here.](#)

Transgender Bathroom Restrictions

A controversial bill mandating that individuals must use public restrooms based on sex assigned at birth passed both chambers and awaits the governor's signature. [See the full bill here.](#)

Banning Red Food Dye in Schools

Legislation was passed to ban Red Dye 40 from all food and drinks served in public schools, with the exception of fundraiser events. [See the full bill here.](#)



A new Bankrate study ranked Tennessee as the easiest state in the nation to save money, citing its low cost of living, stable employment growth, and one of the lowest combined state and local tax burdens in the U.S. The state tied for 10th in local economic conditions and placed 3rd in the tax category, making it a standout for residents looking to grow their savings.

[READ MORE](#)



TN Farmland Preservation Act Signed Into Law

Governor Bill Lee announced the passage of the Tennessee Farmland Preservation Act, which aims to strengthen rural communities by protecting farmland for future generations. He credited the General Assembly for its partnership in supporting Tennessee's farm families who fuel the state's economy and help feed the nation.

Debris Burn Permits:

Currently Required

Burn permits are required Oct 15 through May 15 for debris pile fires in areas without local restrictions.

image source: TN.gov

Debris Burn Permits Required Through May 15

From October 15 through May 15, Tennesseans must obtain a burn permit from the Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry before burning debris. Permits are required to reduce wildfire risks and are available online at www.BurnSafeTN.org or by phone at 877-350-BURN. Burning without a permit is illegal and may lead to fines or jail time. Residents are urged to follow safety guidelines, check local restrictions, and report illegal or suspicious burning activities.

[READ MORE](#)

IN THE NEWS

- ***Here's What Happened With Tennessee's Biggest Bills This Session***
With the first part of a two-year session resolved, here's where the state's legislation on gun control, immigration, marijuana and other major issues stand

[NASHVILLEBANNER.COM](https://www.nashvillebanner.com) - April 24, 2025

- **Tennessee 2025 legislative session: Key bills passed, defeated and biggest takeaways**

The Tennessee General Assembly wrapped up its 2025 session on April 22, marking a period of major legislative activity.

[NEWSCHANNEL9.COM](https://www.newschannel9.com) - April 23, 2025

- **Recapping Tennessee's 2025 legislative session**

Tennessee's legislative session ended Tuesday night, with lawmakers sending a final wave of bills to the governor's desk.

[AXIOS.COM](https://www.axios.com) - April 23, 2025

- **Tennessee lawmakers adjourn after passing bans on DEI initiatives**

Tennessee's Republican-led Legislature adjourned its monthslong lawmaking session on Tuesday by passing a final flurry of bills, including ones aimed at diversity, equity and inclusion in governments.

[WPLN.ORG](https://www.wpln.org) - April 23, 2025

- **What Tennessee lawmakers did and didn't do in 2025**

Tennessee lawmakers adjourned for the year on April 22, concluding a session shaped by controversy over education for undocumented students, diversity programs, taxes on vape products and legal protections for birth control and in-vitro fertilization.

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://www.tennessean.com) - April 23, 2025

- **Tennessee General Assembly: 2025 Legislative session ends**

The Tennessee General Assembly ended the 2025 legislative session Tuesday, and both Republican and Democratic lawmakers spoke.

[WKRN.COM](https://www.wkrn.com) - April 22, 2025

- **Tennessee's legislative session has ended.**

Tennessee lawmakers wrapped up their regular legislative session after

passing bills that targeted the LGBTQ+ community and banned THC-A sales in Tennessee.

[WBIR.COM](https://www.wbir.com) - April 22, 2025

- **Legislation slashing development oversight of isolated wetlands heads to Gov. Bill Lee's desk**

A bill slashing regulations for an estimated 80% of Tennessee's non-federally protected wetlands is headed to Gov. Bill Lee's desk Monday after receiving approval from the General Assembly.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://www.tennesseelookout.com) - April 22, 2025

- **Constitutional amendments on bail and victims' rights to go before voters in 2026**

Tennessee lawmakers approved two constitutional amendments that will go before voters in 2026—one allowing judges to deny bail in more serious non-capital cases, and another expanding crime victims' rights through Marsey's Law.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://www.pro.stateaffairs.com) - April 22, 2025

- **House grants final approval to bill making it harder to change county seals**

The House approved a bill adding historic government seals to the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act, expanding protections to include items like county seals.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://www.pro.stateaffairs.com) - April 22, 2025

- **Tennessee asks feds whether state funds are jeopardized by immigrant student bill**

In the final days of the 2025 legislative session, Tennessee officials are asking the U.S. Department of Education whether federal funds are being jeopardized by a bill that would restrict undocumented immigrant students from enrolling in K-12 schools.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - April 22, 2025

- **Tennessee legislature puts state watchdog agency under attorney general**

The Tennessee Attorney General's Office could soon have the responsibility for investigating claims of discrimination by state agencies after the state Senate passed a measure dissolving the Human Rights Commission and moving operations to the AG's office.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - April 22, 2025

Contact Us:



Tennessee

Estie Harris | Managing Principal | [Email Estie](#)

Meagan Frazier | Managing Principal | [Email Meagan](#)

Mac Podlesney | Associate | [Email Mac](#)

Merle Franklin | Office Manager | [Email Merle](#)



HBS Tennessee, 511 Union Street, Suite 1800, Nashville, TN 37219, USA