

Week of April 14th legislative committee calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

This Week at the Capitol



Bloomberg Names HB Strategies as a Top-Performing Lobbying Firm in Annual List

HB Strategies Federal, led by Stacy McBride, was named a top-performing lobbying firm in Washington by Bloomberg Government, recognizing the team’s excellence and client-focused approach.

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Education Freedom Scholarship Student Application Checklist Now Available

The graphic is a white document with a blue border, titled 'EDUCATION FREEDOM' in bold. It contains sections for 'Eligibility Requirements', 'Overview of Scholarship Availability', 'Income Eligibility', 'Additional Documentation', 'Eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program', 'Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program Eligibility', and 'Education Savings Account (ESA) Program Eligibility'. It includes a table for income levels and a list of required documents. A photo of a smiling boy is in the top right corner. At the bottom, it says 'For assistance, email ETS.Questions@tn.gov or visit tn.gov/education/efs'.

The Tennessee Department of Education has published a student application checklist for the new Education Freedom Scholarship program, the state’s universal school choice initiative launching in May. Parents in all 95 counties will be eligible to apply, with nearly 200 schools already signaling intent to participate. The program was signed into law by Gov. Bill Lee in February.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

Big week for BNA Airport!



Our client Nashville International Airport (BNA) celebrated a major milestone this week with a 100th Gate Party, marking the launch of their 100th nonstop destination — Memphis!

Tennessee's newest international nonstop flight also took off from BNA on April 10, as Icelandair launched service to Reykjavík, Iceland, kicking off the biggest surge in international travel opportunities in the airport's history. This is BNA's first new European route since British Airways debuted its London nonstop in 2018 — but not the last this week. Aer Lingus debuts its nonstop to Dublin on April 12, bringing BNA's total number of European routes to three by the end of April, up from just one at the start of the year.



✦ Travel Reminder: Starting May 7, you'll need a REAL ID for domestic flights. Don't delay — get ready now for your summer travel plans!

Learn more here bit.ly/43KHxza



A bill requiring Tennessee public schools to teach the “success sequence” — graduate high school, get a job or pursue higher education, marry, then have children — has passed the Legislature and awaits Gov. Bill Lee’s signature. Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, the concept will be included in family life

education. Supporters say it promotes economic stability, while critics argue it overlooks systemic barriers and imposes a narrow life path on students.

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At the National Association of Attorneys General conference in Nashville, leaders from across the country explored urgent issues including human trafficking, mental health, disaster-related fraud, and drug trafficking. Tennessee’s new Ink of Hope Act—requiring tattoo artists to be trained on signs of trafficking—highlighted innovative state-level solutions. Panels also focused on scams linked to overseas human trafficking rings, while Pennsylvania AG Dave Sunday emphasized expanding mental health response programs.

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Despite growing legislative frustration and mounting controversial bills, Gov. Bill Lee continues his streak of not issuing a single veto, instead relying on non-signings paired with cautionary letters — a strategy that leaves laws intact while diluting executive pushback and doing little to sway legislative outcomes or public opinion.

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Bill to Invalidate Out-of-State Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants Heads to Governor's Desk

A bill that would invalidate certain out-of-state driver's licenses issued to undocumented immigrants has passed both chambers of the Tennessee General Assembly and now heads to Gov. Bill Lee's desk. The legislation targets licenses marked as being issued to undocumented individuals currently only used by Connecticut and Delaware and would make possession of such a license a Class B misdemeanor in Tennessee. Proponents argue the bill ensures only lawful IDs are accepted on state roads, while opponents, including Democratic lawmakers, warn it could lead to discriminatory practices, hurt interstate commerce, and discourage tourism.

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IN THE NEWS

- **State AGs Gather in Nashville, Tackle Prison Cellphone Jamming and More**

Attorneys general from 19 states met in Nashville to discuss bipartisan issues like prison cellphone jamming, with Tennessee AG Skrmetti hosting the event. A bill backed by 30 AGs would allow targeted signal-blocking to prevent criminal activity behind bars.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - April 7, 2025

- **New Advise TN High Schools Announced to Boost College Enrollment**

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission added 13 high schools to its Advise TN program, providing college and career advising to boost enrollment rates. Now in its 10th year, the program has supported over 62,000 students statewide.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - April 7, 2025

- **House Passes Bill to Ban Red 40 Dye in Tennessee School Meals**

A bill banning Red 40 dye from foods sold through Tennessee school nutrition programs has passed the House. Sponsored by Rep. Elaine Davis and Sen. Janice Bowling, the measure excludes vending machines, fundraisers, and concession stands.

[WKARN.COM](https://wkarn.com) - April 7, 2025

- **Tennessee lawmakers seek to raise home loan insurance rate caps with bill**

A bill that has already passed the Tennessee Senate would effectively raise the maximum interest rate on mortgages.

WKRN.COM - April 7, 2025

- **Bill to give Tennessee AG civil rights oversight draws Democratic pushback over partisanship**

A bill to dissolve Tennessee's independent civil rights watchdog agency and transfer its powers to the state's attorney general drew heated criticism Wednesday from a Nashville Democrat, who suggested the state's top legal officer is too partisan for the job.

TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM - April 10, 2025

- **Tennessee House Passes "Fertility And Contraceptive Protection Act" Undermining Protections For The Unborn**

The "Fertility and Contraceptive Protection Act" is a seemingly benign bill which would secure the "right" to seek any and all assisted fertility treatments in the state, but it could lay the grounds to severely undermine pro-life law in Tennessee, especially as the House tabled an amendment aiming to specify some broad language during the Thursday, April 10 floor session.

TENNESSEECONSERVATIVENEWS.COM - April 11, 2025

- **Bill to give Tennessee AG civil rights oversight draws Democratic pushback over partisanship**

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TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM - April 10, 2025

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