

Week of April 7th legislative committee calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

This Week at the Capitol

Keeping Selmer and Middle Tennessee in Our Prayers



Our hearts are with the people of Selmer and communities across **Middle Tennessee** impacted by the devastating storms this week. We are praying for your safety, recovery, and resilience in the days ahead.

Please **stay safe, stay alert, and avoid travel unless absolutely necessary.**

If you encounter a flooded roadway — **turn around, don't drown.**

Helpful Reminders:

You can find **real-time updates and emergency resources** here:

➡ tn.gov/tema/updates/spring-severe-weather-2025.html

🚗 Check road conditions anytime at smartway.tn.gov.



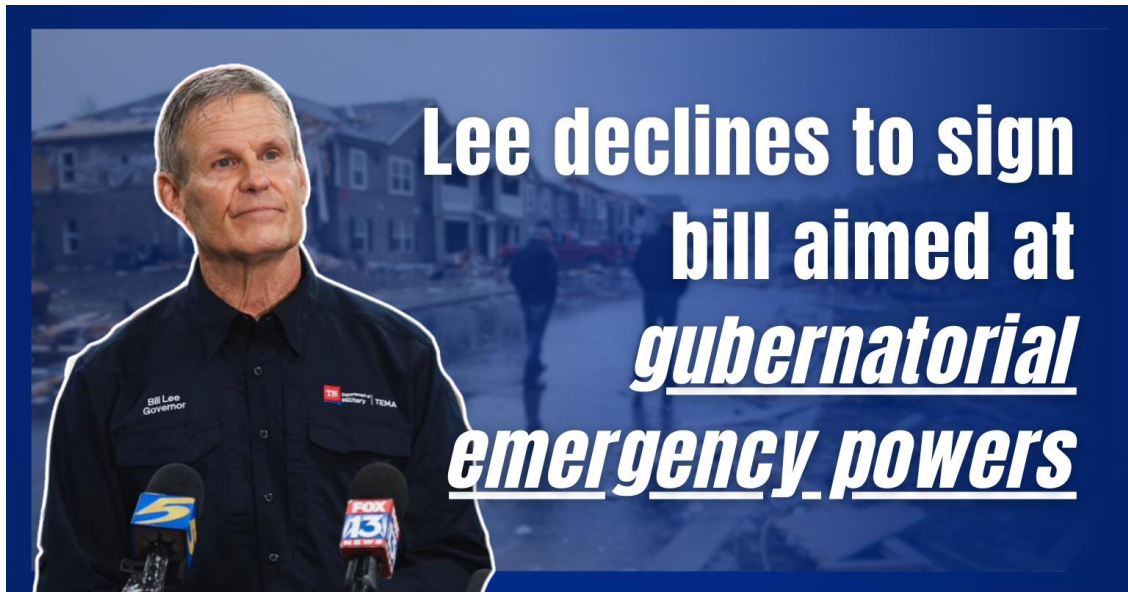
At this year's Spring Conference of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, HB Strategies Tennessee Managing Principal Estie Harris had the opportunity to connect with members from across the state in Nashville and to share her valuable insights on the industry's latest legislative developments from Capitol Hill.



NASA astronaut and Middle Tennessee native Barry "Butch" Wilmore has come back to Earth after more than nine months in space.

The 1981 Mt. Juliet High graduate who went on to Tennessee Tech spent 286 days away from the planet on a mission far lengthier than initial estimates of one to two weeks. Wilmore and fellow astronaut Sunita Williams were the first human crew to test the Boeing Starliner spacecraft, which was beset with technical problems that forced the extended stay on the International Space Station.

[READ MORE](#)



A bill targeting Tennessee governors' authority to issue executive orders during states of emergency became law Thursday without Republican Gov. Bill Lee's signature.

The measure sponsored by Sen. Mark Pody, R-Lebanon, and Rep. Rusty Grills, R-Newbern, prevents executive orders, proclamations and rules issued by the governor from "contravening, suspending, or conflicting a provision of the Constitution of Tennessee."

[READ MORE](#)



The Tennessee General Assembly unanimously passed two bipartisan bills (HB105/SB1286 and HB106/SB1288) to expand access to child care across the state. The first bill allows all licensed providers, not just nonprofits, to apply for TDHS Non-Profit/Employer Workforce (NEW) Care Partnership grants to increase child care capacity. The second bill clarifies licensure exemptions for casual care programs, such as parents' night out events and school break camps, giving families and providers clearer guidance. Both bills are expected to be signed by Gov. Bill Lee and take effect July 1.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)



Gov. Bill Lee has signed the Voyeurism Victims Act, aimed at helping victims secretly recorded without their consent. Inspired by a high-profile Nashville case, the law strengthens civil remedies and clarifies unlawful photography statutes. While some proposed felony upgrades were removed, the bill marks a step forward in adapting Tennessee law to tech-driven crimes. Most provisions take effect July 1.

[READ MORE](#)

IN THE NEWS

- **Stockard on the Stump: Battle lines drawn as Tennessee legislature speeds toward adjournment**

Tennessee lawmakers are hung up on hemp, Memphis schools and immigrant kids as they try to hustle home before being called to testify at an April 22 corruption trial.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - Apr. 4, 2025

- **Tennessee bill seeks to ban DEI hires in local government, public universities & colleges**

The Senate passed a bill 27–5 to protect historic government seals, including those featuring Confederate imagery, under the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act.

[NEWSCHANNEL9.COM](https://newschannel9.com) - Apr. 4, 2025

- **Up to \$400M revenue projection raises stakes on Tennessee hemp bill**

New House Republican estimates project Tennessee could gain as much as \$400 million in new revenue from hemp sales if the lower chamber's version of pending legislation becomes law.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Apr. 2, 2025

- **Forecasters warn of long-lasting tornadoes, deadly floods in parts of US on Wednesday**

Potentially deadly flash flooding, high-magnitude tornadoes and baseball-sized hail could hit parts of the Midwest and South on Wednesday as severe thunderstorms blowing eastward become supercharged, forecasters warned.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - Apr. 2, 2025

- **Tenn. vape tax bill moves forward, sparking debate between youth health and small business**

State lawmakers are moving one step closer to placing a new tax on some vape products with regulations passing the Tennessee Senate Monday afternoon and expected to be in the House Tuesday.

[FOX17.COM](https://www.fox17.com) - Apr. 2, 2025

- **Tennessee bill to make abortion pill providers liable for 'wrongful death' goes to Senate**

A bill that would permit lawsuits of up to \$5 million against abortion pill manufacturers, distributors, and delivery services is headed for a final vote in the Tennessee Senate."

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://www.tennessean.com) - Apr. 2, 2025

- **Controversial Campaign Finance Bill Passes In Another Tennessee House Committee**

A complex campaign finance bill passed in the House State & Local Government Committee by a 22-1 vote on Wednesday.

[TENNESSECONSERVATIVENEWS.COM](https://www.tennesseconservativenews.com) - Apr. 3, 2025

- **Tennessee Senate immigrant education bill clears final committee, still conflicts with House**

A controversial education bill to require Tennessee schools to collect citizenship or legal residency documentation of all students in the state is headed for a full Senate vote, even as the legislation stands at odds with a companion House bill that would not impose requirements on local schools.

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://www.tennessean.com) - April 1, 2025

- **Tennessee immigration trigger bill dead for the year**

The proposed law would allow state law enforcement to criminally charge immigrants who

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://www.tennessean.com) - April 4, 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