



NEWS UPDATE

Legislative Updates: Week of January 20, 2025

Dates of importance were announced:

- **Monday, January 27th:** Special Session convenes
- **Thursday, February 6th:** House Bill Filing Deadlines
- **Monday, February 10th:** State of the State address



Ahead of the special session convening on January 27, Governor Bill Lee presented a robust legislative agenda to address illegal immigration in Tennessee. The proposed measures, introduced in partnership with legislative leadership, are designed to strengthen public safety, align with federal immigration policies under the incoming Trump Administration, and enhance state and local enforcement efforts.

Key provisions of the legislation include:

1. **Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division (CIEO):** A new division within the Department of Safety will oversee efficient resource allocation and the enforcement of immigration laws. The Governor will appoint a Chief Immigration Enforcement Officer (CIEO) to work closely with the Trump Administration on federal immigration policies and their implementation.
2. **Stricter Requirements for State-Issued IDs:** Eligibility for state-issued IDs will be limited to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals with federal authorization for a specific time. Temporary licenses issued to non-citizens will have distinctive visual markers, and proof of citizenship will be required for renewing or reinstating driver licenses.
3. **Local Accountability:** A Class E felony offense will apply to local officials who adopt or maintain sanctuary city policies in violation of state law. The Tennessee Attorney General will have the authority to initiate removal proceedings against officials found guilty of violating anti-sanctuary city provisions.
4. **Encouraging Local Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement:** Local governments will be incentivized to partner with federal authorities through the 287(g) program, which assists with immigration law enforcement, detention, and removal efforts. Penalties will be imposed on officials who fail to comply with enforcement mandates.
5. **Immigration Enforcement Grant Program:** Funding will be allocated to local governments to support training for law enforcement officers, operational

costs, equipment purchases, and other eligible activities that enhance the enforcement of federal and state immigration policies.

The General Assembly is expected to take swift action on this legislation during the special session.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)



Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti announced a \$7.4 billion settlement in principle with members of the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma for their role in the opioid crisis, with Tennessee expected to receive more than \$90 million over 15 years for addiction treatment, prevention, and recovery programs. This settlement ends the Sackler family's control of Purdue, bars them from selling opioids in the U.S., and ensures significant funding will be delivered to communities nationwide. Skrmetti

emphasized the importance of this resolution, stating it cannot undo the harm caused but will provide crucial support to abate the ongoing crisis.

PRESS RELEASE



Tennessee ended 2024 with a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.6%, remaining below the national rate of 4.1%, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Despite a slight increase from November, the state saw significant job growth throughout the year, adding 45,400 nonfarm jobs, with health care and social assistance leading the gains. Tennessee also recorded a record-low unemployment rate of 3% in May, June, and July. Job seekers can access free employment resources, training, and support at American Job Centers across the state. County-level unemployment data for December 2024 will be released on January 30, 2025.

PRESS RELEASE

IN THE NEWS

- **Lawmaker files bill to rename Nashville International Airport after President Donald Trump**

A Chapel Hill Republican has filed a bill that would rename Tennessee's largest airport after the 47th president.

[WKRN.COM](https://www.wkrn.com) - Jan. 18, 2025

- **Bill would lower blood alcohol limit for aggravated vehicular assault, homicide**

A West Tennessee lawmaker has proposed a bill that would lower the threshold for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) in aggravated vehicular assault and aggravated vehicular homicide cases.

[WKRN.COM](https://www.wkrn.com) - Jan 20, 2025

- **Tennessee Bill Allows Approval For Development Projects Without Public Input**

Rep. Kelly Keisling (R-Dist. 38-Byrdstown) has filed legislation that would require county or local chief legislative bodies to greenlight development projects without public comment so long as the zoning regulations or maps were previously available for public comment or review.

[TENNESSEECONSERVATIVE NEWS.COM](https://tennesseeconservativenews.com) - Jan. 21, 2025

- **TennCare's maternal death rates are 3x those of private insurance**

Tennessee has long had one of the highest maternal death rates in the nation, but newly released data shows the risks of dying from pregnancy are exponentially higher for those on TennCare.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - Jan 21, 2025

- **Senate passes immigrant detention bill that could be the first measure Trump signs into law**

Fresh off President Donald Trump's inauguration, the Senate on Monday passed a bill that would require federal authorities to detain migrants accused of theft and violent crimes, the first measure he likely will sign into law and giving more weight to his plans to deport millions of migrants.

[NEWSCHANNEL5.COM](https://newschannel5.com) - Jan 21, 2025

- **'The Ink of Hope Act' adds anti-human trafficking training to Tennessee tattoo artists**

A bill filed by a Dickson state representative would add new training aimed at recognizing and stopping human trafficking to those receiving their tattoo licenses in Tennessee.

[WKRN.COM](https://wktn.com) - Jan 21, 2025



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