



Tennessee's 114th General Assembly Convenes

The first year of the One Hundred Fourteenth General Assembly gaveled into session at noon (CST) on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025. Both chambers were filled with energy and anticipation for the new legislative cycle as the Speakers called the sessions to order.

Legislative Senate and House committees were assigned this week, with notable structural changes introduced to improve efficiency:

- **Merger of Committees:** The Civil Justice and Criminal Justice Committees have been consolidated into a single Judiciary Committee. This merger aims to streamline the legislative process by centralizing discussions and decisions related to legal matters.
- **Creation of New Committees:** To alleviate the workload on existing committees, new committees have been established. These changes help distribute responsibilities more evenly, allowing committees to focus more effectively on their assigned policy areas.

You can view the updated committee assignments below:

[House Committee Assignments](#)

[Senate Committee Assignments](#)

With bills now being filed, it's important to note that the 12-bill limit is in effect this

year, with the 10-bill limit coming into effect next year.

Follow along with the Husch Blackwell Strategies team as the 2025 legislative session progresses.

The following dates of importance were announced:

- **Monday, January 20th:** Off Day – *Legislature will recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday*
- **Monday, January 27th:** Special Session convenes
- **Thursday, February 6th:** House Bill Filing Deadlines
- **Monday, February 10th:** State of the State address – *Gov. Bill Lee will deliver his seventh State of the State address in the House chamber at the Tennessee State Capitol. He is expected to outline his legislative priorities and the proposed 2025-26 budget.*



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has issued the official proclamation for the special session of the Tennessee General Assembly, set to convene on **Monday, January 27, 2025**. The session will focus on three key priorities:

- **Education Freedom Act** – A unified proposal to empower parents with school choice through Education Freedom Scholarships while enhancing public school resources. This act includes teacher bonuses, increased K-12 facilities funding, and protections ensuring no reductions in state funding due to student disenrollment.

- **Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene and Future Natural Disasters** – Proposes a comprehensive relief package to assist communities affected by Hurricane Helene and establish innovative solutions for future disasters. The plan includes:
 - *\$240 million for local Disaster Relief Grants to reduce local cost shares for federal relief.*
 - *\$110 million for the Hurricane Helene Interest Payment Fund to assist local governments with loan interest.*
 - *\$100 million for the Governor’s Response and Recovery Fund for emergency needs, including agriculture and business recovery.*
 - *\$20 million to rebuild Hampton High School in Carter County.*

- **Public Safety and Immigration** – Prepares Tennessee to implement federal immigration policies under the incoming Trump Administration, focusing on enforcing immigration laws and ensuring community safety.

PRESS RELEASE



Tennessee House Could Consider

12-BILL LIMIT

as Part of 2025 Rules

The Tennessee House, led by Republicans, considered new rules on Tuesday and has limited bill introductions to 12 per member, with exceptions for leadership.

Democrats, who hold a 24-75 minority, opposed the change, arguing it limits their ability to address key issues. Additional rule changes include the merging of committees and stricter controls on debate time, parliamentary procedures, and gallery access.

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TN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RE-ELECTS KEY LEADERS



DAVID LILLARD
TENNESSEE STATE
TREASURER

TRE HARGETT
TENNESSEE'S
SECRETARY OF STATE

JASON MUMPOWER
TENNESSEE'S COMPTROLLER
OF THE TREASURY

The Tennessee General Assembly re-elected Tre Hargett as Secretary of State, Jason Mumpower as Comptroller of the Treasury, and David Lillard Jr. as State Treasurer during a joint session. Hargett, now serving his fifth term, oversees official state records and proceedings. Mumpower continues his role auditing and managing state finances, while Lillard leads the Treasury Department, managing investments and employee benefit programs.

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Marsha Blackburn Endorsed by Knox County Mayor for Governor

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs has officially endorsed U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn in her campaign for Tennessee governor, further strengthening her position as a frontrunner.

[Read the Full Story Here](#)



Tennessee Building Commission approves new Moccasin Bend Mental Health facility minus the site

The Tennessee State Building Commission approved a \$260 million plan to replace Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute in Chattanooga. Reconstruction at the current site was halted due to its Native American historical significance, including burial mounds and artifacts. Native American groups strongly opposed rebuilding on the land, prompting the search for alternative locations, with Chattanooga and Knoxville under consideration.

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IN THE NEWS

- ***Tennessee General Assembly 2025: Legislative priorities for state lawmakers***

The 114th Tennessee General Assembly gavels in at noon Tuesday, Jan. 14, and all 132 of Tennessee's state lawmakers will begin the process of passing new laws that will shape the Volunteer State for the future.

[WATE.COM](https://www.wate.com) - Jan 14, 2025

- ***Tennessee General Assembly convenes for session expected to focus on voucher issue***

The 114th General Assembly gavelled in at the Tennessee state Capitol Tuesday for a legislative session expected to largely focus on education issues as Gov. Bill Lee seeks to push through a private school voucher proposal.

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://www.tennessean.com) - Jan 14, 2025

- ***Vouchers, cellphones, recess: Education issues will dominate again as Tennessee lawmakers return***

Tennessee's 114th General Assembly gavelled in Tuesday with another GOP supermajority and an expectation from Republican Gov. Bill Lee to pass his universal school voucher proposal early in the session.

[CHALKBEAT.ORG](https://www.chalkbeat.org) - Jan 15, 2025



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

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