

NEWS



Week of February 24th legislative committee calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

HB Strategies extends our deepest condolences to Governor Bill Lee and his family on the passing of his beloved mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. We honor her legacy and the lasting impact she made on her community.

TN Association of Air Carrier Airports Day on the Hill



HBS was proud to support the **Tennessee Association of Air Carrier Airports** at their Day on the Hill! Great discussions with legislators about the vital role our airports play in Tennessee's economy, tourism, and infrastructure.



A snowy view of the Tennessee Capitol from the HBS office! While winter weather blanketed Nashville, the legislature was still hard at work, and so were we.



***TN Attorney General Leads Bipartisan
Call for Action Against Sellers of
Counterfeit, Unapproved, and
Contaminated Weight Loss Drugs***

Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti is leading a bipartisan coalition of 38 states and territories calling on the FDA to take swift action against counterfeit and unsafe versions of popular weight loss and diabetes drugs like Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, and Zepbound. These fake medications, often originating from shady overseas supply chains, pose serious health risks to consumers and threaten national security.

With demand for GLP-1 drugs skyrocketing, bad actors are flooding the market with counterfeit, untested products, putting millions at risk. The coalition is urging the FDA to increase enforcement efforts and work closely with state pharmacy boards to ensure safety in compounding pharmacies.

Read more about the initiative [here](#).

For consumer protection resources, visit [GLP-1 warning](#).

PRESS RELEASE

Tennessee State Parks Have ***\$1.9 BILLION IMPACT*** on State Economy



13,587 Jobs Supported



*\$111.8 Million in State Taxes &
\$22.1 Million in Local Taxes*



A new economic analysis reveals that Tennessee State Parks generate a \$1.9 billion impact on the state economy, supporting 13,587 jobs and creating \$550 million in annual household income. The parks also contribute \$111.8 million in state taxes and \$22.1 million in local tax revenue, highlighting their role in Tennessee's economic and conservation strategy.

Governor Bill Lee emphasized the importance of Tennessee's investment in its natural resources, particularly in rural communities, as the state continues to expand park accessibility and infrastructure. Admission remains free to all state parks, ensuring Tennesseans and visitors alike can enjoy the state's natural beauty.

PRESS RELEASE



TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT STILL SILENT ON REDISTRICTING CASE

It's been nearly five months since the Tennessee Supreme Court heard oral arguments on challenges to the 2022 state House and Senate redistricting maps, with no ruling yet in sight. If the court strikes down one or both maps, lawmakers will have to redraw districts before adjourning in April or risk election-year complications. The case centers on whether the House split too many counties and whether the Senate map violated a constitutional rule for numbering multi-district counties. A decision could have major implications for the 2026 elections and future redistricting battles.

[READ MORE](#)



Governor Bill Lee's proposal to rename the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grants as "TennesseeWORKS Scholarships" is facing pushback from both Republicans and Democrats. The grants, originally created in 2004, are named after two former Democratic speakers who championed technical education funding.

Critics, including Sen. Page Walley (R-Savannah) and former House Speaker Kent Williams, argue the change disrespects the program's legacy and sets a precedent for removing historical names from state initiatives. Lee's plan aims to expand funding to cover full tuition at Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, but the name change remains controversial. Lawmakers are expected to debate the proposal in the coming weeks.

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Farmland Preservation Act advances through Senate committee where it was killed last year

A \$25 million farmland preservation bill—which faced a major setback last year—narrowly passed the Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee this week in a 5-4 vote. The measure, backed by Gov. Bill Lee, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, and the Department of Agriculture, aims to incentivize farmers to place conservation easements on their land to slow the loss of farmland to development.

Supporters highlight Tennessee’s alarming farmland loss rate, while opponents express concerns about state involvement in private land decisions. The bill now heads to the Senate Finance Committee for further debate.

PRESS RELEASE

IN THE NEWS

- **House speaker looks to punish ‘rogue officials’ for thumbing nose at state laws**

House Speaker Cameron Sexton is following through on a threat issued to Memphis officials last year to set up a mechanism to punish cities financially for pursuing ordinances that conflict with state law.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Feb. 18, 2025

- **Effort to get U.S. Supreme Court to revisit public education for immigrants has two GOP colleagues on collision course**

Watson and House Majority Leader William Lamberth, R-Portland, have teamed up on legislation that would put Tennessee on a path to join a handful of states already seeking to get the nation’s highest court to overturn its landmark Plyler v. Doe ruling of 1982.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Feb. 18, 2025

- **Bill would require student disciplinary records be transferred to new school within three days**

A bipartisan bill would require school districts to send a student’s disciplinary record to their new school within three days of their transfer date, which educators say will help teachers and districts better prepare to serve students’ needs and keep classrooms safe.

[WKARN.COM](https://wkarn.com) - Feb. 17, 2025

- **Bills that target immigrant-serving nonprofits raise criticism from faith community**

A pair of bills by Republicans lawmakers that would penalize charitable organizations that serve immigrants — and potentially lead to their employees’

arrests — are drawing pushback from Tennessee faith leaders as an infringement on their religious freedom.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - Feb. 17, 2025

- **Flooding devastates small West Tennessee town ahead of cold snap**

Water surged beyond the banks of the Obion River early Sunday, breaching levees and leading to the evacuation of nearly everyone in the small West Tennessee town of Rives as roads and homes flooded.

[TENNESSEANLOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseanlookout.com) - Feb. 18, 2025

- **Few details available so far as Tennessee hits nearly \$1.28B in corporate tax refunds**

As the Tennessee Department of Revenue continues to plow through processing about \$1.5 billion in franchise tax refunds approved by lawmakers last year, little information is publicly available so far on the payouts – including how much of the funds were sent outside of the state.

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://tennessean.com) - Feb. 17, 2025

- **TNJ: This year's bill hopper takes shape with the filing deadline in rear view**

Lawmakers hope to end this year's session by the end of April. But to get there they will have to get through a stack of 1,400 legislative proposals.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Feb. 21, 2025

- **Officials pleased with TSU progress, but comptroller still wants Capitol-area campus sold**

State officials were generally pleased with the plan presented by Tennessee State University's interim president to get the financially struggling HBCU back on track.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Feb. 21, 2025

- **House panel sinks GOP bill to allow retired police, military to serve as school security officers**

A proposal to allow retired law enforcement officers and veterans to serve as

school security officers has been defeated in a House subcommittee.
[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Feb 20, 2025

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