



Tennessee

NEWS

Week of March 17th legislative committee calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#)



TAMHO was on the hill this week,
meeting with legislators to advocate

for mental health policy and resources across Tennessee. A special thank you to Gov. Bill Lee for taking the time to visit with TAMHO representatives and discuss the importance of expanding mental health services for those in need.



Meagan Frazier spoke at Tennessee Children's Advocacy Days this week, offering guidance on communicating with legislators and crafting impactful advocacy messages. Her insights helped attendees better understand how to engage policymakers and drive meaningful change for children and families across the state.

Executive Clemency Hearings to be held March 25-26 in Nashville



March 25 – Begin at 10 a.m. CT

March 26 – Begin at 9 a.m. CT



The Tennessee Board of Parole will hold Executive Clemency hearings on March 25-26 at its central office in downtown Nashville (500 James Robertson Parkway, Fourth Floor, Davy Crockett Tower).

- March 25 hearings: Begin at 10 a.m. CT
- March 26 hearings: Begin at 9 a.m. CT

The Board reviews requests for pardons, commutations, and exonerations and submits recommendations to the Governor, who holds the sole authority to grant clemency. These hearings are open to the public.

The seven-member Board of Parole, appointed by the Governor, also determines parole eligibility and oversees supervision decisions.

PRESS RELEASE



Gov. Bill Lee is leading a coalition of governors urging the swift confirmation of Jared Isaacman as the next Administrator of NASA, emphasizing the need for strong leadership to maintain America's competitive edge in space exploration, technology, and national security

Isaacman, a pioneering entrepreneur and spaceflight commander, has a proven track record in advancing aerospace initiatives and strengthening public-private partnerships. His leadership is seen as critical amid growing challenges, including China's rapidly advancing space program.

The coalition is calling on the Senate Commerce Committee to prioritize and expedite his confirmation, ensuring the U.S. remains at the forefront of scientific discovery and space innovation.

PRESS RELEASE

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

Ford's BlueOval City Faces Delays and Legislative Scrutiny



Once hailed as a transformative project, Ford's \$5.6 billion BlueOval City in Haywood County is facing increased scrutiny as production delays and infrastructure challenges mount. Originally set to begin producing electric vehicles this year, Ford has postponed the launch to 2027, raising concerns among state lawmakers about the project's progress and economic impact.

Lawmakers are also debating housing and infrastructure development near the megasite, with concerns over limited wastewater access and rising land prices for local communities. Additionally, Republican legislators continue to express frustration over the plant's labor agreements, which could lead to increased union presence. While state and local officials remain confident in the project's long-term success, uncertainty around its timeline is growing.

[READ MORE](#)



The Tennessee Department of Revenue is requesting \$3 million in additional funding to cover rising material costs and increased demand for specialty license plates. Commissioner David Gerregano told lawmakers that production costs, particularly for aluminum and ink, have increased by 17%, with inmates in the TRICOR rehabilitative program continuing to manufacture the plates.

Tennessee now offers over 200 specialty plates, many of which require more resources to produce. The additional funding request comes as specialty plate popularity grows, with revenue supporting various causes, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and the Highway Fund.

[READ MORE](#)



The Tennessee House of Representatives has passed a bill removing racial membership requirements for state regulatory boards, aiming to align with the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that ended affirmative action in higher education. Sponsored by Rep. Jason Zachary (R-Knoxville), the bill prohibits race-based policies in board appointments while retaining gender considerations for some health-related boards.

The bill drew criticism from Democrats, who argue affirmative action was designed as a corrective measure and note that racial minorities remain underrepresented on state boards. The Senate Judiciary Committee is set to consider the companion bill, sponsored by Sen. Paul Rose (R-Covington), in the coming days.

[READ MORE](#)



New bill would protect TN homeowners from being repeatedly contacted by real estate developers

A bill moving through the Tennessee legislature, sponsored by Sen. Charlane Oliver (D-Nashville), aims to protect homeowners from persistent real estate solicitations. The Tennessee Homebuyer Harassment Prevention Act would limit developers to one unsolicited contact per year via phone, text, email, or mail. Homeowners receiving excessive offers could file complaints with the Consumer Affairs Division, and violators could face fines of up to \$2,000 per violation. The bill has advanced with amendments and is set for discussion in the Senate on Monday, with a companion bill introduced in the House.

[READ MORE](#)



A bill making it a crime to impede state troopers or refuse to vacate restricted areas has passed the Tennessee Senate (25-6) and now heads to Gov. Bill Lee for his signature. Sponsored by Sen. Jack Johnson (R-Franklin) and Rep. William Lamberth (R-Portland), the measure would classify obstructing protective services as a Class A misdemeanor and refusing to leave restricted areas as a Class E felony.

The legislation follows increased protest activity at the Capitol and legislative offices in recent years, with officials citing security concerns, including threats against public officials. Supporters say the bill clarifies enforcement authority, while critics warn it could be used to restrict demonstrations.

[READ MORE](#)

IN THE NEWS

- ***Nullification Bill Seemingly Meets Dead End In Tennessee Senate Committee***

The “Restoring State Sovereignty Through Nullification Act” met a seeming dead end for the fourth year in a row in the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Tuesday.

[TENNESSEECONSERVATIVENEWS.COM](https://tennesseeconservativenews.com) - Mar. 12, 2025

- ***Senate delays vote on constitutional amendment allowing bail to be denied more often***

A resolution calling for a constitutional amendment that would give judges the authority to deny bail for offenses like second-degree murder, aggravated rape of a child or aggravated rape was deferred in the Senate on Thursday.

[PRO.STATEAFFAIRS.COM](https://pro.stateaffairs.com) - Mar. 14, 2025

- ***Lawmakers propose adding menstrual products as annual sales tax holiday items***

Two Tennessee lawmakers would like to see new products added to the state’s annual sales tax holiday.

[WKRN.COM](https://wkrn.com) - Mar. 13, 2025

- ***Tennessee lawmakers amend bill that would regulate hemp sales, production***

A proposal to regulate hemp products like gummies and flower in Tennessee just took another step forward, but it’s changing.

[WKRN.COM](https://www.wkrn.com) - Mar. 12, 2025

- **Tennessee could create registry for habitual domestic violence offenders in honor of slain Robertson Co. deputy**

A bill that would create a registry for repeat domestic violence offenders unanimously passed the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee Wednesday after emotional testimony from the mother of the Robertson County Sheriff's deputy the proposal is named for.

[WKRN.COM](https://www.wkrn.com) - Mar. 12, 2025

- **Bill could eliminate grocery tax on fruits, vegetables in Tennessee**

Healthy eating could come with a smaller price tag in Tennessee if a bill to cut the state's grocery tax on fruits and vegetables passes.

[WKRN.COM](https://www.wkrn.com) - Mar. 15, 2025

- **Small TN farmers will lose millions after USDA budget cuts**

Tennessee farmers will lose millions in local food purchases after sweeping federal cuts at the U.S. Department of Agriculture led to the closure of two programs funding fresh food for schools and food banks.

[TENNESSEAN.COM](https://www.tennessean.com) - Mar. 13, 2025

- **GOP bill to bar immigrant kids without legal status from Tennessee public schools advances**

A bill allowing Tennessee public schools to exclude children without legal immigration status cleared a House subcommittee Tuesday as protestors gathered outside the hearing room chanting "stop hurting kids" and "shame on you."

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://www.tennesseelookout.com) - Mar. 12, 2025

- **TDEC: \$100M Duck River budget ask could be used toward regional Tennessee River pipeline**

It will take hundreds of millions of dollars and several years to get the Duck River — dubbed a scenic treasure by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee — to balance a

growing need for water and the river's health, Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner David Salyers said Tuesday.

[TENNESSEELOOKOUT.COM](https://tennesseelookout.com) - Mar. 14, 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

This email was sent to brent@tnpharm.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

HB Strategies · 511 Union Ave Suite #1800 · Nashville, TN 37219 · USA