



Pharmacists Legislative Report

SB3/HB14 **CRIMINAL LAW: Revises definition of abortion.**

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Love Jr., Harold

Summary: Clarifies that the term "abortion," as defined for the offense of criminal abortion, does not include the use of contraceptives, including any device, medication, biological product, or procedure that is generally intended for use in the prevention of pregnancy, whether specifically intended to prevent pregnancy or for other health needs, or the disposal of embryos resulting from fertility treatments, including healthcare services, procedures, testing, medications, treatments, or products. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 2, 2025) FISCAL IMPACT: NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

SB25 **HEALTH CARE: Availability of medical and health records of a minor.**

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark ,

Summary: Clarifies that a child's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian may access and review all mental health treatment, medical, rehabilitation, and prescription records of the child, including those records related to treatments available to unemancipated minors without parental consent. Allows an employee of a local education agency to provide bandages, gauze, or ice packs for the treatment of minor cuts, scrapes, bumps, and bruises. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the Senate

SB125 **EDUCATION: Study on possible expansion of all state-funded financial aid and scholarship programs.**

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell ,

Summary: Requires the Tennessee higher education commission, in consultation with the department of labor and workforce development, to study all state-funded financial aid and scholarship programs in this state to determine whether programs may be expanded to provide greater financial aid opportunities for individuals interested in pursuing a workforce credential. Requires the commission to report its findings and any legislative recommendations to the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over higher education and to the education committee of the senate no later than January 15, 2026. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 01/15/25 - Introduced in the Senate

SB164/HB18 **TENNCARE: Temporary TennCare benefits program.**

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff , Rep. Baum, Charlie

Summary: Directs the bureau of TennCare to establish a temporary TennCare benefits program to provide medical assistance on a temporary basis to certain individuals who do not qualify for enrollment in TennCare, CoverKids, or a successor program. Requires the bureau to submit a waiver to the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services by December 31, 2025.

Senate Status: 01/16/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

SB178/HB22 **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Governing body to provide public with opportunity to comment at meeting.**

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam , Rep. Davis, Elaine

Summary: Requires a governing body subject to the open meetings laws to reserve a period of public comment to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on any matter germane to the jurisdiction of the governing body regardless of whether the matter is listed on the agenda for the meeting.

Fiscal Note: (Dated December 23, 2024) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/16/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

SB194/HB26 **JUDICIARY: Unborn Child Protection Act of 2025.**

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Bulso, Gino

Summary: Establishes the "Unborn Child Protection Act of 2025," which prohibits the sale, manufacture, or distribution of abortion-inducing drugs in the state. Specifies that a person or entity who mails or delivers an abortion-inducing drug into this state and the mailing or delivery results in the death of an unborn child is strictly liable in the amount of \$5,000,000 in damages for the death of the unborn child. Specifies that an action brought pursuant to this subsection must be commenced within five years of the death of the unborn child.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 6, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/16/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

SB205/HB70 **TENNCARE: TennCare health benefit plan - coverage and reimbursement for biomarker testing for preeclampsia.**

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther

Summary: Requires a TennCare health benefit plan renewed or issued on or after July 1, 2025, by a health insurance carrier to provide coverage and reimbursement for biomarker testing for preeclampsia in pregnant women. Defines "biomarker testing" to mean the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker using a method of analysis approved by the federal food and drug administration (FDA), including, but not limited to, single-analyte tests, multiplex panel tests, whole genome sequencing, protein expression, whole exome, and whole transcriptome.

Senate Status: 01/16/25 - Filed for Introduction

House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

SB223/HB172 **PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Registration of persons licensed to practice a healing art who were in the medical corps of the military.**

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed , Rep. Martin, Brock

Summary: Requires a person who is licensed to practice a healing art; who was an officer in the commissioned medical corps of the army, the navy, the air force, or the public health service of the United States; and who was subsequently discharged, instead of honorably discharged, to register with the appropriate board licensing that profession. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 20, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 01/17/25 - Filed for Introduction
House Status: 01/16/25 - Introduced in the House

SB226 STATE GOVERNMENT: Professionals' Freedom of Religion Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent ,
Summary: Enacts the "Tennessee Professionals' Freedom of Religion Act." Specifies that it is unlawful for a governmental entity to deny, revoke, suspend, or take other adverse action against an individual's license for the following: (1) Refusing to affirm a statement or oath that is contrary to the individual's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions; (2) Expressing sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions in any context, including a professional context, as long as the services provided otherwise meet the standard of care or practice for that profession; or (3) Providing faith-based services that otherwise meet the standard of care or practice for that profession. Makes it unlawful for a governmental entity to take any adverse action against a licensee or applicant for licensure based on such person's beliefs or the lawful expression of those beliefs, to the extent protected under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Tennessee.
Senate Status: 01/17/25 - Filed for Introduction

SB240/HB207 CRIMINAL LAW: Expands the offense of organized retail crime.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Zachary, Jason
Summary: Expands the offense of organized crime to include knowingly removing or evading any component of an anti-shoplifting or inventory control device, activating or interfering with a fire alarm system, using an online marketplace or social media platform to coordinate a meeting to sell stolen merchandise, returning stolen or counterfeit merchandise to a retail merchant, purchasing or possessing merchandise for resale knowingly the items are stolen, and using any instrument to facilitate theft. Increases the penalty of this offense if the defendant engages in the destruction of property or uses a weapon.
Senate Status: 01/21/25 - Filed for Introduction
House Status: 01/16/25 - Filed for Introduction

SB264 TAXES BUSINESS: Certification by TennCare of an eligible healthcare providers' unreimbursed costs.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey ,
Summary: Requires TennCare to certify an eligible healthcare provider's unreimbursed costs as charitable contributions made exclusively for public purposes to TennCare. Requires TennCare to submit a statement of the total amount of charitable contributions to the eligible healthcare provider by January 31 of the following year. Requires eligible healthcare providers to pay a \$25.00 fee each year by January 15 in order to receive such certification. Defines "unreimbursed costs" as an amount equal to the difference between one hundred 125% of the average federal Medicaid reimbursement rate and the TennCare reimbursement rate paid to an eligible healthcare provider by the division or a managed care organization for healthcare services provided by an eligible healthcare provider to a TennCare recipient. Defines "eligible healthcare provider" as a healthcare provider who participates as a provider in the TennCare program, a successor Medicaid program, or a group practice that holds a contract with the division or a managed care organization participating in the TennCare program or a successor Medicaid program.
Senate Status: 01/23/25 - Filed for Introduction

HB17 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Tennessee Retirement Savings Plan Act.

Sponsors: Rep. Baum, Charlie
Summary: Enacts the "Tennessee Retirement Savings Plan Act," which creates a Tennessee retirement savings board consisting of seven members to develop a defined contribution retirement plan for residents of Tennessee who are employed for compensation in Tennessee. Specifies that the board is administratively attached to the department of treasury, and requires the department staff to provide administrative support to the board.
House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

HB19 INSURANCE HEALTH: Tennessee State Healthcare Cost Savings Incentive Program.

Sponsors: Rep. Baum, Charlie
Summary: Requires the state insurance committee, the local education insurance committee, and the local government insurance committee to establish an incentive program for healthcare services and prescription drug benefits no later than January 1, 2026, to be administered by a third-party vendor. In establishing the incentive program, requires such committees to work with the third-party vendor with which the department of finance and administration has entered into a contract to provide incentives through the incentive program. Specifies that the committees shall require the third-party vendor to provide each enrollee with online information on the cost and quality of healthcare services and providers, allow an enrollee to shop for healthcare services and providers, and reward the enrollee by sharing savings generated by the enrollee's choice of healthcare services or providers. Specifies requirements for contracts with third-party vendor. Requires the committees in collaboration with the third-party vendor of the incentive program to submit an annual report to the speakers of the house and senate, the chair of the state and local government committee of the senate, the chair of the committee of the house of representatives with subject matter jurisdiction over state government, the chair of the commerce and labor committee of the senate, and the chair of the committee of the house of representatives with subject matter jurisdiction over insurance. Requires the report to identify the number of enrollees participating in the incentive program and the cost savings to the state healthcare plan as a result of the implementation of the incentive program. Specifies that the report be submitted no later than March 15, 2027, and no later than March 15 of each year thereafter.
House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

HB37 HEALTH CARE: Adoption or emendation to a state preferred drug list by insurer.

Sponsors: Rep. Davis, Elaine
Summary: Authorizes an insurer, for purposes of group insurance plans offered to state employees, to adopt or amend a state preferred drug list (PDL). Requires the insurer to ensure that reimbursement is provided to a healthcare prescriber or hospital that provides a non-opioid treatment to a covered employee under the group insurance plan.
House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

HB111 HEALTH CARE: Required pregnancy serological tests.

Sponsors: Rep. Lamberth, William
Summary: Adds as a disease for which a laboratory must test during a standard serological test of a pregnant woman hepatitis C antibody (anti-HCV) with automatic reflex to HCV RNA if anti-HCV is reactive, and makes certain other changes to the process of conducting required pregnancy serological tests.
House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

HB132 VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS: Emergency management powers of the governor.

Sponsors: Rep. Zachary, Jason
Summary: Limits the duration of a state of emergency declared by the governor to 30 days. Authorizes the general assembly to terminate, extend, or renew a state of emergency by joint resolution. Establishes an ad hoc legislative council to extend a state of emergency during the interim between legislative sessions and specifies membership of council.
House Status: 01/14/25 - Introduced in the House

HB204 TENNCARE: TennCare report regarding outcomes in perinatal care.

Sponsors: Rep. Terry, Bryan
Summary: Changes from March 1 to January 15 the date by which the bureau of TennCare, in consultation with the perinatal advisory committee and with the assistance of relevant state agencies, must report to legislative committees concerning aspects of quality and outcomes in perinatal care for the last two available fiscal years or calendar years, as may be available. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 17, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
House Status: 01/16/25 - Filed for Introduction

HJR7 JUDICIARY: Constitutional amendment - defines person.

Sponsors: Rep. Bulso, Gino
Summary: Proposes an amendment to Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee to declare that a person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall a person be denied equal protection of the law; defines "person" to include every human being from fertilization to natural death.
House Status: 12/11/24 - Filed for Introduction

HJR28 HEALTH CARE: Constitutional amendment - right to forgo medical treatment.

Sponsors: Rep. Bulso, Gino
Summary: Proposes an amendment to Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee to grant a person the right to forgo medical treatment.
House Status: 01/13/25 - Filed for Introduction