



**HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES**

## 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:* 01/15/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Population Health Subcommittee 03/18/25.

### 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:* 01/15/25 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

### SB125/HB474 **EDUCATION: Study on possible expansion of all state-funded financial aid and scholarship programs.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

*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.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 25, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Education Committee 03/19/25.

*House Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for House Higher Education Subcommittee 03/19/25.

### 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.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 6, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE General Fund FY26-27 & Subsequent Years \$128,382,900 EXPENDITURES General Fund FY26-27 \$234,686,300 FY27-28 & Subsequent Years \$233,686,300 Total Positions Required: 169 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FY26-27 \$2,057,164,800 FY27-28 & Subsequent Years \$2,048,164,800 OTHER FISCAL IMPACT Passage of this legislation could result in a decrease in state expenditures for the Uninsured Adult Healthcare Safety Net. The extent of any change in expenditures is dependent on the number of individuals who will receive healthcare services from Medicaid, rather than the Uninsured Adult Healthcare Safety Net, and cannot be reasonably determined.

*Senate Status:* 01/27/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

*House Status:* 03/05/25 - Failed in House Insurance Committee.

### 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.

*Amendment Summary:* House amendment 1 (004529) limits the bill to a local governing body, which this amendment defines as the governing body of an incorporated city or town, county, metropolitan government, school district, regional authority, or other political subdivision of this state other than a state governmental agency or entity.

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

*Senate Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for Senate State & Local Government Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/10/25 - House passed with amendment 1 (004529).

### 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:* 01/27/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

*House Status:* 03/04/25 - Taken off notice in House Population Health Subcommittee.

### 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:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
*House Status:* 01/28/25 - Referred to House TennCare Subcommittee.

**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:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 01/28/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB226/HB470 STATE GOVERNMENT: Professionals' Freedom of Religion Act.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Rudd, Tim  
*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.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Business & Utilities Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**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.  
*Amendment Summary:* Senate Judiciary Committee amendment 1, House amendment 1 (003919) removes the provision that altered "aggregated over a 90-day period" to "aggregated over a 180-day period" in relation to the offense of organized retail crime where the person acts in concert with one or more individuals to commit theft of any merchandise with a value greater than \$1,000 aggregated over a 90-day period with the intent to sell, barter, or trade the merchandise for monetary or other gain or fraudulently return the merchandise to a retail merchant.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 18, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES Incarceration \$15,700  
*Senate Status:* 03/11/25 - Senate Judiciary Committee recommended with amendment 1 (003919). Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/10/25 - House passed with amendment 1 (003919).

**SB259/HB853 HEALTH CARE: Review of a child's health and medical records by parent or legal guardian.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Pody, Mark , Rep. Reneau, Michele  
*Summary:* Clarifies that a child's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian may access and review all health and medical 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 24, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Education Committee 03/19/25.  
*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB264/HB385 TAXES BUSINESS: Certification by TennCare of an eligible healthcare providers' unreimbursed costs.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Butler, Ed  
*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:* 03/12/25 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 03/19/25.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House TennCare Subcommittee 03/18/25.

**SB291/HB465 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Denial of license application due to prior criminal conviction.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bailey, Paul , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther  
*Summary:* Changes, from 30 days to 60 days, the amount of time an individual, applicant, licensee, certificate holder, or registrant has to file a petition after receiving written notice of a denial of an application due to past criminal history.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 25, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

**SB299/HB830 HEALTH CARE: Membership of the medical cannabis commission.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Terry, Bryan  
*Summary:* Revises the qualifications for membership on the medical cannabis commission to include a patient caregiver and a subject matter expert with knowledge of how cannabis is cultivated, processed, shipped, distributed, or prescribed for medical use. Specifies that the recommendations made by the commission to the general assembly may include policy recommendations.  
*Amendment Summary:* House Health Subcommittee amendment 1, Senate Judiciary amendment 1 (003503) rewrites the bill. Requires one of the three members of the medical cannabis commission appointed by the governor to be a patient who has been diagnosed with a qualifying medical disease or condition or to be the caregiver of such a patient. Requires one member to be a subject matter expert with the knowledge of how cannabis is cultivated, processed, shipped, distributed, or prescribed for medical use. Requires the commission to report its findings and recommendations, including policy recommendations, to the general assembly relating to the medical use of cannabis in this state.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 30, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/18/25 - Senate Judiciary Committee recommended with amendment 1 (003503). Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Committee 03/18/25.

**SB302/HB420 COMMERCIAL LAW: Tennessee Consumer Protection and Subscription Renewal Act.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Harshbarger, Bobby , Rep. Rudd, Tim  
*Summary:* Enacts the "Tennessee Consumer Protection and Subscription Renewal Act," which prohibits a business from requiring submission of credit or debit card information, or other payment information for an automatic renewal offer or continuous service offer containing a free gift or trial. Defines "affirmative consent" for purposes of subscription renewals to mean a clear, affirmative act signifying a consumer's freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous agreement to the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service terms and includes a written statement, including a statement written by electronic means, or an unambiguous affirmative action. Requires a business to obtain affirmative consent from a consumer to the agreement containing the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms. Makes other changes related to automatic renewal offers and continuous service offers.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB331/HB204 TENNCARE: TennCare report regarding outcomes in perinatal care.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Crowe, Rusty , 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  
*Senate Status:* 02/13/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/03/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

**SB334/HB372 TENNCARE: Tennessee Medicaid Modernization and Access Act of 2025.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Hulsey, Bud  
*Summary:* Enacts the "Tennessee Medicaid Modernization and Access Act of 2025," which aligns TennCare's current Medicaid reimbursement rates for key services, meaning obstetrics/gynecology, primary care, outpatient mental health, and substance use disorder treatment with the Medicare fee schedule or average commercial rates, whichever is higher. Requires the department of health to consult with the bureau of TennCare to conduct an annual review to ensure TennCare reimbursement rates align with changes in the Medicare fee schedule and average commercial rates and with the CMS 2024 final rule. Defines CMS annual rule to mean the May 2024 guidelines set by CMS updating Medicaid reimbursement rates. Provides healthcare provider of key services that is entitled to receive TennCare reimbursement to submit a written request for an administrative hearing following an allegation of a delay in payment or receipt of erroneous reimbursement. Provides that the general assembly must appropriate funds under the general appropriations act.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 15, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES General Fund FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$604,126,000 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$1,089,194,500 HB 372 - SB 334  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House TennCare Subcommittee 03/18/25.

**SB343/HB398 HEALTH CARE: Licensing board response to inquiry regarding prescriber identified as high-risk prescriber.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Martin, Brock  
*Summary:* Increases, from 30 to 45, the number of days a licensing board has to respond to the department of health after the department has inquired about the status of an action or lack of action taken against a prescriber whose prescribing patterns of controlled substances have been identified as representing a statistical outlier, or if the prescriber is identified as a top prescriber or a high-risk prescriber. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 29, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

**SB359/HB1203 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Issuance of license subject to a private advocacy order.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Kumar, Sabi  
*Summary:* Allows the board of medical examiners, during an informal initial application interview held in an executive session, to issue a license under a private advocacy order requiring the applicant to maintain advocacy of a peer assistance program. Allows the board of medical examiners to take disciplinary action against an individual practicing under a private advocacy order that failed to maintain the advocacy of the peer assistance program. Establishes that private advocacy orders are confidential, privileged, and not public records unless a practitioner fails to maintain advocacy resulting in a formal disciplinary proceeding.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 03/12/25 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee recommended. Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB363/HB389 HEALTH CARE: Assessment of discipline or a penalty against a healthcare provider for a violation of pain management rules**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Terry, Bryan  
*Summary:* Reduces, from 30 days to 14 days, the period of time within which a licensing board that assesses discipline or a penalty against a healthcare provider for a violation of pain management rules must notify the department of health of such discipline or penalty. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 28, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

**SB370/HB967 TAXES GENERAL: Taxes and fees collected by merchants and sellers.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Hawk, David  
*Summary:* Requires the amount of a state or local tax or fee that is separately listed on the payment invoice to be excluded from the amount on which an interchange fee is charged for that electronic payment transaction. Requires a payment card network to deduct the amount of a tax imposed from the calculation of interchange fees specific to each form or type of electronic payment transaction at the time of settlement. Requires a payment card network rebate an amount of interchange fee proportionate to the amount attributable to the tax or fee. Requires a deduction or rebate to occur at the time of settlement if the merchant or seller can capture and send the relevant tax or fee amounts during the sale as part of finalizing the transaction. Requires the payment card network to accept proof of tax or fee amounts collected on sales subject to an interchange fee if the merchant or seller cannot capture and send the relevant tax or fee amounts during the sale at the time. Defines "electronic payment transaction" as a transaction in which a person uses a debit card, credit card, or other payment code or device, issued or approved through a payment card network to debit a deposit account or use a line of credit, whether authorization is based on a signature, personal identification number, or other means. Defines "payment card network" as an entity that directly, or through licensed members, processors, or agents provides the proprietary services, infrastructure, and software that routes information and data to conduct debit card or credit card transaction authorization, clearance, and settlement; or a merchant or seller uses in order to accept as a form of payment a brand of debit card, credit card, or other device that may be used to carry out debit or credit transactions. Defines "interchange fee" as a fee established, charged, or received by a payment card network for the purpose of compensating the issuer for its involvement in an electronic payment transaction. Defines "settlement" as the transfer of funds from a customer's account to a seller or merchant upon electronic submission of finalized sales transactions to the payment card network.

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/11/25 - Referred to House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

**SB396/HB132 VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS: Emergency management powers of the governor.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Rose, Paul , 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.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 9, 2025) OTHER FISCAL IMPACT If the General Assembly is not in-session and a decision is needed whether to renew an initial declaration of emergency beyond 30 days, an ad-hoc legislative council will need to be convened. In such case, there would be an increase in state expenditures of at least \$4,400.

*Senate Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for Senate State & Local Government Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Finance, Ways & Means Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB420/HB870 INSURANCE HEALTH: Pharmacy benefits.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Rudder, Iris

*Summary:* Prohibits an insurer, pharmacy benefits manager, or third-party administrator from changing or conditioning the terms of health plan coverage based on availability of financial or other product assistance for a prescription drug. Establishes certain procedures for calculating an enrollee's contribution to an applicable cost sharing requirement. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 31, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB421/HB1239 HEALTH CARE: Prescribing of buprenorphine products for the treatment of opioid use disorder.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther

*Summary:* Authorizes certain prescribing physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine products for the treatment of opioid use disorder when the physician assistant or nurse practitioner is employed by or contracts with a state correctional facility or county or municipal jail, and certain other conditions are met, including having an active registration with the federal drug enforcement agency. Broadly captioned.

*Amendment* Senate Judiciary Committee amendment 1 (005070) authorizes a healthcare provider who has an active registration with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency to prescribe buprenorphine products for use in recovery or medication-assisted treatment if the provider is employed by or contracts with a state correctional facility or a county or municipal jail to provide healthcare services and the provider has adopted clinical protocols for the facilitation or continuance of medication-assisted treatment for persons who are incarcerated in, or to be released from, such state correctional facility or county or municipal jail. Establishes that the healthcare provider may not write any prescription for a buprenorphine product that exceeds a sixteen-milligram daily equivalent, and must only prescribe buprenorphine to patients who are treated through the correctional facility that employs the provider. Requires the healthcare provider to be supervised by or collaborate with a physician who is limited to the supervision of, or collaboration for, a maximum of five licensed nurse practitioners or physician assistants. Establishes that a healthcare provider who is employed by or contracts with a correctional facility or jail may not write prescriptions for buprenorphine to more than 50 patients at any given time.

*Summary:*

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 19, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/11/25 - Senate Judiciary Committee recommended with amendment 1 (005070). Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB422/HB406 HEALTH CARE: Promulgation of rules regarding oversight of facilities that manufacture, warehouse, and distribute medical devices.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Martin, Brock

*Summary:* Lowers from every three years to every two years, the time within which the advisory committee composed of medical device industry representatives and a representative of the department of economic and community development must review rules regarding the board of pharmacy's oversight of facilities that manufacture, warehouse, and distribute medical devices in order to review the advancements of new medical device technologies. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB424/HB1208 HEALTH CARE: Allows services authorized in a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement to include weight management services.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

*Summary:* Permits the services authorized in a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement to include weight management services.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

**SB428/HB37 HEALTH CARE: Adoption or emendation to a state preferred drug list by insurer.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , 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.

*Amendment* House State & Local Government amendment 1 (004531) removes the requirement that the insurer must 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.

*Summary:*

*Senate Status:* 03/11/25 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee recommended. Sent to Senate Finance.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - House State & Local Government recommended with amendment 1 (004531). Sent to House Calendar & Rules.

**SB432/HB866 HEALTH CARE: Copy of patient's medical records provided upon receipt of written request by patient.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Hicks, Tim

*Summary:* Requires a healthcare provider to provide to a patient or a patient's authorized representative a copy of the patient's medical records within 20 working days of receipt of a written request by the patient or representative instead of 10 working days. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 29, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

*House Status:* 02/06/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

**SB436/HB1198 TENNCARE: Use of biosimilar drugs as a cost-saving measure.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

*Summary:* Adds mandating the use of biosimilar drugs as a cost-saving measure the bureau of TennCare may implement. Adds that a health carrier, health benefit plan, or utilization review organization may require a patient to try a biosimilar product prior to providing coverage for the equivalent branded prescription drug. Requires the TennCare pharmacy advisory committee to consider as a factor the use of biosimilar drugs in the committee's recommendation to the bureau of TennCare on any drugs to be added to the state preferred drug list.

*Amendment* House Insurance Subcommittee amendment 1 (004872) authorizes the Division of TennCare to utilize biosimilars as a cost saving measure for pharmaceutical services.

*Summary:* Requires the TennCare Pharmacy Advisory Committee to consider biosimilars as a factor in its recommendations for drugs to be included on a state preferred drug list. Establishes that a health carrier, health benefit plan, or utilization review organization may require a patient to try a biosimilar product prior to providing coverage for the equivalent branded prescription drug as part of a step therapy protocol.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 12, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Committee 03/19/25.

**SB449/HB533 HEALTH CARE: Fertility Treatment and Contraceptive Protection Act.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Rudder, Iris  
*Summary:* Declares that an individual has a right to engage in activities associated with fertility treatment and contraception. Clarifies that the laws of this state do not prohibit an activity associated with fertility treatment or contraception. Specifies that the law of this state clearly and unambiguously acknowledges the right of an individual to perform, and the right of an individual to receive or use, fertility treatment and contraceptives in this state. Broadly captioned.  
*Amendment Summary:* Senate Health & Welfare Committee amendment 1, House Population Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (003691) clarifies that this bill does not create an entitlement to fertility treatment or contraception, or to coverage of or funding or reimbursement for fertility treatments contraception. Stipulates that state law acknowledges the right of a healthcare provider to perform and the right of a person to receive or use, fertility treatments and contraceptives.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 3, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 03/12/25 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee recommended with amendment 1 (003691). Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Committee 03/18/25.

**SB460/HB516 HEALTH CARE: Annual report on hypodermic syringe exchange program.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Terry, Bryan  
*Summary:* Adds the legislative librarian as a party to which the department of health must submit an annual report based on data received by a county or district health department that operates a needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program, including the number of people served, number of needles, syringes, and supplies dispensed and returned to the program, number of naloxone kits distributed, and the number and type of treatment referrals provided. Broadly captioned.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 30, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

**SB465/HB464 HEALTH CARE: Immunity from prosecution when seeking medical assistance for drug overdose.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Gardenhire, Todd , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther  
*Summary:* Removes the limitation that a person who is experiencing a drug overdose only has immunity from being arrested, charged, or prosecuted on the first drug overdose. Broadly captioned.  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

**SB474/HB387 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Prohibits a healthcare provider from inquiring as to a patient's ownership of firearm ammunition.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Butler, Ed  
*Summary:* Prohibits a healthcare provider from inquiring as to a patient's ownership, possession of, or access to firearm ammunition or firearm accessories. Prohibits a healthcare provider from denying future treatment of a patient based upon a patient's ownership or control of a firearm, firearm ammunition, or firearm accessories. Subjects the healthcare provider to disciplinary action and a fine of \$1,000 if the healthcare provider makes such inquiries.  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB550 HEALTH CARE: Required specialist of substance abuse prevention on the medical cannabis commission.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Briggs, Richard ,  
*Summary:* Clarifies that one of the persons appointed to the medical cannabis commission by the speaker of the senate must be a specialist in the area of substance abuse prevention.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB551/HB991 HEALTH CARE: Appointments to the board of medical examiners.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Hale, Michael  
*Summary:* Allows, instead of requires, the governor to consult with medical groups in making appointments to the board of medical examiners.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 31, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

**SB569/HB693 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Makes changes to the practice of pharmacy.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Baum, Charlie  
*Summary:* Makes certain changes to the practice of pharmacy, including removing the present prohibition on requiring a patient to pay an administrative fee for pharmacist-provided hormonal contraceptives when the patient is insured or covered and receives a pharmacy benefit that covers the cost of the hormonal contraceptives.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 15, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 03/06/25 - Senate passed.  
*House Status:* 03/13/25 - House passed.  
*Executive Status:* 03/13/25 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB584/HB688 HEALTH CARE: Buffer stock of necessary medicines and healthcare supplies.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Camper, Karen  
*Summary:* Authorizes the commissioner to develop and maintain an essential buffer stock of necessary medicines and healthcare supplies to be distributed during a natural or man-made disaster, mass casualty event, or public health emergency. Broadly captioned.  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

**SB604/HB614 INSURANCE HEALTH: Disclosure of maximum allowable cost lists - destruction of shared information.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bailey, Paul , Rep. Travis, Ron  
*Summary:* Requires a pharmacy services administrative organization or similar entity that receives maximum allowable cost list or related information from a contracted pharmacy to destroy the shared information within five business days of receipt of a written request for destruction from the sharing pharmacy. Broadly captioned.  
*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

**SB619/HB657 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Information for public dissemination by board regulating a healthcare provider.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Harshbarger, Bobby , Rep. Hicks, Tim

**Summary:** Allows a healthcare provider to petition a relevant board after completing a peer assistance or treatment program contract to remove information from public dissemination regarding the adverse action and consent order after 10 years from the probation date indicated in the consent order. Requires the relevant board to review and make a determination on a removal request submitted and requires the board, upon approving the request, to remove the information from any place the information is made public. Authorizes the division of health related boards to promulgate rules to effectuate such petition process. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** House amendment 1 (003518) requires the type of peer assistance to be one for substance use disorder or substance use treatment. Removes information from the public facing licensure verification website regarding the adverse action and the order by the relevant board after five years, instead of 10 years, from the completion date of the peer assistance program or contract. Clarifies that the order remains a public record. Defines an adverse action as a disciplinary action taken by a health-related licensing board.

**Fiscal Note:** (Dated February 12, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

**Senate Status:** 03/10/25 - Senate passed.

**House Status:** 03/10/25 - House passed with amendment 1 (003518).

**Executive Status:** 03/10/25 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

#### SB669/HB1226 **HEALTH CARE: Pandemic declaration.**

**Sponsors:** Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Lafferty, Justin

**Summary:** Deletes all references to the world health organization. Requires a pandemic to be declared by the federal centers for disease and prevention control, rather than the world health organization, with a subsequent declaration of a state of emergency by the governor for the governor to have exclusive jurisdiction to issue executive orders and directives related to the pandemic until the pandemic ceases to exist.

**Fiscal Note:** (Dated February 15, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

**Senate Status:** 02/24/25 - Senate passed.

**House Status:** 03/13/25 - House passed.

**Executive Status:** 03/13/25 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

#### SB707/HB821 **CRIMINAL LAW: Access to age-restricted products - tobacco, smoking hemp, and vapor products.**

**Sponsors:** Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Slater, William

**Summary:** Changes the apparent age required from under 30 to under 50 for a seller or distributor of tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine to demand proof of age before continuing the transaction.

**Senate Status:** 03/11/25 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee recommended. Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.

**House Status:** 03/12/25 - House Judiciary Committee recommended. Sent to House Calendar & Rules.

#### SB739/HB668 **COMMERCIAL LAW: Extension of cancellation and return policy period.**

**Sponsors:** Sen. Harshbarger, Bobby , Rep. Jones, Renea

**Summary:** Extends the cancellation period for individuals who purchase, subscribe to, or receive products, services, or memberships in any organization from 30 days to 45 days, provided that services have not been rendered, products are unused and in their original condition, or memberships have not been utilized. Broadly captioned.

**Fiscal Note:** (Dated February 3, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

**Senate Status:** 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

**House Status:** 03/12/25 - Taken off notice in House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

#### SB809/HB836 **AGRICULTURE: Tennessee Cannabis Act.**

**Sponsors:** Sen. Yarbro, Jeff , Rep. Miller, Larry

**Summary:** Enacts the "Tennessee Cannabis Act," which allows adults to use, possess, and transport not more than 60 grams of marijuana, except that not more than 15 grams of that amount may be in the form of marijuana concentrate. Details specifics of what the adult is required to do in order to have personal use. Authorizes retail marijuana operations if certain aspects are met. Describes violations of actions not authorized by the passing of this act. Specifies that the department of agriculture promulgates all necessary rules for the administration and enforcement of this act. Requires an annual report to be submitted and details the process of obtaining a license to operate as a marijuana establishment. Allows marijuana and marijuana products to be taxable as tangible personal property and subject to sales and use taxes. Prohibits the use of gas chromatography mass spectrum tests to determine a person's bail, parole, probation, or suspended sentence. (36pp.). Broadly captioned.

**Fiscal Note:** (Dated February 17, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT Secretary Department of Department REVENUE General Fund of State Agriculture of Revenue NET FY26-27 \$34,103,500 \$600 \$1,956,000 \$978,000 NET FY27-28 \$68,329,900 \$600 \$3,912,100 \$1,956,000 NET FY28-29 \$68,329,900 \$600 \$3,912,100 \$1,956,000 FY29-30 & Subsequent Years NET \$68,445,300 \$200 \$3,912,100 \$1,956,000 EXPENDITURES Incarceration Department of Revenue FY25-26 (\$104,900) - FY26-27 (\$212,200) \$167,400 FY27-28 & Subsequent Years (\$214,800) \$156,700 Total Positions Required: 2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE Permissive Mandatory FY26-27 \$6,520,100 NET \$3,507,600 FY27-28 each through FY28-29 \$13,040,200 NET \$7,097,900 FY29-30 & Subsequent Years \$13,040,200 NET \$7,152,900 EXPENDITURES Mandatory FY25-26 (\$1,743,300) FY26-27 & Subsequent Years (\$3,486,600) OTHER FISCAL IMPACT SB 809 - HB 836 3Any increase in state or local expenditures relative to funding directed to state-sanctioned research projects cannot be reasonably quantified. Decreases in incarceration expenditures will continue through FY34-35. Precise amounts of annual decreases are included below. Additionally, this legislation could result in reduced expenditures for incarceration at the state and local level, and increased expenditures at the state and local level for additional public benefits; however, due to multiple unknown variables, any such impacts cannot be reasonably quantified or determined at this time.

**Senate Status:** 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**House Status:** 03/12/25 - Set for House Criminal Justice Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB817/HB760 **HEALTH CARE: Prescribing and dispensing of bronchodilator rescue inhalers.**

**Sponsors:** Sen. Lowe, Adam , Rep. Darby, Tandy

**Summary:** Allows a healthcare practitioner to prescribe a bronchodilator rescue inhaler to be maintained for use in the name of an authorized entity, under a standing protocol from the healthcare practitioner. Allows a pharmacist to dispense a bronchodilator rescue inhaler established by a prescription issued in the name of an authorized entity. Requires an authorized entity that is prescribed and dispensed a bronchodilator rescue inhaler to designate an employee to maintain the inhaler in a secure location that allows the inhaler to be administered in an emergency situation. Allows said designated employee to administer the bronchodilator rescue inhaler when a physician is not immediately available. Encourages each school in an LEA and public charter school to keep a bronchodilator rescue inhaler in a minimum of two locations in the school. Allows school nurses or other trained school personnel to utilize the supply of a bronchodilator rescue inhaler. Provides immunity from liability for a designated employee, authorized entity, prescribing healthcare practitioner, school nurse, or other trained school personnel if a person is injured or harmed due to the administration of a bronchodilator rescue inhaler. Defines "authorized entity" as an entity that may, at any time, have allergens present that are capable of causing a severe allergic reaction. Defines "bronchodilator rescue inhaler" medication used to relieve asthma symptoms or respiratory distress along with devices and device components needed to appropriately administer the medication, including, but not limited to, disposable spacers. Defines "healthcare practitioner" as a physician or other healthcare provider who has prescriptive authority. Broadly captioned.

**Amendment Summary:** Senate Education Committee recommended amendment 1 (004108), House Health Committee amendment 1 (003911) adds definition of "standing protocol." Provides immunity from liability to dispensing pharmacists for an injury unless the dispensing pharmacist dispensed the prescription with intentional disregard for safety. Allows the board of pharmacy to promulgate the rules of this bill. Senate Education Committee recommended amendment 2 (004505) establishes that an LEA or public school, including a public charter school, that contracts for or employs a school nurse or other trained school personnel who administers a bronchodilator rescue inhaler is not liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the administration of a bronchodilator rescue inhaler to a student believed in good faith to be having life-threatening asthma symptoms or respiratory distress.

**Fiscal Note:** (Dated February 15, 2025) LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES Permissive FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$322,000

**Senate Status:** 03/12/25 - Set for Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee 03/18/25.

**House Status:** 03/12/25 - Set for House Finance, Ways & Means Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB839/HB984 **HEALTH CARE: Report on aggregate claims data on inpatients and outpatients with coded drug poisonings.**

**Sponsors:** Sen. Pody, Mark , Rep. Warner, Todd

*Summary:* Extends from March 1 to April 1, the date by which the department of health must submit to the governor, the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and legislative committees with subject matter jurisdiction over health a report with de-identified aggregate claims data on every inpatient and outpatient discharge that includes coded drug poisonings as reported for the calendar year two years prior to the current year by licensed hospitals to the commissioner of health. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 5, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

**SB881/HB1244 INSURANCE HEALTH: Establishes standards for pharmacy benefits managers to use when processing and paying claims.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Martin, Brock

*Summary:* Establishes standards for pharmacy benefits managers when processing and paying claims. Removes limits on aggregate penalties for violations of law made by pharmacy benefits managers. Requires pharmacy benefits managers to pay the clean parts of a claim within 30 days of receiving a claim on paper from a provider, and notify the provider in writing why the remaining portion of the claim will not be paid and notify the provider in writing of all reasons why the claim does not constitute a clean claim and will not be paid and what substantiating documentation and information is required to adjudicate the claim. Requires the pharmacy benefits manager to meet certain percentage requirements regarding paying clean claims or face fines. Broadly captioned.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB907/HB767 TAXES BUSINESS: Exemption - receipts from the sale of certain prescription drugs or medicines.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Hicks, Gary

*Summary:* Exempts from business tax, receipts from the sale of a prescription drug or medicine with a cost for a 30-day equivalent supply that exceeds the Medicare cost threshold for 2025 plan years and services necessary for proper preparation, storage, handling, administration, patient education, or post-sale monitoring of such exempted drugs or medicines.

*Amendment Summary:* House Finance Subcommittee amendment 1 (004079) makes bill applicable to tax years ending on or after December 31, 2025.

*Senate Status:* 03/04/25 - Senate Finance Revenue Subcommittee returned to full committee with a negative recommendation.

*House Status:* 03/05/25 - House Finance Subcommittee placed behind the budget after adopting amendment 1 (004079).

**SB955/HB1044 HEALTH CARE: Medical Ethics Defense Act.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Terry, Bryan

*Summary:* Enacts the "Medical Ethics Defense Act," which specifies that a healthcare provider must not be required to participate in or pay for a healthcare procedure, treatment, or service that violates the conscience of the healthcare provider. Specifies that the right is limited to a particular healthcare procedure, treatment, or service, and does not waive or modify any duty a healthcare provider may have to provide or pay for healthcare procedures, treatments, or services that do not violate the healthcare provider's conscience. Prohibits a civil cause of action, a criminal prosecution, or discriminatory action based on the exercised right. Details whistleblower and free speech protection of the individual or healthcare provider. Broadly captioned.

*Amendment Summary:* House Health Subcommittee amendment 1, Senate amendment 1 (003991) clarifies that the provisions do not apply to a healthcare professional or healthcare institution when performing healthcare procedures, treatments, or services for an individual who is in imminent danger of harming themselves or others.

*Senate Status:* 03/06/25 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (003991), which clarifies that the provisions do not apply to a healthcare professional or healthcare institution when performing healthcare procedures, treatments, or services for an individual who is in imminent danger of harming themselves or others.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Committee 03/18/25.

**SB1010/HB1220 HEALTH CARE: Tennessee Contraceptive Freedom Act.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Oliver, Charlane , Rep. Johnson, Gloria

*Summary:* Creates the Tennessee Contraceptive Freedom Act. Establishes that every individual has a fundamental right to make decisions about the individual's reproductive health care, including the fundamental right to use or refuse contraceptives or contraceptive supplies. Requires a healthcare provider to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception and family planning to consenting patients and refer consenting patients to a healthcare provider that can provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception and family planning. Prohibits these rights from being limited or otherwise infringed through a limitation or requirement unless a party can provide evidence based on the safety of the contraception. Requires health insurance carriers and public health agencies to ensure affordable access to a wide range of contraceptive methods for all consenting individuals. Prohibits access to contraceptives from being limited by an individual's sex, race, age, gender, income, ability to pay, number of children, marital status, citizenship, or motive. Prohibits this state from administering, implementing, or enforcing any law, rule, or other provision having the force and effect of law that infringes on one's right to contraceptives. Defines "contraception" as an action taken to prevent pregnancy, including the use of contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, fertility awareness-based methods, and sterilization procedures. Defines "contraceptive" as a device, medication, biological product, or procedure that is intended for use in the prevention of pregnancy, whether specifically intended to prevent pregnancy or for other health needs, legally marketed under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Defines "family planning" as all forms of contraception.

*Senate Status:* 03/11/25 - Failed in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee after failing to secure a second.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Population Health Subcommittee 03/18/25.

**SB1030/HB1156 FAMILY LAW: Immunizations for children.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Lynn, Susan

*Summary:* Deletes the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian to ensure that such person's child receives vaccines as recommended by guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Academy of Pediatrics. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 20, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

*House Status:* 03/04/25 - House Population Health Subcommittee deferred to summer study after adopting amendment 1 (004012).

**SB1031/HB1157 HEALTH CARE: Restore Trust in Public Health Messaging Act.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Lynn, Susan

*Summary:* Enacts the "Restore Trust in Public Health Messaging Act," which prohibits the promotion, distribution, or endorsement information regarding an FDA regulated product in a manner that conflicts with or does not accurately reflect the FDA approved or FDA-authorized label for such product. Allows for public complaints. Specifies corrective action upon notice of violation. Requires the removal of nonconforming materials by January 15, 2026. Broadly captioned.

*Amendment  
Summary:*

Senate amendment 1 (004093) defines "emergency use authorized product," as used in the bill, as a medical product that the federal food and drug administration has authorized for use during a public health emergency under the "Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act." Defines "labeling," as used in the bill, as the FDA-approved product information and includes prescribing information, carton and container labeling, medication guides, patient package inserts, and instructions for use. Defines "mask," as used in the bill, as a face covering, such as a surgical mask, medical-grade N95, or cloth facial covering worn for medical purposes. Defines "vaccine," as used in the bill, as a substance intended for use in humans to stimulate the body's immune response against an infectious disease or pathogen, including products intended to provide passive immunity, such as monoclonal antibodies. Revises the prohibition on the department of health, commissioner of health, an employee or agent of the department, an employee or agent of a local health department, and the state executive branch from directly or indirectly promoting, distributing, or endorsing information regarding an FDA-regulated product in a manner that conflicts with or does not accurately reflect the FDA-approved or FDA-authorized label for such product to, instead, prohibit such persons and entities from directly or indirectly promoting, distributing, or endorsing information regarding an FDA-regulated vaccine, mask, or emergency use authorized product that (i) conflicts with or does not accurately reflect the FDA-approved or FDA-authorized labeling for such vaccine, mask, or emergency use authorized product; or (ii) implies that safety or effectiveness has been established for coadministration of the vaccine, mask, or emergency use authorized product when adequately powered and well-controlled clinical trials needed to substantiate such representations have not been completed. Changes references from "products" to "vaccines, masks, or emergency use authorized products" throughout the bill. Requires the annual report to be submitted to the attorney general instead of the comptroller of the treasury. Requires the attorney general, instead of the comptroller of the treasury, to (i) establish a process by which information concerning violations and suspected violations may be submitted (ii) investigate complaints and assess penalties, and (iii) otherwise enforce the bill. Senate amendment 2 (004383) authorizes, instead of requires, the attorney general to (i) establish a process by which individuals may submit information concerning violations or suspected violations and (ii) investigate complaints and assess penalties. Authorizes, instead of requires, an entity violating the bill to be subject to a civil penalty and be ineligible to receive grants, funds, or other inducements for a period of one-10 years, to be determined by the attorney general, based on the severity of the violation. Authorizes, instead of requires, the director or chief executive, within 10 days of receiving a notice from the attorney general that their entity or an employee or agent of their entity has violated the bill, to (i) immediately cease the dissemination of any information deemed to be in violation of the bill and (ii) issue a correction notice.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Senate deferred to 03/17/25 after adopting amendment 1 (004093) and amendment 2 (004383). Senate amendment 1 (004093) defines "emergency use authorized product," as used in the bill, as a medical product that the federal food and drug administration has authorized for use during a public health emergency under the "Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act." Defines "labeling," as used in the bill, as the FDA-approved product information and includes prescribing information, carton and container labeling, medication guides, patient package inserts, and instructions for use. Defines "mask," as used in the bill, as a face covering, such as a surgical mask, medical-grade N95, or cloth facial covering worn for medical purposes. Defines "vaccine," as used in the bill, as a substance intended for use in humans to stimulate the body's immune response against an infectious disease or pathogen, including products intended to provide passive immunity, such as monoclonal antibodies. Revises the prohibition on the department of health, commissioner of health, an employee or agent of the department, an employee or agent of a local health department, and the state executive branch from directly or indirectly promoting, distributing, or endorsing information regarding an FDA-regulated product in a manner that conflicts with or does not accurately reflect the FDA-approved or FDA-authorized label for such product to, instead, prohibit such persons and entities from directly or indirectly promoting, distributing, or endorsing information regarding an FDA-regulated vaccine, mask, or emergency use authorized product that (i) conflicts with or does not accurately reflect the FDA-approved or FDA-authorized labeling for such vaccine, mask, or emergency use authorized product; or (ii) implies that safety or effectiveness has been established for coadministration of the vaccine, mask, or emergency use authorized product when adequately powered and well-controlled clinical trials needed to substantiate such representations have not been completed. Changes references from "products" to "vaccines, masks, or emergency use authorized products" throughout the bill. Requires the annual report to be submitted to the attorney general instead of the comptroller of the treasury. Requires the attorney general, instead of the comptroller of the treasury, to (i) establish a process by which information concerning violations and suspected violations may be submitted (ii) investigate complaints and assess penalties, and (iii) otherwise enforce the bill. Senate amendment 2 (004383) authorizes, instead of requires, the attorney general to (i) establish a process by which individuals may submit information concerning violations or suspected violations and (ii) investigate complaints and assess penalties. Authorizes, instead of requires, an entity violating the bill to be subject to a civil penalty and be ineligible to receive grants, funds, or other inducements for a period of one-10 years, to be determined by the attorney general, based on the severity of the violation. Authorizes, instead of requires, the director or chief executive, within 10 days of receiving a notice from the attorney general that their entity or an employee or agent of their entity has violated the bill, to (i) immediately cease the dissemination of any information deemed to be in violation of the bill and (ii) issue a correction notice.

*House Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for House Floor on 03/17/25.

#### SB1039/HB1102 **HEALTH CARE: Drug or alcohol test or screen for a patient who is pregnant.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Salinas, Gabby  
*Summary:* Prohibits a healthcare facility from authorizing a licensed healthcare professional from performing a drug or alcohol test or screen on a patient who is pregnant, less than one year postpartum, or a newborn without written and oral consent. Allows for a drug or alcohol test or screen to be performed without the consent of the patient if, in the healthcare professional's judgment, an emergency exists and the patient or newborn is in immediate need of medical attention, and an attempt to secure consent would result in a delay of treatment that could increase the risk to the patient's or newborn's life or health. Broadly captioned.

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB1064/HB1160 **HEALTH CARE: List of psychotropic medications and side effects of each medication.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Bailey, Paul , Rep. Lynn, Susan  
*Summary:* Requires the department of health on or before January 1, 2026, to submit a report with a list of each drug that is psychotropic medication pursuant to current law and the side effects of each medication to the chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate and the chair of the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over health-related matters. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT  
*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

#### SB1081/HB714 **TAXES SALES: Tax remittance schedule to offset transaction fees.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Baum, Charlie  
*Summary:* Requires the commissioner of revenue, in cooperation with the treasury, to establish a sales tax remittance schedule for the purpose of allowing dealers making sales to offset the transaction fees associated with the collection of sales tax.

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to House Finance, Ways & Means Subcommittee.

#### SB1153/HB1205 **HEALTH CARE: Prohibits physicians from treating themselves or their immediate family.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Kumar, Sabi  
*Summary:* Prohibits physicians from prescribing, administering, or dispensing medication for, or otherwise treating, themselves or their immediate family except for minor, self-limited, short-term, or urgent, emergency situations. Prohibits physicians from treating themselves with or prescribing to family members a scheduled drug. Broadly captioned.

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB1209/HB1188 **EDUCATION: Discrimination in educational institutions.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Rose, Paul , Rep. Grills, Rusty  
*Summary:* Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status against a student or an employee in a public institution of education. Requires public institutions of education to treat harassment or discrimination against students or employees, or resulting from institutional policies or programs on their campuses, motivated by or including antisemitic intent in an identical manner to discrimination motivated by race. Requires Title VI coordinators to be designated to monitor antisemitic discrimination and harassment at K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Broadly captioned.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Education Committee 03/19/25.  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Education Administration Subcommittee 03/18/25.

**SB1235/HB1237 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Membership on state regulatory and health related boards.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Rose, Paul , Rep. Zachary, Jason

*Summary:* Prohibits the exclusion of persons from membership on state regulatory and health-related boards on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and national origin. Prohibits such boards from establishing or operating under race-based policies pertaining to their composition. Creates a private cause of action against a board and its officers, employees, and agents for such practices. Removes requirement that appointing authorities strive to ensure certain boards and commissions are represented by members of racial minorities. Broadly captioned.

*Amendment Summary:* House amendment 1 (004024) removes the requirement for the governor to strive to ensure that at least one person serving on the following boards is a member of a racial minority: (i) the state board of accountancy, (ii) the board of cosmetology and barber examiners, (iii) the board of funeral directors and embalmers, (iv) the state board for licensing contractors, (v) the Tennessee real estate commission, (vi) the state board of examiners for land surveyors, (vii) the Tennessee auctioneer commission, (viii) the Tennessee collection service board, and (ix) the elevator and amusement device safety board. Removes the requirement that the state board of examiners for architects and engineers include, where possible, at least one member of a racial minority. Removes the requirement that the commissioner of commerce and insurance, or the commissioner's designee, strive to achieve a diverse membership that represents the citizenry of Tennessee on the detection services advisory committee. Removes the requirement for the governor to strive to ensure that at least two persons serving on the real estate appraiser commission are members of a racial minority. Restores the current requirement in present law that, in making appointments to the board of medical examiners, the governor must, to the extent feasible, strive to ensure the full 12-member board is composed of at least one person who is female.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Judiciary Committee 03/17/25.

*House Status:* 03/10/25 - House passed with amendment 1 (004024).

**SB1240/HB1351 MENTAL HEALTH: Annual report on medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Jackson, Ed , Rep. Littleton, Mary

*Summary:* Requires an insurance company and health maintenance organization, upon request, to provide a claims experience report to a plan sponsor or administrator of an ERISA (Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974) group health plan. Specifies contents of such a report; revises provisions relating to reinsurance and risk insurance. Revises provisions relating to the readability, content, and style of life and health insurance policies. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 6, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

**SB1270/HB1304 INSURANCE HEALTH: Claims experience report to a plan sponsor or administrator of an ERISA.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William

*Summary:* Requires an insurance company and health maintenance organization, upon request, to provide a claims experience report to a plan sponsor or administrator of an ERISA (Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974) group health plan. Specifies contents of such a report; revises provisions relating to reinsurance and risk insurance. Revises provisions relating to the readability, content, and style of life and health insurance policies. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

*Amendment Summary:* Senate amendment 1 (004645) revises the definition of "group health plan" such that such plan has to have 50 or more participants as defined in the federal "Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974" (ERISA), instead of 25 or more participants. Revises the provision requiring the report to include certain information for the 36-month period preceding the date of the request or for the entire period of coverage, whichever is shorter to, instead, require such information for (i) the 36-month period preceding the date of the request, (ii) for the entire period of coverage, or (iii) for the period of time specified in the request, whichever period is shortest. Revises the provision relative to such information including the total premiums paid by month to, instead, require the total premium or premium equivalent earned by month. Adds to such information the total dollar amount of claims pending as the date of the request for the report. Revises the provision authorizing a plan, plan sponsor, or plan administrator to use information in a written claims experience report provided under the bill only as necessary to perform treatment, payment, or health care operations as those activities are described by federal regulations to, instead, provide such authorization to use such information only as permitted or required by the federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996" (HIPAA) and its implementing regulations. Adds that the claims experience report provisions in the bill apply to the extent not preempted by ERISA. Revises, as of January 1, 2026, the definition of "personal risk insurance" in the bill to include (i) insurance on every kind of farm property or farm risk, including farm premises, buildings, machinery, equipment, motor vehicles, livestock, and other personal property used in farming operations, unless insured on a commercial risk insurance policy; (ii) insurance on private passenger nonfleet motor-driven vehicles, not used for hire, which are used for farm needs with fewer than four wheels; and (iii) insurance on pleasure watercraft that are used for farm needs. Revises present law relative to rates and rating organizations with regard to commercial risk insurance by clarifying that "commercial risk insurance" includes insurance on every kind of farm property or farm risk that is not personal risk insurance, including farm premises, buildings, machinery, equipment, motor vehicles, livestock, and other personal property used in farming operations. House Insurance Committee amendment 1 (004264) requires, that the extent such information is available to the health benefit plan issuer and is relevant to the request made under subsection (b), a report provided pursuant to subsection (b) must include the following information for the thirty-six-month period preceding the date of the request, for the entire period of coverage, or for the period of time specified in the request, whichever period is shortest: (1) Aggregate paid claims experience by month, including claims experience for medical, dental, and pharmacy benefits, as applicable; (2) Total premium or premium equivalent earned by month; (3) Total number of covered employees on a monthly basis by coverage tier, including whether coverage was for: (A) An employee only; (B) An employee with dependents only; (C) An employee with a spouse only; or (D) An employee with spouse and dependents; and (4) An aggregate report of all claims exceeding \$75,000.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Senate passed with amendment 1 (004645), which revises the definition of "group health plan" such that such plan has to have 50 or more participants as defined in the federal "Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974" (ERISA), instead of 25 or more participants. Revises the provision requiring the report to include certain information for the 36-month period preceding the date of the request or for the entire period of coverage, whichever is shorter to, instead, require such information for (i) the 36-month period preceding the date of the request, (ii) for the entire period of coverage, or (iii) for the period of time specified in the request, whichever period is shortest. Revises the provision relative to such information including the total premiums paid by month to, instead, require the total premium or premium equivalent earned by month. Adds to such information the total dollar amount of claims pending as the date of the request for the report. Revises the provision authorizing a plan, plan sponsor, or plan administrator to use information in a written claims experience report provided under the bill only as necessary to perform treatment, payment, or health care operations as those activities are described by federal regulations to, instead, provide such authorization to use such information only as permitted or required by the federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996" (HIPAA) and its implementing regulations. Adds that the claims experience report provisions in the bill apply to the extent not preempted by ERISA. Revises, as of January 1, 2026, the definition of "personal risk insurance" in the bill to include (i) insurance on every kind of farm property or farm risk, including farm premises, buildings, machinery, equipment, motor vehicles, livestock, and other personal property used in farming operations, unless insured on a commercial risk insurance policy; (ii) insurance on private passenger nonfleet motor-driven vehicles, not used for hire, which are used for farm needs with fewer than four wheels; and (iii) insurance on pleasure watercraft that are used for farm needs. Revises present law relative to rates and rating organizations with regard to commercial risk insurance by clarifying that "commercial risk insurance" includes insurance on every kind of farm property or farm risk that is not personal risk insurance, including farm premises, buildings, machinery, equipment, motor vehicles, livestock, and other personal property used in farming operations.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - House Insurance Committee recommended with amendment 1 (004264). Sent to House Calendar & Rules.

**SB1283/HB111 HEALTH CARE: Required pregnancy serological tests.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Johnson, Jack , 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. Part of Administration Package.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 12, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/03/25 - Senate passed.

*House Status:* 03/06/25 - House passed.

*Executive Status:* 03/06/25 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

**SB1284/HB1311 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Removal of requirement for board members to sign a license before issuance.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William

*Summary:* Removes the requirement that a license be issued by the health related board be signed by members of the board prior to issuance. Authorizes the presiding officer of the board to divide the board into panels of three or more to conduct contested case hearing or disciplinary matters. Clarifies that patient billing records are a part of the medical and practice records that providers must make available to the department upon the department's request for inspection. States that identifying information of certain parties in a contested case hearing involving disciplinary charges filed against a provider must only be produced by the provider to a subpoena from a law enforcement agency. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

*Senate Status:* 03/06/25 - Senate passed.

*House Status:* 03/13/25 - House Calendar & Rules Committee deferred to 03/20/25.

#### SB1315/HB1329 **TAXES GENERAL: Reduction of administrative fee percentage.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William

*Summary:* Reduces the administrative fee percentage the department takes from proceeds of the business tax, short-term rental unit occupancy tax, local tax surcharge, coal severance tax, and local option sales tax from 1.125% to .75% to assist in defraying the expenses of administration and collection, before remitting proceeds to the appropriate county, city, or town. Part of Administration Package.

*Senate Status:* 03/11/25 - Senate State & Local Government recommended. Sent to Senate Finance, Ways & Means.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Finance, Ways & Means Committee 03/18/25.

#### SB1316/HB1330 **STATE GOVERNMENT: Less is More Act of 2025.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William

*Summary:* Reorganizes various boards and agencies in Tennessee. Removes the board of court reporting from the list of entities that are set to terminate on June 30, 2025. Specifies participation by electronic or other means. Moves the regulatory power of the board of court reporting to the commissioner of commerce and insurance. Details responsibilities of the delegated powers. Allows an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state but who has a valid license in good standing as a certified public accountant from another state to be granted practice privileges in this state, if at the time the individual was licensed, the individual showed evidence of having successfully completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination. (20 pp.). Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

*Amendment Summary:* House State & Local Government Committee amendment 1, Senate Government Operations Committee amendment 1 (004421) enacts the Less is More Act of 2025. Terminates the Board of Court Reporting and moves all rules and regulations of licensing provided to the board under the Tennessee Court Report Act of 2009 to the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI). Deletes the provision in statute that grandfathered in the license of a court reporter who was licensed before January 1, 2010. Changes the name of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting Fund to the Tennessee Court Reporting Fund. Exempts facilities that are operated for the provision of the Employment and Community First CHOICES program and services for comprehensive behavioral support for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or severe behavioral or psychiatric conditions, or any successor program or service, or a home and community-based services waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, from licensing under the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and moves such licensing requirements under the Department of Disability and Aging. Effective January 1, 2026, authorizes an additional option as one of the requirements for a certificate as a public accountant to include 120 hours of college education with the total educational program including an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the State Board of Accountancy. Requires applicants to obtain one to two years of experience depending on the type of completed education before being granted a certificate. Reduces regulations related to certificate issuance and renewals for accountants certified in other states. Removes annual inspection requirements of barber shops, barber schools, or colleges under the Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners and requires the Board to establish rules regarding the frequency of inspections. Extends, from six months to two years, the period that an applicant has to apply for a real estate broker's license after passing the examination before being required to retake the examination in order to be eligible for a license. Authorizes a broker who has temporarily retired to submit proof of completion of a commission-approved course consisting of 30 hours of continuing education to reactivate their license. Prohibits a licensed brokers penalty fee of \$100 per month from exceeding 12 months. Authorizes a licensee in good standing with the Commission, whose license has been expired for more than two years, but has not been temporarily retired, to reactivate the license upon payment of the penalty fee accessed for all 12 months and completion of a commission-approved course consisting of 30 hours of continuing education. Deletes the Soil Scientist Licensure Act of 2009, removing all licensing regulation. Renames the Geologist and Soil Scientist Regulatory Fund to the Geologist Regulatory Fund. Authorize any board-run, commission-run, or commissioner-run program in the Division of Regulatory Boards of the DCI that issues a license, to enter into reciprocal agreements with appropriate officials in other jurisdictions to grant licenses to persons or entities licensed in the other jurisdictions who possess sufficient qualifications as established by the regulatory authority of this state to operate across state lines under mutually acceptable terms. Revises provisions governing participation in meetings by electronic means of communication. Deletes the provisions that authorizes a meeting of a governing body over electronic means only as necessary for purposes of a quorum, and authorizes a governing body to meet over electronic means at any point, so long as certain conditions are met and the governing body meets with a quorum physically present no less than once per calendar year. Makes various changes to the composition, appointment rules, and term lengths relative to members of a commission or board. Specifically makes variations of these changes to the following boards or commissions: the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Board of the Tennessee Education Lottery, Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST), Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission, Board of Accountancy, Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners, Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, Tennessee Real Estate Commission, Board of Dentistry, Board of Medical Examiners, Board of Optometry, Board of Dispensing Opticians, Board of Respiratory Care, Tennessee Athletic Commission, and the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 03/19/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Government Operations Committee 03/17/25.

#### SB1372/HB651 **INSURANCE HEALTH: All-products clause in a network participation agreement with healthcare provider.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Williams, Ryan

*Summary:* Prohibits a health insurance entity or TennCare MCO from including an all-products clause in a network participation agreement with a healthcare provider, and makes certain other changes related to MCO network adequacy. Broadly captioned.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB1382/HB858 **HEALTH CARE: Step therapy - study on ease of access.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Alexander, Rebecca

*Summary:* Requires the commissioner of commerce and insurance to conduct a study on the ease of access for patients and prescribing practitioners to insurers' online processes to request step therapy exceptions to determine whether insurers in this state are complying with the current law requirement for ease of access in a manner that does not impose any unnecessary barriers to making an exception request. Requires the commissioner to deliver findings and recommendations from the study to the chief clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the legislative librarian no later than December 15, 2025.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB1389/HB638 **TENNCARE: TennCare or CoverKids coverage based on vaccination status.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Carringer, Michele

*Summary:* Prohibits a healthcare provider who participates in the TennCare or CoverKids programs from refusing to provide healthcare services to an enrollee based solely upon the enrollee's refusal to obtain a vaccine or immunization. Prohibits the bureau from reimbursing a healthcare provider in violation of such prohibition. Requires the director to adopt rules. Broadly captioned.

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.

*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 03/19/25.

#### SB1403/HB1179 **INSURANCE HEALTH: Extends period of audit notice for a pharmacy - three weeks.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Fritts, Monty

*Summary:* Extends from two to three weeks the period of notice that must be provided to a pharmacist or pharmacy prior to an initial on-site audit for each audit cycle by a covered entity, pharmacy benefits manager, the state or its political subdivisions, or an agent of such entity by sending written notice to the pharmacist or pharmacy. Broadly captioned.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.  
*House Status:* 02/12/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk pending amendment.

**SB1414/HB1242 INSURANCE HEALTH: Expands provisions prohibiting discrimination against 340B entities.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther  
*Summary:* Prohibits a drug manufacturer, agent, or affiliate from denying, restricting, prohibiting, discriminating against, or otherwise limiting the acquisition or delivery of a 340B drug to a 340B entity or an authorized location. Prohibits drug manufacturers from imposing additional requirements on 340B entities as a condition for receiving 340B drugs. Prohibits requiring a 340B entity to reverse, resubmit, or clarify a claim after initial adjudication unless it is part of normal business operations and unrelated to the 340B program. Prohibits excluding claims from 340B entities that would result in a net loss to the covered entity. Prohibits imposing requirements on the number of 340B entities, contract pharmacies, or inventory management systems. Prohibits imposing audit requirements, accreditation, recertification, credentialing, or recredentialing standards that are not also required of non-340B providers. Prohibits any requirement determined by the commissioner of finance and administration to interfere with a 340B entity's ability to access drug discounts. Prohibits entities contracting with 340B entities for drug dispensing, administration, or consulting from interfering with, prohibiting, restricting, or limiting a 340B entity's contracts or prospective business relationships. Prohibits such entities from denying, restricting, or interfering with a 340B entity's choice of 340B drugs acquired, delivered, or distributed. Establishes that a person in violation of this may face a civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation and each package of 340B drugs involved in a violation constitutes a separate offense. Authorizes enforcement by the commissioner of finance and administration or the attorney general, either jointly or separately. Defines "340B entity" as a covered entity participating in the federal 340B drug discount program including the entity's pharmacy or pharmacies, or any pharmacy or pharmacies under contract with the 340B entity to dispense drugs on behalf of the 340B entity. Defines "claim" as a request from a 340B entity to be reimbursed for the cost of filling, refilling, or administering a prescription drug or for providing a medical supply or device.  
*Amendment* House Insurance Committee amendment 1 (003956) requires compliance with federal law with regard to a patient's immigration status and transgender care for minors.  
*Summary:*  
*Senate Status:* 03/13/25 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 03/18/25.  
*House Status:* 03/05/25 - House Insurance Committee recommended with amendment 1 (003956). Sent to House Finance.

**SB1421/HB1033 COMMERCIAL LAW: Affirmative defense that may be utilized by a covered entity that is the subject of a data breach.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Dixie, Vincent  
*Summary:* Creates an affirmative defense that may be utilized by a covered entity that is the subject of a data breach, if the covered entity's cybersecurity program meets certain criteria at the time the breach occurs.  
*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.  
*House Status:* 02/11/25 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**HB376 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Discriminatory practices prohibited regarding membership of state regulatory and health related boards.**

*Sponsors:* Rep. Zachary, Jason  
*Summary:* Prohibits the exclusion of persons from membership on state regulatory and health related boards on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and national origin. Prohibits such boards from establishing or operating under race-based policies pertaining to their composition. Creates a private cause of action against a board and its officers, employees, and agents for violations. Broadly captioned.  
*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Referred to House Department & Agencies Subcommittee.

**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:* 03/12/25 - House Civil Justice Subcommittee deferred to final calendar.

**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.  
*Amendment* House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (004774) prohibits the state, absent of due process of law, from compelling any person to undergo a medical treatment, even in the case of a declared state of emergency.  
*Summary:*  
*House Status:* 03/12/25 - Set for House Health Committee 03/18/25.