

THE RESULTS REPORT:
LEGISLATIVE RESULTS & OUTCOMES

20
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TENNESSEE CHAMBER
of Commerce & Industry

TENNESSEE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

tnchamber.org





A SUMMARY OF SUCCESSSES

The adjournment of the 2024 legislative session marks the completion of the 113th General Assembly. The session opened and closed without any major leadership shakeups, as Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and House Speaker Cameron Sexton maintained the top posts in their respective chambers throughout the entirety of 113th General Assembly. The legislature passed a number of major Chamber-backed bills that will ensure that Tennessee remains a great place to do business. Once again, no bill outright opposed by the Chamber was enacted into law.

A tight budget year resulting from lower than projected revenues and expiring federal pandemic-era money impacted almost every legislative debate during the 2024 session. The \$52.8 billion 2024-2025 budget was approximately \$3 billion less than last year's budget, meaning that every proposal's overall cost received even more scrutiny than in past years. Still, the Chamber was able to secure passage of a major business tax cut, as the General Assembly passed a modified version of Governor Lee's \$1.9 billion franchise tax (\$1.5 billion in non-recurring refunds and \$400 million in recurring cuts) on the last day of session. The Chamber was also able to pass legislation during a last-minute effort to protect Tennessee businesses from expensive, frivolous lawsuits over basic website technology brought under Tennessee's expansive wiretapping statute established in 1994 before the broad use of website data tools. The new law will save the business community billions of dollars in legal costs.

The Chamber maintained its commitment to serving as the primary voice of diverse business and manufacturing trade interests on major employment and economic issues facing public policy decision-makers in Tennessee through tireless engagement with the legislature. The Chamber's government affairs team participated in hundreds of legislative and policy meetings and logged countless hours monitoring legislative committees and floor sessions and communicating with legislators and our members through mediums like our Capitol Update reports. As important as our mission to advance pro-business policy is, the Chamber also played successful defense against several proposals that would have harmed Tennessee's business climate.

A NOTE TO OUR VALUED TENNESSEE CHAMBER MEMBERS:

A special thank you goes to all Tennessee Chamber members whose unwavering dedication was critical to the advancement of our mission throughout the 2024 legislative year. It is through the grassroots efforts of Tennessee's business leaders that we achieved remarkable success during the 113th General Assembly. The strength of our team in Nashville stems from respected business leaders who generously contribute their time and resources to our organization, while upholding stellar reputations in every corner of the state.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to continuing our crucial work in areas such as workforce development, environmental regulation, tax policy, human resources and labor policy, and economic development, among others. Our members are the pulse of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry/Tennessee Manufacturers Association.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to advocate on your behalf, and we look forward to continuing our partnership for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,

RJ Gibson
Director, Government Affairs
& Advocacy



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESES & RECAP



\$52.8 BILLION BUDGET

Due to reduced pandemic-era federal funding and state revenues coming in under projections, it was a tight budget year that squeezed any legislation with a fiscal note. This made for a challenging legislative environment with a FY2024-2025 budget topline of more than \$3 billion less than the previous year's budget. However, years of fiscal responsibility from the General Assembly, including significant past investments in the state's rainy-day fund and Tennessee's consistent ranking as one of the most fiscally well-managed states in country, resulted in lessened impacts of a down revenue year, as the General Assembly was still able to fully fund the TISA K-12 education formula, include \$1.9 billion (\$1.5 billion in non-recurring and \$400 million in recurring) in franchise tax cuts and refunds for businesses, and continued investments in the state's rainy-day fund. While the challenging fiscal situation limited the number of big-ticket items funded this year, the budget also included \$30 million in rural economic development grant funds, \$10 million for the Governor's Nuclear Development Grant program, and \$350,000 for the US Smart Factory Institute in Cleveland.

ANTI-BUSINESS LEGISLATION

The Tennessee Chamber successfully worked either to amend or defeat many employer mandates that, if enacted, would have significantly impacted business in Tennessee. These bills include employer mandates that would increase cost and regulation to businesses in Tennessee including wage mandates, tax increases, and extended producer responsibility. A full list can be found at tnchamber.org.

TAX

This year's session saw the passage of one of the largest business tax cuts in recent memory, which also resulted in fixing a possible Constitutional issue with the state's franchise tax. The General Assembly passed **SB2103(Johnson)/HB1893(Lamberth)**, a major business tax cut that removes the real and tangible property alternative minimum measure of the franchise tax and provides refunds to businesses who paid on the alternative measure during the past three years. The bill is expected to result in \$400 million in recurring tax reductions and \$1.5 billion in refunds this year. Read more about **SB2103/HB1893** on page 6.

While the franchise tax reform was the biggest tax bill of the 2024 legislative session for business, the Chamber also supported **HJR81(Darby)**, which was backed by a number of other business groups including the Tennessee Farm Bureau and will allow for a Constitutional amendment to ban the state collection of property taxes to appear on the ballot in 2026. While the state has not collected property taxes since 1949, HRJ81 allows for voters to remove the decision to enact a state property tax in the future from the General Assembly by enshrining the ban in the state's Constitution.

Several tax-related bills failed to pass, including **SB1946(Walley)/HB2057(Carr)** which would have required counties to move from four to six-year reappraisal schedules to one to four-year schedules for property tax appraisals. The Chamber has expressed concerns that allowing counties to reappraise annually would lead to an undue burden on businesses forced to endure endless reappraisals. The Chamber also fought off a variety of business tax increases, including **SB2065(Oliver)/HB2234(Behn)**, which would have created a 9.5% digital transaction privilege tax on large businesses in the state and **SB1934(Oliver)/HB2043(Behn)**, which would have created a business enterprise tax of 0.75%.



EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

The Tennessee Chamber worked to support several bills that will make Tennessee an even better state to live and do business.

SB2027(Reeves)/HB2110(Boyd), a Tennessee Chamber priority, clarifies what constitutes “work” for hourly and wage workers and codifies a “de minimis” exception following the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947. It declares “de minimis” activities like going through security or walking to the office are not compensable work. This legislation is a proactive measure that will help businesses avoid frivolous litigation.

SB2909(Bailey)/HB2306(Vaughan), a Tennessee Chamber priority, as amended would establish a Tennessee Workers Compensation Self-Insured Guarantee Fund for employers that self-insure their workers’ compensation liability. Employers currently are required to annually post collateral with the Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance which is used in the rare case of bankruptcy to ensure employees receive workers’ compensation benefits. This proposal is similar to workers compensation guarantee funds established in several other states, and Chamber members have expressed that this approach can help free up capital and save costs while maintaining protections for employees.

SB2017(Reeves)/HB2113(Powers), supported by the Tennessee Chamber, is an anti-class action bill that makes the statute of limitations on unpaid wage claims three years, the same as under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

The Tennessee Chamber worked on several bills this legislative session that will help to improve Tennessee’s workforce development and education systems and ensure that businesses have the workforce they need. Among these was **SB1947(Lundberg)/HB2058(Hicks, T.)**, which requires the state board of education to establish a substitute for Algebra II as a high school graduation requirement for students not pursuing a four-year degree or a STEM-related program after high school. This will remove a major stumbling block to a degree for students who do not need Algebra II for their future career, while also ensuring that those who do need Algebra II receive quality instruction.

The Chamber also supported **SB1853(Lowe)/HB2059(Hicks, T.)**, which increases the number of credits a student can receive for participating in a work-based learning program each year from three to six, incentivizing more participation in programs that make up a key part of the education to work pipeline.

Following last year’s historic \$1 billion investment in the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) system, **SB2666(White)/HB1923(Butler)** will reserve full-time spots at TCATs for every high school student who is a dual-enrollment student at the TCAT in the preceding semester, ensuring that students do not get sidelined due to a lack of space, which could prevent them from ever returning to school. The Chamber appreciates these steps and looks forward to working with the General Assembly and the administration on future legislation to prepare Tennessee’s workforce for the modern economy.

Legislators could not agree on the details of Governor Lee’s proposal to create a state-wide universal voucher program for private K-12 education, but the initiative was funded at \$146 million in the budget.

BUSINESS WEBSITE / WIRETAPPING LAWSUITS

SB2221(Powers)/HB1658(Lamberth) creates the Class E felony offense of assault against a participant in judicial proceedings while on the premises of a building in which judicial proceedings occur. While the Chamber had no position on the original bill, **SB2221/HB1658** did open up Title 39 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, which presented an opportunity for the Chamber to prevent the misuse of Tennessee’s wiretapping statute by a nationwide network of class action lawyers to target any business that operates a website that utilizes common, third-party technology under T.C.A. § 39-13-601 et seq.

The Chamber’s amendment clarifies that Tennessee’s wiretapping statute does not apply to businesses using common website technology and removes the statute’s civil penalties, removing the threat of massive lawsuits against businesses for simply operating a website while running their business. A business brought this issue to the attention of the Chamber in the last few weeks of the legislative session at which point it became a Chamber priority. Tennessee’s wiretapping law, which was passed in 1994 when the internet was in its infancy, was designed to criminalize the “interception” of oral, wire, or other electronic communications (old-school wiretapping), not the use of common website data tools.

Because of the strength of Tennessee’s wiretapping statute, website operators could have been liable for penalties of up to \$10,000 per click by a website visitor, a gross misuse of the wiretapping statute, as the use of this third-party technology does not constitute the practice of wiretapping as is rightfully understood. As a result of the Chamber’s amendment to **SB2221/HB1658**, which passed during the last week of session, businesses no longer have to worry about being sued under this statute in Tennessee.



TECHNOLOGY, TORT REFORM & LEGAL

The Tennessee Chamber advocated for various bills aimed at enhancing the legal climate in which Tennessee's business community operates. **SB2018(Reeves)/HB2434(Terry)**, supported by the Tennessee Chamber, restricts companies' civil liability for cybersecurity attacks unless the attack "was caused by willful, wanton, or gross negligence on the part of the private entity." This legislation, which faced significant opposition from plaintiffs' attorneys, gives businesses that have suffered a cyberattack extra protection from legal action that would pile on costs in addition to the extensive costs that are often required to respond to and mitigate the attack itself.

SB2530(Watson)/HB2325(Hazlewood), supported by the Tennessee Chamber, creates the Tennessee Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council. The council, whose members would be appointed by the Governor, Senate Speaker, and House Speaker, would be required to submit an action plan to the governor to address how to position Tennessee competitively to ensure its citizens capture the full economic benefit from artificial intelligence opportunities and to address how to responsibly leverage artificial intelligence to improve the efficiency of state and local government services. The legislation requires that two experts from the business community be appointed to the council.

SB2253(Stevens)/HB2001(Farmer), a Tennessee Chamber priority, was introduced in response to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Crotty v. Flora decision, which changed the historical interpretation of Tennessee Code Annotated, section 29-26-119 relative to what damages may be awarded in health care liability actions in medical malpractice suits. As amended, **SB2253/HB2001** clarifies Tennessee law regarding health care liability damages and reaffirms the historic legislative intent of the statute. The Chamber worked with stakeholders and legislators to restore this historical practice and to clarify what damages may be entered into evidence and awarded in these cases by defining the term "actual economic losses," which is currently undefined. This will prevent windfall payouts to plaintiffs that would increase the cost of medical malpractice insurance in Tennessee and thus be borne by patients and businesses in the state through higher prices for medical procedures.



ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

In the energy and environment space, it was mainly a year of defense as the Chamber successfully fought off several bills that would have increased regulation and costs for businesses in Tennessee. An amendment to **SB1958(Walley)/HB2436(Moody)** would have created a private and public right of action against entities in the state over odors produced because of the land-application of biosolids, which would exacerbate the state's impending solid-waste crisis and increase expenses for many businesses who use land application as an alternative to landfills. Additionally, creating a precedent for a right of action over odor could have disastrous impacts for businesses across the state engaged in nearly every industry – fortunately a grassroots reaction led by the Chamber was able to prevent the bill from advancing.

The Chamber also successfully opposed **SB803(Briggs)/HB1451(Faison)** – the CLEAN Act – which would have created a duplicative litter task force aimed at setting the table for the establishment of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program in Tennessee. Such a program, which makes businesses responsible for what happens to their products after they are sold by requiring new taxes to fund recycling programs, would have been created by **SB573(Campbell)/HB550(Harris)** – the Tennessee Waste Reduction and Recycling Act – which the Chamber also successfully opposed.

Unfortunately, two priorities of the Chamber – legislation to decrease the regulatory jurisdiction of the state over isolated wetlands and efforts to increase the state's landfill capacity, which is quickly filling up – were not passed this session but will likely come up in future sessions.



Tennessee Chamber works with Governor Lee, Legislature to Pass Major Business Tax Cut

On the last day of the 2024 legislative session, the Tennessee General Assembly reached an agreement on a major tax reform bill that will result in billions of dollars in tax savings for Tennessee businesses. Public Chapter 950, which eliminates the alternative minimum measure of the franchise tax moving forward and allows for refunds to businesses that paid on the alternative during the past three years, was signed into law by Governor Bill Lee on May 10, 2024.

In late 2023, Governor Lee announced his intention to pursue a removal of the real and tangible property alternative minimum measure of the state's franchise tax because of concerns over the measure's constitutionality. Under the now-defunct regime, a business operating in Tennessee owed franchise taxes based on either its net worth or the value of the real and tangible property it owned or rented in Tennessee, whichever was higher. As a result of lawsuits in other states, the Attorney General and Governor determined that the alternative measure likely violated the Constitution's dormant commerce clause, which could expose the state to significant legal liability. This led to the introduction of the administration's bill, which included a repeal of the alternative measure and refunds to businesses who had paid on the measure during the past three years.

The proposal met initial opposition due to the price tag in a tight budget year and varied opinions on the legal threat the state faced. After months of working with the Chamber and other business groups, the legislature reached a deal to enact the major tenets of the Governor's proposal, which will result in \$400 million in recurring tax savings for businesses annually and provide \$1.5 billion in refunds this year. The Chamber also secured the inclusion of an important provision that protects businesses with franchise tax credits from having those devalued by allowing an option to remain in the current environment – where they pay on real and tangible property instead of going to net worth – if the real and tangible property measure results in a higher tax liability than the net worth measure would.

The legislation is a significant win for the business community and the state, as it continues the work of the General Assembly to make Tennessee more economically competitive. It also continues Tennessee's tradition of fiscal responsibility by removing the possible legal exposure that the state may have faced because of the alternative minimum measure's questionable constitutionality.

The Department of Revenue has stood up a special program to process refunds covered under this legislation over the next few months. The refund window opened on May 15 of this year and will close on November 30. Refunds are available for tax returns that were filed on or after January 1, 2021, covering a tax period that ended on or after March 30, 2020.

Businesses interested in a refund should be aware that the legislation includes a provision that requires the Department of Revenue to publish a list on its website of all businesses that receive a refund, split into tiers based on the amount of the refund. The first tier will include businesses receiving a refund of less than \$750, the second tier will include those receiving a refund between \$750 and \$10,000, and the third will include those receiving more than \$10,000. The Chamber expressed deep concerns with this unprecedented disclosure of confidential taxpayer information, but its removal would have put the entire package at risk. The Chamber worked with legislators to improve the provision, which initially would have required the exact dollar amount of each business' refund to be published.

Scan the QR code for more information on the refund process. You will find a breakdown of the legislation and what businesses should know about the refund process assembled by the Chamber's Tax Committee Chair Carl Hartley.



LET'S LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



\$3,988,350,000 +

MEMBERSHIP RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Tennessee Chamber is a member driven organization. Delivering results that quantifiably improve the bottom line for businesses in Tennessee is the core function of our government relations efforts. By investing in the Tennessee Chamber with your membership, you help provide our team with the tools and resources that we need to research, analyze, and mobilize a robust public advocacy operation both in the halls of the state Capitol and in targeted districts across the state to influence public policy outcomes.

We leverage your support and combine with our years of experience and expertise to ensure that the voice of business and industry is heard in the General Assembly. This year, our efforts led to improvements in the state's tax, regulatory, and legal structures that represent billions of dollars in savings for your business and others across the state. The following achievements and related savings are just some of the major initiatives that the Tennessee Chamber was instrumental in passing or defeating in the legislature this year.

Enacted One of the Largest Business Tax Cuts in Recent History (2.938B+)

\$1.9 billion +

Constitutional concerns over the alternative minimum measure of the franchise tax led to the introduction and passage of SB2103(Johnson)/HB1893(Lamberth), which will provide \$1.5 billion in franchise tax refunds to businesses who paid on the alternative measure during the last three years and is projected to cut \$400 million in franchise taxes annually moving forward. Over the next decade, the savings to business could surpass \$6 billion.

\$243 million

SB2518(Hensley)/HB2633(Bricken) was offered to offset the franchise tax cut's cost by raising annual business filing fees to a level on par with California as the highest in the nation. The Fiscal Review Committee estimated that these increased fees would have cost businesses \$243 million annually.

\$795 million

The Tennessee Chamber worked with legislative leadership to oppose SB1934(Oliver)/HB2043(Behn), which would have created a new business enterprise tax of 0.75% on the enterprise value of a business and used the new revenue to offset the elimination of the grocery tax. The Fiscal Review Committee estimated that the legislation would have increased taxes on Tennessee businesses by \$795 million. The Chamber worked with leadership to strip the business enterprise tax from the legislation and put the grocery tax elimination portion of the bill behind the budget.

Protected Businesses from Massive Frivolous Lawsuits (1.01B+)

\$1 billion +

Creative trial attorneys have attempted to utilize wiretapping statutes in several states to sue businesses operating websites that utilize common data tools like cookies and pixels. Until the Chamber worked to add an amendment to SB2221(Powers)/HB1658(Lamberth) to fix the loophole, Tennessee had one of the nation's most aggressive wiretapping statutes, which included a \$10,000 per violation civil penalty. Trial attorneys claimed that each click a plaintiff made on a website utilizing these basic technologies constituted a violation, exposing Tennessee businesses to billions of dollars in potential liability. The amended legislation removed the civil penalty and clarified that the use of these technologies does not constitute a violation of the state's wiretapping statute.

\$10 million +

Cyberattacks are on the rise across the country, costing businesses millions of dollars to mitigate. On top of dealing with the actual cyber criminals, businesses have been sued by plaintiffs' attorneys on behalf of customers whose data was exposed in the attack, even if the business was responsible and proactive in its cybersecurity practices. SB2018(Reeves)/HB2434(Terry), supported by the Tennessee Chamber, raises the threshold for companies' civil liability for cybersecurity attacks requiring willful negligence, which will deter frivolous sue and settle lawsuits.

Investments in Economic Development and Workforce Training (40.35M)

\$30 million

Even in a tight budget year, the General Assembly showed their commitment to continuing to grow Tennessee's economy by funding programs promoting rural economic development to the tune of \$30 million

\$10 million

The General Assembly added \$10 million to Governor Lee's Nuclear Energy Fund, which was created with a \$50 million appropriation in last year's budget. The funding shows a commitment to expanding Tennessee's leadership in the nuclear energy space and the acknowledgement from the state that continuing Tennessee's rapid growth will require additional investments in our energy infrastructure.

\$350 thousand

The Chamber secured \$350 thousand in funding for the Tennessee Manufacturers Association-backed Smart Factory Institute in Cleveland, Tennessee. The institute provides resources and workforce development for advanced manufacturing, helping Tennessee manufacturers stay competitive and up to date with the latest technology and processes.





TENNESSEE CHAMBER 2024 CHAMPIONS OF COMMERCE



**Senate Speaker Pro Tempore
Ferrell Haile (R-18):**

CHAMPION

1. You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?

The General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments mainly include lowering and eliminating taxes for small businesses. We have worked to make it easier for business owners to thrive, so they are spending less time worrying about paperwork and taxes and spending more time with doing what they love.

2. Please describe the business community within your district.

District 18 is a very vibrant and energetic community because it has a little bit of everything. Sumner and Trousdale counties have lots of job opportunities for folks to explore, and businesses build relationships with one another because we all understand how important each business is.

3. What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?

The next General Assembly should continue to focus on reducing the amount of red tape and expenses of conducting business.

4. What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?

The legislature should listen first. Once the facts are obtained, legislators can evaluate the business climate and the job market to then look for more educational and workforce development opportunities. I believe this will allow the legislature to help promote success within local businesses and provide future growth for our state.





CHAMPION

Senator John Stevens (R-24):

1. You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?

The elimination of the alternative property measure for Franchise Tax, which was passed this year. This action continued the General Assembly's commitment to providing the services Tennessean's need while remaining fiscally responsible. The state has seen tremendous growth without requiring additional proportional increases in services, which has resulted in surpluses. Seeking to be the best climate for business in the nation, we reduced our revenues and demonstrated our trust in business to know what is best for service and product delivery to customers.

2. Please describe the business community within your district.

I have a very diverse business community. While agriculture production is the main driver in many communities in my district, service delivery and manufacturing are a growing part of a very dynamic economy.

3. What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?

As any good business person knows, a business cannot be successful without its employees. The disastrous federal policies that have resulted in increased inflation are placing undue pressures on business but also their employees through huge increases in the cost of everything. As a state, we need to look for ways to decrease the costs of goods and services, especially housing costs. In order to continue to grow, our communities needs more affordable housing options which I believe can be accomplished through decreases in red tape and regulation. Additionally, the state must continue improve our education system.

4. What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?

The legislature needs to protect the rule of law, reliability of contracts, common sense regulation that protects consumers and business, and a strong economic climate where individuals and businesses can thrive.





House Majority Leader William Lamberth (R-44):

CHAMPION

1. You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?

Tennessee has become a state that is consistently ranked as one of the best places in the nation for businesses. This is the result of years of diligent work at the local and state levels to improve workforce development, invest in our infrastructure and keep taxes low. As a result, our state has seen historic capital investments from businesses along with record-low unemployment.

I am incredibly proud that we passed the two largest tax reforms in our state's history during the 113th General Assembly with the Tennessee Works Tax Act in 2023 and by restructuring the franchise tax in 2024. Combined, these cuts add up to more than \$800 million in tax relief for families and businesses of all sizes across our state. These cuts will encourage future entrepreneurship, increase employment opportunities and further strengthen our state's economic competitiveness.

I was honored to help establish Tennessee's Right-to-Work law as a protected right enshrined in our state constitution. Tennesseans overwhelmingly supported this measure in the 2022 election, which guarantees stronger protections for workers to ensure they are never forced to join a labor union as a condition of employment.

2. Please describe the business community within your district.

Sumner County has a strong and diverse business community that includes large corporate manufacturers and retailers as well as small, family-owned businesses that have been around for generations. These businesses are more than just employers; they are valued community partners and neighbors who provide valuable support to local nonprofits, schools, and athletic teams. My district would not be as vibrant and prosperous as it is today without the valued members of its business community.

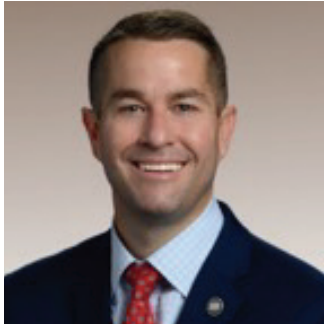
3. What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?

It is essential that the next General Assembly continue to prioritize investments in key areas like education, workforce development, public safety and infrastructure while also keeping taxes low for Tennesseans. This will lead to additional economic development across our state from both new and existing businesses.

4. What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?

As an elected official, it is always important to listen to constituents about the challenges they are experiencing and ways we can help legislatively. This includes getting feedback from business owners as well as employees. We must all work together to ensure Tennessee continues to have a strong economy, which benefits us all.





House Business and Utilities Subcommittee Chairman Clark Boyd (R-46):

1. You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?

We have tried to eliminate burdensome government overreach, and cut regulatory red tape. Through the years I have had the opportunity to sponsor and support wholesale reforms to our workers compensation system, our states unemployment system, and Tennessee's franchise tax structure. Some years we have moved the needle incrementally, and others we have made sweeping improvements. I'm also proud of our work to place right to work in the state constitution. That is something that makes us the envy of most of the country.

2. Please describe the business community within your district.

Wilson County and the 46th State House District are home to a dynamic and thriving business community. As one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Tennessee, Wilson County was blessed with a 2.2% unemployment rate in April 2024 – only one-tenth of a percentage point higher than the County's all-time historic low. Perhaps most well-known as the birthplace and HQ for the Cracker Barrel Corporation, Wilson County is also home to Performance Food Group, founded locally in 1930 as the Kenneth O. Lester company, the Pace Analytical National Center for Testing and Innovation, Lochinvar of the A.O. Smith Corporation, Amazon, Nissan, Bridgestone, REI, New Balance, Chewy Inc., Permobil, Sunrise Medical, Thermo Fisher Scientific an many, many more.

As a highly-desired business location, since January 2023 Wilson County has won multiple competitive recruitment or expansion projects in advanced manufacturing (Schneider Electric, NewBasis LLC, & Lochinvar expansion), food manufacturing (Bridgetown Natural Foods) and robotic distribution (Webstaurant Store LLC) combining for over \$314 million in building improvements and equipment investments and creating well over 1,000 new high-quality jobs with average starting salaries exceeding our current county median wage. When combined with the recent opening of Costco in Mt. Juliet, announcement of Sam's Club for Lebanon, and many other new retail and restaurant establishments, Wilson County is in full-stride when it comes to growing, recruiting and supporting business in our community.

3. What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?

Continuing to build on our successes. We should keep looking at opportunities to expand our workforce. Tennessee has become an international destination for business and workforce demands are significant. That starts with the basics at the K-12 level all the way through training for skilled trades and at four-year university.

4. What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?

Some of the best business policies come from those within the business community. Lawmakers in Tennessee should have an ears open approach to those who are the job creators from across the state.





House of Representatives

113TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



2023 - Secret Ballot Election Incentives
2023 - Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act
2023 - Work Search Requirements
2023 - Transportation Modernization Act
2023 - Tennessee Works Tax Act
2023 - Rural Brownfields Investment Act

Secret Ballot Election Incentives: makes Tennessee the first state in the nation to tie state incentives to secret ballot union elections so that if employees choose to unionize, a secret ballot election is required in order to qualify for state incentives.

Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act: continues efforts from 2013 to preempt local governments from enacting substantial mandates on private employers.

Work Search Requirements: addresses interview no-shows, sometimes referred to as ghosting, by granting employers the ability to report no-shows.

Transportation Modernization Act: provides the state with innovative tools to address traffic congestion, especially in urban areas, freeing up additional dollars to invest in our rural and suburban communities, all without raising the gas tax or taking on transportation debt.

Tennessee Works Tax Act: makes various changes to the business tax law, franchise and excise tax law, and sales and use tax law.

Rural Brownfields Investment Act: addresses 175 known brownfield sites and expands brownfield redevelopment incentives to allow for franchise and excise tax credits for both the purchase and remediation of brownfield sites.



2024 - Compensable Time
2024 - FLSA Statute of Limitations
2024 - Franchise Tax
2024 - Workers Comp Self Insurance
2024 - Med Mal Reform
2024 - Cybersecurity Liability
2024 - Wiretapping

Compensable Time: clarifies what constitutes “work” for hourly and wage workers and codifies a “de minimis” exception following the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947.

FLSA Statute of Limitations: anti-class action bill that makes the statute of limitations on unpaid wage claims three years, the same as under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Franchise Tax: eliminates the real and tangible property alternative minimum measure of the franchise tax, cutting recurring business taxes by \$400 million annually, and provides up to \$1.5 billion in refunds on franchise taxes paid using the alternative measure during the past 3 years.

Workers Comp Self Insurance: allows businesses that self-insure their workers compensation programs to pool together into a risk-pool, allowing each individual company to hold less collateral compared to the current self-insurance requirements.

Med-Mal Reform: restores the historical understanding of what damages can be awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits to a more limited definition by clarifying what damages may be entered into evidence and awarded in these cases by defining the term “actual economic losses

Cybersecurity Liability: raises the threshold for companies’ civil liability for cybersecurity attacks requiring willful negligence, which will deter frivolous sue and settle lawsuits.

Wiretapping: removes the \$10,000 per violation civil penalty under Tennessee’s wiretapping statute and clarifies that the use of common website data technologies does not constitute a violation of the state’s wiretapping statute, thwarting the attempts of trial attorneys to use the statute to sue businesses.



HOW THEY VOTED: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Representative	2023 - Secret Ballot Election Incentives	2023 - Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act	2023 - Work Search Requirements	2023 - Transportation Modernization Act	2023 - Tennessee Works Tax Act	2023 - Rural Brownfields Investment Act	2024 - Compensable Time	2024 - Statute of Limitations FLSA	2024 - Franchise Tax	2024 - Workers Comp Self Insurers	2024 - Med Mal Reform	2024 - Cybersecurity Liability	2024 - Wiretapping
		SB650(Johnson)/HB1342(Sexton)*	SB681(Reeves)/HB774(Moon)*	SB1285(Stevens)/HB1060(Boyd)*	SB273(Johnson)/HB321(Lamberth)*	SB275(Johnson)/HB323(Lamberth)*	SB271(Johnson)/HB319(Lamberth)*	SB2027(Reeves)/HB210(Boyd)*	SB2017(Reeves)/HB213(Powers)*	SB2103(Johnson)/HB1893(Lamberth)*	SB2309(Bailey)/HB2306(Vaughan)*	SB2253(Stevens)/HB2010(Farmer)*	SB2018(Reeves)/HB2434(Terry)	SB2221(Powers)/HB1638(Lamberth)*
HD-7	Alexander, Rebecca		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-69	Barrett, Jody	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-37	Baum, Charlie	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-51	Behn, Aflyn	E	E	E	E	E	E	N	N	N	Y	N	N	E
HD-46	Boyd, Clark	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-47	Bridiken, Rush	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-61	Bulso, Gino	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-75	Burkhart, Jeff	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-41	Butler, Ed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y
HD-87	Camper, Karen D.		N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	
HD-71	Capley, Kip	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-12	Carr, Dale	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-16	Carringer, Michelle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-64	Cepicky, Scott	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-85	Chism, Jesse	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
HD-55	Clemmons, John Ray	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-23	Cochran, Mark	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-01	Crawford, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-76	Darby, Tandy	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-18	Davis, Elaine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
HD-54	Dixie/Vincent	N	N	N	N		Y	N	N		Y	N	N	N
HD-70	Doggett, Clay	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-10	Eldridge, Rick	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-11	Faison, Jeremy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-17	Farmer, Andrew	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-56	Freeman, Bob	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-32	Fritts, Monty	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-94	Gant, Ron M.			Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		
HD-45	Garrett, Johnny	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	PNV	PNV	Y
HD-97	Gillespie, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-67	Glynn, Ronnie	N	N	Y	PNV	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
HD-77	Grills, Rusty	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-28	Hakeem, Yusuf	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N		N	Y	N	N	N
HD-40	Hale, Micheal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		Y	Y
HD-93	Hardaway, G. A.	N	N	N		Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-91	Harris, Torrey	N	N	N	N		Y	N	N	N		N	N	N

VOTING KEY: Y Yea Vote
N Nay Vote
Blank No Vote Recorded





HOW THEY VOTED: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Representative	2023 - Secret Ballot Election Incentives	2023 - Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act	2023 - Work Search Requirements	2023 - Transportation Modernization Act	2023 - Tennessee Works Tax Act	2023 - Rural Brownfields Investment Act	2024 - Compensable Time	2024 - Statute of Limitations FLSA	2024 - Franchise Tax	2024 - Workers Comp Self Insurers	2024 - Med Mal Reform	2024 - Cybersecurity Liability	2024 - Wiretapping
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HD-72	Haston, Kirk		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-05	Hawk, David	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-27	Hazlewood, Patsy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-30	Helton-Haynes, Esther	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-59	Hemmer, Caleb	N	N	Y	PNV	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	PNV		N
HD-09	Hicks, Gary	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-06	Hicks, Tim	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-3	Hill, Timothy							Y			Y	Y	Y	
HD-04	Holsclaw, Jr., John B.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-22	Howell, Dan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-2	Hulse, Bud	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-82	Hurt, Chris	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-60	Jernigan, Darren		N	N	PNV		Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	
HD-68	Johnson, Curtis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-90	Johnson, Gloria	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N		N	N	N
HD-52	Jones, Justin	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-38	Keisling, Kelly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-66	Kumar, Sabi 'Doc'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-89	Lafferty, Justin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-44	Lamberth, William	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-99	Leatherwood, Tom	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-78	Littleton, Mary	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-58	Love, Harold M., Jr.	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-57	Lynn, Susan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-62	Marsh, Pat	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-79	Martin Brock	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-26	Martin, Greg	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-63	McCalmon, Jake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-15	McKenzie, Sam	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N		N	N	N
HD-88	Miller, Larry J.	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
HD-50	Mitchell, Bo	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-81	Moody, Debra	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-8	Moon, Jerome	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
HD-98	Parkinson, Antonio	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
HD-86	Pearson, Justin	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N		PNV	Y	N
HD-53	Powell, Jason	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N		N	N	N

VOTING KEY: Y Yea Vote
N Nay Vote
Blank No Vote Recorded

HOW THEY VOTED: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Representative	2023 - Secret Ballot Election Incentives	2023 - Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act	2023 - Work Search Requirements	2023 - Transportation Modernization Act	2023 - Tennessee Works Tax Act	2023 - Rural Brownfields Investment Act	2024 - Compensable Time	2024 - Statute of Limitations FLSA	2024 - Franchise Tax	2024 - Workers Comp Self Insurers	2024 - Med Mal Reform	2024 - Cybersecurity Liability	2024 - Wiretapping
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HD-36	Powers, Dennis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-33	Ragan, John		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-24	Paper/Kevin	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-74	Reedy, Jay D.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-20	Richey, Bryan	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-34	Rudd, Tim		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-39	Rudder, Iris	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-21	Russell, Lowell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-25	Sexton, Cameron	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-80	Shaw, Johnny	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	
HD-43	Sherrell, Paul	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-35	Slater, William	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-49	Sparks, Mike	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-13	Stevens, Robert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-48	Terry, Bryan		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-96	Thompson, Dwayne	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	
HD-73	Todd, Chris	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-84	Towns, Joe, Jr.	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	
HD-31	Travis, Ron			Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-95	Vaughan, Kevin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-29	Vital, Greg	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-92	Warner, Todd	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-83	White, Mark	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-65	Whitson, Sam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-42	Williams, Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-19	Wright, Dave	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-14	Zachary, Jason	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

VOTING KEY: Y Yea Vote
N Nay Vote
Blank No Vote Recorded





Tennessee Senate

113TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



2023 - Secret Ballot Election Incentives
2023 - Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act
2023 - Work Search Requirements
2023 - Transportation Modernization Act
2023 - Tennessee Works Tax Act
2023 - Rural Brownfields Investment Act

Secret Ballot Election Incentives: makes Tennessee the first state in the nation to tie state incentives to secret ballot union elections so that if employees choose to unionize, a secret ballot election is required in order to qualify for state incentives.

Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act: continues efforts from 2013 to preempt local governments from enacting substantial mandates on private employers.

Work Search Requirements: addresses interview no-shows, sometimes referred to as ghosting, by granting employers the ability to report no-shows.

Transportation Modernization Act: provides the state with innovative tools to address traffic congestion, especially in urban areas, freeing up additional dollars to invest in our rural and suburban communities, all without raising the gas tax or taking on transportation debt.

Tennessee Works Tax Act: makes various changes to the business tax law, franchise and excise tax law, and sales and use tax law.

Rural Brownfields Investment Act: addresses 175 known brownfield sites and expands brownfield redevelopment incentives to allow for franchise and excise tax credits for both the purchase and remediation of brownfield sites.



2024 - Compensable Time
2024 - FLSA Statute of Limitations
2024 - Franchise Tax
2024 - Workers Comp Self Insurance
2024 - Med Mal Reform
2024 - Cybersecurity Liability
2024 - Wiretapping

Compensable Time: clarifies what constitutes “work” for hourly and wage workers and codifies a “de minimis” exception following the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947.

FLSA Statute of Limitations: anti-class action bill that makes the statute of limitations on unpaid wage claims three years, the same as under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Franchise Tax: eliminates the real and tangible property alternative minimum measure of the franchise tax, cutting recurring business taxes by \$400 million annually, and provides up to \$1.5 billion in refunds on franchise taxes paid using the alternative measure during the past 3 years.

Workers Comp Self Insurance: allows businesses that self-insure their workers compensation programs to pool together into a risk-pool, allowing each individual company to hold less collateral compared to the current self-insurance requirements.

Med Mal Reform: restores the historical understanding of what damages can be awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits to a more limited definition by clarifying what damages may be entered into evidence and awarded in these cases by defining the term “actual economic losses

Cybersecurity Liability: raises the threshold for companies’ civil liability for cybersecurity attacks requiring willful negligence, which will deter frivolous sue and settle lawsuits.

Wiretapping: removes the \$10,000 per violation civil penalty under Tennessee’s wiretapping statute and clarifies that the use of common website data technologies does not constitute a violation of the state’s wiretapping statute, thwarting the attempts of trial attorneys to use the statute to sue businesses.



HOW THEY VOTED: TENNESSEE SENATE

Senator	2023 - Secret Ballot Election Incentives	2023 - Protecting Tennessee Businesses and Workers Act	2023 - Work Search Requirements	2023 - Transportation Modernization Act	2023 - Tennessee Works Tax Act	2023 - Rural Brownfields Investment Act	2024 - Compensable Time	2024 - Statute of Limitations FLSA	2024 - Franchise Tax	2024 - Workers Comp Self Insurers	2024 - Med Mal Reform	2024 - Cybersecurity Liability	2024 - Wiretapping
	SB650(Johnson)/HB1342(Sexton)*	SB681(Reeves)/HB774(Moon)*	SB1285(Stevens)/HB1060(Boyd)*	SB273(Johnson)/HB32(Lamberth)*	SB275(Johnson)/HB323(Lamberth)*	SB271(Johnson)/HB319(Lamberth)*	SB2027(Reeves)/HB210(Boyd)*	SB2017(Reeves)/HB2113(Powers)*	SB2103(Johnson)/HB1895(Lamberth)*	SB2909(Bailey)/HB2306(Vaughan)*	SB2253(Stevens)/HB2001(Farmer)*	SB2018(Reeves)/HB2434(Terry)	SB2221(Powers)/HB1555(Lamberth)*
Akbari, Raunesh	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	PNV	N	Y	N	N	Y
Bailey, Paul	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bowling, Janice	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	N		
Briggs, Richard	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Campbell, Heidi	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	PNV
Crowe, Rusty	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gardenhire, Todd	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Haile, Ferrell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hensley, Joey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jackson, Ed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Johnson, Jack	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kyle, Sara	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y							
Lamar, London	N	N	N	Y	N	Y		N	N			N	N
Lowe-Adam	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Lundberg, Jon	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Massey, Becky Duncan	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McNally, Lt. Gov. Randy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Niceley, Frank S.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Oliver, Charlene	N	N	N	PNV	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Pody, Mark	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Powers, Bill	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reeves, Shane	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Roberts, Kerry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
Rose, Paul	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Southerland, Steve	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stevens, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swann, Art	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Taylor, Brent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Walley, Page	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Watson, Bo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y





Key Committee Votes

113TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



SB631/HB1054 (Wetlands Deregulation) to Summer Study	Chamber Rec: NO	SB2180/HB1904 (Decriminalize Violation of Business' Gun Posting)	Chamber Rec: NO	HB2798/SB2615 (Require Businesses to Accept Cash Payment)	Chamber Rec: NO
Committee Member	Vote	Committee Member	Vote	Committee Member	Vote
Southerland, Steve	No	Gardenhire, Todd	Present	Powers, Dennis	No
Reeves, Shane	No	White, Dawn	Yes	Barrett, Jody	Yes
Lowe, Adam	Yes	Rose, Paul	No	Bricken, Rush	No
Bowling, Janice	Yes	Kyle, Sara	No	Camper, Karen	No
Campbell, Heidi	Yes	Lamar, London	No	Faison, Jeremy	Absent
Niceley, Frank	Yes	Lundberg, Jon	Present	Garrett, Johnny	No
Oliver, Charlane	Yes	Roberts, Kerry	Yes	Lynn, Susan	Yes
Rose, Paul	No	Stevens, John	Yes	Sparks, Mike	Yes
Walley, Paul	Yes	Taylor, Brent	Yes	Vaughan, Kevin	Absent
Bill sent to summer study 6-3		Bill Fails 2 PN, 3 No, 4 Aye		Bill Fails 4-3	
Chamber Desired Outcome:	X	Chamber Desired Outcome:	✓	Chamber Desired Outcome:	✓
<p>The legislation was a Chamber priority that would have limited TDEC's jurisdiction to require permitting and mitigation for impacts to isolated wetlands, saving businesses and property-owners significant time and money. The bill passed the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Unfortunately, the Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee voted to send the bill to summer study, effectively killing the bill for this session despite the bill being introduced in 2023, giving stakeholders ample time to study the issue. The vote to send the bill to summer study, which the Chamber urged a NO vote on, is reflected above.</p>		<p>The legislation would substantially limit the ability or effectiveness of a business to post limits on the possession of firearms on their property. Current law allows an individual, corporation, business entity, or government entity at any level (local, state, or federal) to prohibit or limit the carrying of weapons by individuals on their owned or controlled premises with any violation constituting a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a \$500 fine.</p>		<p>Prohibits a person selling or offering for sale goods or services at retail, and who employs at least six employees, from requiring a buyer to pay using credit for in-person transactions. Requires a person selling or offering for sale goods or services at retail to accept legal tender when offered by the buyer as payment. Details those violations treated as a prohibited practice under the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act of 1977. Tennessee Chamber members have expressed the importance of determining any payment method or currency they feel is in the interest of convenience or safety for their employees or customers without government intervention.</p>	



TENNESSEE FY2024-2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



- Roughly \$400 million recurring tax cut for businesses by removing the alternative measure portion of the franchise tax
- \$1.5 billion non-recurring funds for three years of retroactive refunds for businesses of over-collected franchise tax based on the alternative measure
- \$1.55 billion for highway infrastructure improvements
- \$189 million for transit programs
- \$40 million for ECD for infrastructure improvements at I-24 industrial site
- \$261 million increase for the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement funding formula, including \$125 million for teacher salary increases and retirement contributions
- \$144 million set aside for statewide voucher program (legislation to create the program this session failed, but the money was still included in the budget)
- \$15.8 million for rural health pathways workforce development program
- \$140 million for one full-time, armed School Resource Officer (SRO) for every public school
- \$40 million for public school security upgrades
- \$14 million for private school security upgrades
- \$8 million for additional School-Based Behavioral Health Liaisons across the state
- \$28 million for more than 100 Homeland Security agents across all 95 counties
- \$10 million for a Nuclear Development grant

Learn more at tnchamber.org



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TENNESSEE CHAMBER
of Commerce & Industry

TENNESSEE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION