

THE RESULTS REPORT

LEGISLATIVE RECAP

2026



TENNESSEE CHAMBER
of Commerce & Industry

TENNESSEE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



2026 SUMMARY OF SUCCESSES

The adjournment of the 2026 legislative session marks the conclusion of the 114th General Assembly and a year that presented both opportunities and challenges for Tennessee's business community.

This session unfolded in a policy environment that was notably more complex than in recent years. Lawmakers considered a wide range of proposals affecting employers, manufacturers, retailers, and job creators across the state. As new policy debates emerged and competing priorities took shape, the need for a strong and consistent voice for business at the Capitol became increasingly important.

Throughout the session, the Tennessee Chamber remained actively engaged on behalf of its members. Working closely with lawmakers, coalition partners, and stakeholders, our team advocated for policies that support economic growth, encourage investment, and maintain Tennessee's reputation as one of the best states in the nation to do business.

Among the Chamber's key legislative accomplishments this year were the passage of reforms addressing third-party litigation financing and efforts to modernize Tennessee's solid waste management planning framework. These measures promote greater transparency, support long-term infrastructure planning, and help ensure Tennessee remains well-positioned for future economic growth.

The Chamber's government affairs team monitored hundreds of pieces of legislation, participated in committee hearings, met regularly with policymakers, and kept members informed through timely legislative updates and advocacy efforts. In many cases, our engagement helped shape proposals, improve legislation, and address concerns raised by employers across the state.

As Tennessee continues to grow, the policy decisions made at the Capitol will play a critical role in shaping the state's economic future. The Tennessee Chamber remains committed to serving as the leading voice for business, advocating for policies that foster innovation, support job creation, and create long-term opportunities for employers and communities across the state.

We appreciate the engagement and support of our members throughout the legislative session and look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of Tennessee's business community.



RJ GIBSON

DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY



JOSH BROWN

PRESIDENT & CEO



MATTHEW GROVE

MANAGER, GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY



ISSUE RECAP

KEY ISSUES & PRIORITIES

TAX

The 2026 legislative session brought tightening fiscal environments, sparking a renewed appetite among some lawmakers for revenue-generating measures that would have disrupted Tennessee's stable tax climate. The Chamber successfully held the line against several bills that would have increased the tax burden on business. This included **SB2568 (Haile)/HB2493 (Williams)**, a highly detrimental proposal that sought to levy a state sales tax on advertising services. The Chamber opposes legislation that creates tax pyramiding by taxing business inputs such as advertising, and our work was able to ensure that the bill never received enough support to be heard, ensuring that marketing, digital promotion, and corporate communication services remain untaxed to protect Tennessee's competitive economic landscape.

Additionally, the Chamber successfully opposed **SB2126 (Taylor)/HB1777 (Leatherwood)**, a proposed corporate excise tax restructuring targeting Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). The measure sought to restrict specific dividend deductions and partnership excise tax exemptions, applying them only to those removing them from REITs deriving rental income from single-family residential properties. The Chamber strongly opposes legislation that artificially narrows deductions to create back-door tax increases on targeted industry sectors, and our team was able to defeat the proposal in Senate Commerce, where the bill did not receive a second.

Finally, we were able to successfully defeat a proposal to use the tax code as an enforcement mechanism for the MAHA movement. Our advocacy team successfully stopped **SB2337 (Haile)/HB2570 (Kumar)**, which would have fully exempted certain "healthy" food items from the state sales tax, while offsetting that lost revenue by applying the full state sales tax rate to a massive category of everyday staples and singling them out as unhealthy. In addition to creating massive administrative challenges for retailers, the legislation would have used the tax code to pick winners and losers in the food industry. The Chamber's advocacy efforts ensured that the bill was taken off notice before receiving a vote.

BUSINESS MANDATES

The Chamber consistently pushes back on legislation that forces one-size fits all mandates onto business and this year was no exception. This included defeating **SB1190 (Akbari)/HB1485 (Johnson)** and **SB2495 (Kyle)/HB2248 (Johnson)**, a highly detrimental pair of proposals that sought to aggressively mandate a state minimum wage of \$20 per hour. Concurrently, our team checked **SB2505 (Oliver)/HB2614 (Pearson)**, which attempted to tie all Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) grants to stringent local living wage requirements. The Chamber strongly opposes artificial wage floors that limit entry-level opportunities and handicap rural economic development. Through years of lawmaker education, we have successfully made these types of proposals non-starters in the legislature.

Additionally, the Chamber successfully protected employer autonomy by stopping **SB2392 (Akbari)/HB2315 (Powell)**, which aimed to significantly expand the avenues and private rights of action available to employees to sue employers for alleged workplace retaliation. Our team similarly halted **SB2513 (Oliver)/HB2511 (Behn)** regarding

“employer accountability measures,” reinforcing that current state and federal labor laws provide ample protections without inviting frivolous employment litigation. The Chamber opposes legislation that opens the floodgates to speculative litigation, and our efforts ensured these bills were rolled to the end of the calendar in the civil justice subcommittees, effectively killing them for the session.

Finally, we were able to successfully defeat an aggressive regulatory overreach into modern retail logistics by blocking **SB1807 (Bailey)/HB2111 (Clemmons)**. This legislation sought to prohibit large grocery and retail establishments from using algorithmic pricing, attempting to dictate how businesses manage inventory, inflation, and consumer demand. The Chamber strongly opposes government mandates that disrupt operational efficiency and punish technological integration in the supply chain. Our advocacy team successfully worked to have this bill taken off notice in committee, protecting our retail members from restrictive backend compliance burdens and preserving free-market pricing strategies.



EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

A stable labor policy environment is vital for economic development in Tennessee, and the Chamber successfully advanced long-term predictability for Tennessee employers this session by securing key structural updates to labor policies, wage payment timelines, and workforce agreements.

After passing the Senate last session, **SB0674 (Taylor)/HB0900 (Todd)** became law after passing the House this year. This law establishes the state legislature as having jurisdiction regarding the regulation of the field of employment terms and conditions. Local governments

now cannot adopt or enforce any employment-related rules, ordinances, or policies that conflict with state or federal law. This reform prevents overreach by local governments and ensures a consistent employment and labor regulatory environment in the state.

SB0985 (Bailey)/HB1034 (Alexander) brings significant reform to non-compete contracts in the state. While initially opposing the legislation as filed, the Chamber became neutral after working closely with stakeholders and the sponsors of the legislation. Notably, it prohibits companies from enforcing and enacting non-compete

contracts to those making less than \$70,000 a year; allows courts to modify restrictive covenants to make them reasonable and enforceable; and largely codifies existing case law. Further, it presumes that non-competes of two years or less are reasonable for employees and independent contractors, three years or less for certain business relationships, and five years or less for business owners or sellers.

SB1889 (Taylor)/HB1708 (Capley) changes the process for driver's license applicants seeking to take the licensing exam in a language other than English by creating a temporary license good for 36 months and requiring applicants to later retake the exam in English for full licensure. This has been a perennial issue in the General Assembly, and the Chamber views this version as a sizeable victory from other proposed versions of the bills. With Tennessee heavily reliant on foreign investment, it was vital the final bill allowed businesses to adapt easily without

serious negative workforce consequences.

The Chamber supported **SB2024 (Reeves)/HB1958 (Alexander)** to clean up existing regulations on payments to employees. Legislation passed years ago that few employers were aware of required that commission-based and piece-work earnings to be paid by the first of the following month, an unrealistic timeline to do the necessary calculations to ensure accurate pay. The cleanup legislation supported by the Chamber now dictates that employers have until the fifth of the following month, while piece-work or commission-based compensation is due by the last day of the following month. Furthermore, upon an employee's dismissal or voluntary departure, all earned wages must be paid by the later of the next regular payday or 21 days after separation, with piece-work or commission-based final pay due by the last day of the following month. This clean-up will put Tennessee code consistent with most business practices.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Workforce challenges continue to be one of the most consistent themes we hear from our members, and during this year's session the Chamber continued to lean into new and innovative ways to address the issue.

The Chamber was happy to support a childcare package brought by Tennesseans for Quality Early Education to address both supply and demand challenges surrounding employer-backed childcare solutions. **SB1683 (Haile)/HB1965 (Farmer)**, which establishes the Tennessee Child Care Hosting Safe Harbor Act, provides civil liability protection for property owners hosting licensed childcare providers. The Chamber also was proud to support **SB2062 (Watson)/HB1979 (White)**, the Promising Futures Act, which establishes several pilot programs including a tri-share, state-business-employee model. Finally, **SB2404 (White)/HB2426 (White)** will require the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to convene a task force to inventory of the state's early educator workforce

development resources and identify resource gaps and opportunities. Together, these proposals represent continued legislative momentum around expanding childcare access and supporting workforce participation across Tennessee.

SB2079 (Watson)/HB1833 (Cepicky) revises the on-time graduation rates for public colleges at four years and community colleges at three years for the THEC outcome-based funding formula. By tightening these graduation rate metrics, policy makers will have better data on the efficacy of workforce training programs.

SB2141 (White)/HB2095 (White) specifies that education provided to an apprentice through a Department of Labor and Workforce Development registered apprenticeship program is exempt from the regulatory oversight of THEC. This will help streamline the apprenticeship program process and ensure it is set up to best serve the needs of employees and businesses.



TECH

Technology policy emerged as a primary battleground this session, heavily influenced by national political movements. The Chamber moved swiftly to defend the tech and digital commerce ecosystem from fractured regulatory environments that would stall innovation, successfully holding the line against several bills that would have crippled market efficiency and invited frivolous litigation.

The Chamber successfully blocked **SB2616 (Yarbro)/HB2811 (Parkinson)**, an aggressive data privacy rewrite that would have saddled Tennessee businesses with complex, overlapping compliance layers. The Chamber strongly opposes fragmented state regulations that disrupt operational predictability, and our team was able

to defeat the proposal by working closely with committee leadership to halt its advancement for the session.

We were also able to partner with other groups to successfully turn **SB1493 (Massey)/HB1502 (Littleton)**, which would have created an incredibly broad private right of action against digital platforms and commercial businesses for AI-driven “relationships”, into a study bill. While the Chamber understands the need to protect children online, artificial intelligence remains a nascent technology and we should aim to further understand it and how existing laws can be used to punish bad actors and usages of the technology before applying additional regulations and liability.



TPLF

In 2026, the Tennessee Chamber secured passage of landmark legislation to bring greater transparency and accountability to third-party litigation financing (TPLF). Sponsored by Senator Brent Taylor and Representative Clark Boyd, **SB2101/HB2108** represents a significant step forward in protecting the integrity of Tennessee’s civil justice system.

Third-party litigation financing—where outside investors fund lawsuits in exchange for a share of the proceeds—has grown rapidly in recent years with little oversight. While these arrangements can provide access to capital for plaintiffs, the lack of transparency and guardrails has raised serious concerns for employers and the broader business community. Without clear standards, litigation funders can exert undue influence over legal strategy, prolong disputes, and drive up settlement costs—ultimately increasing expenses for businesses and consumers alike.

This Chamber-led legislation establishes important protections to ensure that TPLF arrangements are transparent, fair, and aligned with the interests of

claimants—not outside investors. The bill requires disclosure of litigation financing agreements, strengthens oversight of third-party funders, and includes safeguards to limit the involvement of foreign adversaries in financing lawsuits within Tennessee. Together, these provisions help reduce the risk of abusive or artificially prolonged litigation that can distort outcomes and undermine confidence in the legal system.

SB2101 passed with strong bipartisan support, reflecting broad recognition among lawmakers of the need to modernize Tennessee’s legal framework in response to evolving litigation practices. For Tennessee employers, this reform provides greater predictability in managing legal risk and reinforces the state’s commitment to a balanced, transparent, and market-oriented civil justice environment.

As part of the Chamber’s broader legal reform agenda, TPLF reform is a critical win that will help ensure Tennessee remains a competitive and fair place to do business.



LEGAL

This year, the Chamber led an effort to bring transparency and guardrails to third-party litigation funding with **SB2101 (Taylor)/HB2108 (Boyd)**. The new law will strengthen Tennessee's existing litigation financing law by prohibiting foreign adversary-affiliated entities from serving as litigation financiers, clarifying that litigation financiers cannot control litigation strategy or settlement decisions, and requiring financiers to indemnify plaintiffs for certain costs and sanctions related to financed claims. The bill also caps annual consumer litigation financing fees at 10 percent of the funded amount and allows discovery of litigation financing agreements during legal proceedings.

The Chamber was proud to support the Tennessee Energy Freedom Act, **SB2560 (Reeves)/HB2070 (Todd)**. The bill establishes a right to engage in and invest in activities related to coal, oil, and natural gas, and prohibits injunctive relief or liability for emissions from such activities unless they violate federal environmental law or state law required for federal compliance. By limiting liability for emissions to federal standards and protecting companies from unpredictable state-level lawsuits, the law provides the regulatory certainty and risk mitigation businesses need to invest and operate confidently.

SB0419 (Hensley)/HB0005 (Bulso) was opposed by the Chamber because of its precedent setting implications. House amendments to the bill would have raised tort caps on violations of the existing abortion-inducing pill law. While the Chamber does not typically engage social issues, passage of this bill would have created an exception to the existing tort reform caps and placed a statutory economic value on a life, resulting in the potential for new legal precedent and uncertainties in the legal environment for Tennessee businesses.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

This year, the Chamber successfully moved the ball forward in advancing regulatory certainty for businesses and manufacturers, while firmly blocking several proposals that would have expanded their environmental compliance burdens.

After years of work and stakeholder engagement, the Chamber was finally able to successfully secure meaningful solid waste reform. **SB2547 (Reeves)/HB2546 (Todd)** clarifies and streamlines the solid waste planning process, which guides many of the siting decisions for solid waste facilities. The legislation should lead to more comprehensive regional solid waste plans, providing the solid waste industry, industrial developers, and municipal partners with the regulatory predictability necessary to support Tennessee's continued economic growth.

Additionally, the Chamber successfully worked to defeat proposals that would have created massive new compliance and regulatory

burdens for data center development. This included **SB2681 (Kyle)/HB2463 (Pearson)**, which attempted to place strict clean energy mandates exclusively on data centers, as well as **SB2653 (Taylor)/HB2392 (Reneau)**, which would have created a new permitting regime specifically for data center projects. The Chamber strongly opposes arbitrary, industry-specific utility mandates and overreaching administrative barriers that discourage tech-manufacturing capital expansion.

Finally, the Chamber once again protected Tennessee manufacturers and consumer goods companies from a massive regulatory overreach by blocking **SB0269 (Southerland)/HB0600 (Hale)**. The bill would have

mandated an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system, forcing companies that sell packaged products in the state to join a bureaucratic Producer Responsibility Organization, pay arbitrary volume-based fees, and adhere to rigid statewide recycling mandates. While the Chamber supports additional state investment into recycling infrastructure, creating a new, uncapped tax on a small segment of the business community to fund that investment is a nonstarter. Despite the bill being revived and changing to a Republican sponsor in the Senate, the Chamber was able to ensure that the bill was taken off notice because it lacked the support necessary to come out of committee.



SOLID WASTE

This year, the Chamber led the passage of critical legislation that takes a first step towards strengthening and modernizing the state's solid waste planning framework. Sponsored by Senator Shane Reeves and Representative Chris Todd, **SB2547/HB2516** marks an important first step toward ensuring Tennessee's waste management infrastructure can keep pace with the state's continued economic growth.

As population and industrial activity increase across Tennessee, the need for a more effective and forward-looking solid waste system has become increasingly clear. Prior to this legislation, regional solid waste plans were required but often lacked the specificity, enforceability, and accountability needed to ensure adequate long-term capacity—particularly with respect to landfill space and disposal planning.

This Chamber-led reform addresses those gaps by requiring regions to develop detailed, actionable 10-year solid waste plans that clearly outline how waste will be managed and disposed of. The law will establish defined timelines and criteria for plan submission, review, and

approval by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, ensuring greater consistency and oversight across the state. It will also clarify Tennessee's policy of maintaining sufficient landfill capacity, reinforcing the importance of proactive infrastructure planning to support economic development.

By improving transparency, accountability, and long-term planning, this legislation helps create a more predictable and reliable framework for both public and private sector stakeholders. Businesses, local governments, and infrastructure providers will benefit from clearer expectations and better coordination as they plan for future growth and investment.

SB2547 passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, underscoring the shared recognition that a modern, well-functioning solid waste system is essential to Tennessee's continued success. As part of the Chamber's broader infrastructure and regulatory agenda, this reform lays the groundwork for future improvements while ensuring the state remains well-positioned to manage growth responsibly.

\$1.5 BILLION+

TOTAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$500M

Estimated Cost to Business of Defeated Proposal to Double Tennessee's Noneconomic Damage Caps

\$50-60M

Supply Chain Cost Mitigation from Increased Penalty and Law Enforcement Coordination of Cargo Theft Offenses

\$400M+

Expected Annual Fee Cost of Defeated EPR Bill

\$95M

Projected Cost of Defeated REIT Tax Increase

\$150M+

Annual Savings from Defeat of Advertising Tax

\$35M

Estimated Cost of Implementing Defeated Algorithmic Pricing Bill

\$100M+

Litigation Savings from Third Party Litigation Reform Legislation

\$100M+

Cumulative Avoidance of Increased Permitting Costs for Data Center Development from Several Pieces of Proposed Legislation

\$10M

Recurring Funds for Childcare Pilot Programs



2026 TENNESSEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMPIONS OF COMMERCE



SENATOR RICHARD BRIGGS

REPUBLICAN, KNOXVILLE

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?

A skilled and educated workforce drives a positive climate for business establishment, relocation, or expansion. The Tennessee General Assembly in my twelve years of service has created the Tennessee Promise for post secondary education, expanded the Tennessee Colleges of Technology, funded CTE for high school students, and implemented rigorous standards in K-12 education. Coupled with low taxes and Right to Work Laws, Tennessee enjoys one of the best, if not the best, climates for business and manufacturing.

Please describe the business community within your district.

The Metropolitan Knoxville area has integrated a unique coalition of federal and state government, higher education, and private investment to the benefit of the Knoxville business community. The partnerships between the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the U.S. Department of Energy, the University of Tennessee, TVA, and private investment places East Tennessee as an international center for clean nuclear energy innovation and billions of dollars of investment. The near recession proof nature of our local economy protects large as well as small businesses.

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

The General Assembly has done many things to promote a positive business climate in Tennessee. Many of Tennessee's best jobs in terms high pay, benefits, and quality of life have come from foreign investment. As the the General Assembly addresses illegal immigration, it needs to proceed cautiously to avoid unintentionally creating an unfriendly atmosphere for foreign investment. A trained workforce, a favorable tax structure, and a naturally welcoming culture are Tennessee's strongest assets.

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

Constructive and open communication are essential for the benefit business and our citizens. Business leaders can communicate to legislators potential unintended consequences as legislation is crafted and debated. Law makers can consult the business community on funding for specific workforce training issues to meet changing technology or demands. Continuing interaction benefits both our citizens and business.



SENATOR BECKY MASSEY

REPUBLICAN, KNOXVILLE

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?

It's hard to just pick one as since I was elected to the State Senate in 2011, there have been some amazing pro-business initiatives. I would say the reform of the franchise and excise tax had the biggest positive effect on the largest number of businesses-and of all sizes.

Please describe the business community within your district.

Knoxville and the surrounding counties has a very active business community. We have a good mix of manufacturing, logistics, hospitality, medical and research. Our chambers work together to recruit businesses, advocate for pro-business legislation, educate community members, and coordinates planning for the future needs and growth of our area. They annually host a regional legislative breakfast that is well attended and a Governor's event. Monthly during legislative session the Knoxville Chamber has 2-3 legislators at a Capitol Connection.

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

As Chair of the Transportation and Safety Committee, I think the number one priority needs to be the support and assistance in modernizing the transportation funding formula.

We've made great strides in the past decade in increasing our funding and putting more "tools in the toolbox" in the way we build roads. Unfortunately, our current formula is inadequate to meet the needs of our state. The cost of building and maintaining our roads is increasing rapidly, more people are driving on our roads and gas powered vehicles are getting more miles per gallon and thus are paying less to drive each mile. It's a formula that just doesn't work.

Tennessee businesses, leadership and chambers will play a key role in helping to educate the general public, convincing legislators and state leadership and help to make this happen.

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

I think that the majority of the members of the General Assembly have good working relations with their business communities. These relationships are crucial when legislation is being considered, drafted and moving through the legislative process. It's important to be able to talk to people that the potential legislation will affect to make sure that the intent is reality. These relationships are two way streets and are invaluable. Remember, we can't be experts in everything that comes before us and that is why we need to depend on you. Off session its helpful for legislators to visit businesses and see first hand the work that is done there.



REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN VAUGHAN

REPUBLICAN, COLLIERVILLE

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?

One of our most important functions is to stop bad, anti-business bills that get introduced. We've also had several wins along the way. Among the issues that we have addressed are: keeping unemployment insurance rates low by indexing benefits to the unemployment rate. We have also protected access to fossil fuels, and we reduced excessive environmental regulatory burdens for businesses desiring to expand their footprints.

Please describe the business community within your district.

In eastern Shelby County we have a strong FedEx presence in Collierville along with headquarters for some large publicly traded, as well as privately held businesses. We also have a strong manufacturing presence with the largest Carrier air conditioning plant in North America. We also have a very vibrant small business community.

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

First, we will have to continue to stop bills that threaten our pro-business climate. From a pro-active standpoint, we must do everything possible to set policies promote electricity generation and the stable distribution of power. The state that can meet the demand for power will win the economic and site selection competition

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

In the governmental affairs world, there is an old expression that says, "If you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu." It is no longer prudent for businesses to deploy a strategy that will rely on someone else to do their bidding. Make sure that guys (& girls) like me know your story, so that when an issue comes up, we will know who to contact as a resource. The Chamber does a great job of maintaining contact year-round. That's important because it's easier to sort through rough patches when you are already friends.



REPRESENTATIVE RUSTY GRILLS

REPUBLICAN, NEWBERN

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?

I believe that the General Assembly promotes a strong business climate through legislation such as the changes of the franchise and excise tax code we have made over several years. The General Assembly passed the Tennessee Works Tax Act in 2023 and that legislation is now in full effect. The General Assembly also phased out the Hall Income Tax over many years, so that the Tennesseans would no longer pay taxes on investment income.

Please describe the business community within your district.

The business community in District 77 is heavily reliant on agriculture. In addition to the agricultural economy, there is a healthy manufacturing presence in the district. There is also a strong focus on growing our entertainment and tourism businesses.

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

As conservative legislators, we should prioritize welcoming new businesses and encourage innovation. The Tennessee General Assembly has worked very hard to create a business-friendly environment, which, in turn, provides employment opportunities for our constituents. Personally, I believe we need to continue to look at scaling back outdated business regulations and look to make policy changes that can adapt to an ever-changing business landscape.

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

Partnership is essential. It is very important for the business community and the Tennessee General Assembly work together to achieve positive outcomes for large and small businesses in Tennessee. The Legislature should always strive to address the needs of our business community, so that we can create a healthy economy for everyday Tennesseans.

114TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sound Science Act | SUPPORT

Required that certain environmental regulatory actions be backed by the best-available science

Constitutional State Property Tax Ban | SUPPORT

Allowed for a ballot initiative to constitutionally ban a statewide property tax

Local Government Employment Regulation Preemption | SUPPORT

Established the state legislature as having jurisdiction regarding the regulation of the field of employment terms and conditions, preventing local governments from adopting patchwork employment regulations

Community Benefits Agreements Ban | SUPPORT

Prohibited an employer who receives ECD incentives from entering into a community benefits agreement if the contract imposes obligations on the employer that are not directly related to the performance of the employer's duties under the ECD agreement

Wetlands Deregulation | SUPPORT

Reduced the state's jurisdiction over isolated wetlands, providing regulatory relief to property owners across Tennessee

PBM Antitrust | OPPOSE

Required the forced breakup of federally approved corporate structures by prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from owning or having a financial interest in pharmacies operating in Tennessee

Regulatory Freedom Act | SUPPORT

Increased transparency and accountability in the state rulemaking process by requiring agencies to notify impacted stakeholders and provide an opportunity for feedback on proposed regulations. It also ensured that any rule with a projected negative fiscal impact exceeding \$1 million over five years must be approved by the full General Assembly as standalone legislation

Solid Waste Planning Reform | SUPPORT

Strengthened Tennessee's solid waste planning framework by ensuring that regional plans are not only developed, but actionable and enforceable, requiring regions to produce detailed 10-year plans identifying how waste will be managed and disposed, and establishing clear timelines and criteria for plan submission, review, and approval by TDEC

Third Party Litigation Financing Reform | SUPPORT

Established clear and reasonable guardrails around litigation financing arrangements to protect the integrity of Tennessee's judicial system and ensure that lawsuits are driven by the parties involved—not undisclosed financial backers

Artificial Dye Ban for Schools | OPPOSE

Expanded the ban for Red Dye 40 in all Tennessee schools to include all types of artificial dyes

HOW THEY VOTED | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATOR	PARTY	SOUND SCIENCE ACT	CONSTITUTIONAL STATE PROPERTY TAX BAN	LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT REGULATION PREEMPTION	WETLANDS DEREGULATION	COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS BAN	SOLID WASTE PLANNING REFORM	THIRD PARTY LITIGATION FINANCING REFORM	REGULATORY FREEDOM ACT	ARTIFICIAL DYE BAN FOR SCHOOLS	PBM ANTI-TRUST
		SB880/HB896	SJRI	SB674/HB900	SB670/HB541	SB1074/HB1096	SB2547/HB2516	SB2101/HB2108	SB2199/HB1913	SB2423/HB1853	SB2040/HB1959
REBECCA ALEXANDER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
FRED ATCHLEY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JODY BARRETT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CHARLIE BAUM	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
AFTYN BEHN	D	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
CLARK BOYD	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
RUSH BRICKEN	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SHAUNDELLE BROOKS	D	N	N	N	N	N	PNV	Y	N	Y	Y
CINO BULSO	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JEFF BURKHART	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ED BUTLER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KAREN CAMPER	D	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KIP CAPLEY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
MICHELE CARRINGER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SCOTT CEPICKY	R	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JESSE CHISM	D	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHN RAY CLEMMONS	D	N	Y	N	N	N	PNV	Y	N	Y	Y
MARK COCHRAN	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHN CRAWFORD	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y
TANDY DARBY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y
ELAINE DAVIS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VINCENT DIXIE	D	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
CLAY DOGGETT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
RICK ELDRIDGE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JEREMY FAISON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ANDREW FARMER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BOB FREEMAN	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
MONTY FRITTS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
RON GANT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHNNY GARRETT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHN GILLESPIE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
RONNIE CLYNN	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	PNV	N
RUSTY GRILLS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
YUSUF HAKEEM	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

VOTING KEY Y/Yes Vote N/Nay/Vote Blank/No Vote Recorded

HOW THEY VOTED | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATOR	PARTY	SOUND SCIENCE ACT	CONSTITUTIONAL STATE PROPERTY TAX BAN	LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT REGULATION PREEMPTION	WETLANDS DEREGULATION	COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS BAN	SOLID WASTE PLANNING REFORM	THIRD PARTY LITIGATION FINANCING REFORM	REGULATORY FREEDOM ACT	ARTIFICIAL DYE BAN FOR SCHOOLS	PBM ANTI-TRUST
		SB880/HB896	SJRI	SB674/HB900	SB670/HB541	SB1074/HB1096	SB2547/HB2516	SB2101/HB2108	SB2199/HB1913	SB2423/HB1853	SB2040/HB1959
MICHAEL HALE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
G A HARDAWAY	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
TORREY HARRIS	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
KIRK HASTON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DAVID HAWK	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ESTHER HELTON-HAYNES	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CALEB HEMMER	D	N	Y	N	N	N	PNV	Y	N	Y	N
GARY HICKS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
TIM HICKS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TIMOTHY HILL	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DAN HOWELL	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BUD HULSEY	R	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CHRIS HURT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
GLORIA JOHNSON	D	N	N	N	N	N	PNV	PNV	N	PNV	Y
JUSTIN JONES	D	N	N	N	N	N	PNV	PNV	N	Y	Y
RENEA JONES	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KELLY KEISLING	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SABI KUMAR	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JUSTIN LAFFERTY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WILLIAM LAMBERTH	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MICHAEL LANKFORD	R			Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TOM LEATHERWOOD	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MARY LITTLETON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
HAROLD LOVE, JR.	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SUSAN LYNN	R	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ARON MABERRY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
PAT MARSH	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
BROCK MARTIN	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GREG MARTIN	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JAKE MCCALMON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SAM MCKENZIE	D	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	PNV	Y
LARRY MILLER	D		Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BO MITCHELL	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
DEBRA MOODY	R	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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

HOW THEY VOTED | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATOR	PARTY	SOUND SCIENCE ACT	CONSTITUTIONAL STATE PROPERTY TAX BAN	LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT REGULATION PREEMPTION	WETLANDS DEREGULATION	COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS BAN	SOLID WASTE PLANNING REFORM	THIRD PARTY LITIGATION FINANCING REFORM	REGULATORY FREEDOM ACT	ARTIFICIAL DYE BAN FOR SCHOOLS	PBM ANTI-TRUST
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JEROME MOON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ANTONIO PARKINSON	D	N	Y	N	N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y
JUSTIN PEARSON	D	N	N	N	N			Y	N	Y	N
JASON POWELL	D	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
DENNIS POWERS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KEVIN RAPER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
JAY REEDY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
LEE REEVES	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MICHELE RENEAU	R	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y
TIM RUDD	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y
IRIS RUDDER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
LOWELL RUSSELL	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GABBY SALINAS	D	N	N	N	N	N	PNV	PNV	N	N	Y
RICK SCARBROUGH	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
CAMERON SEXTON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHNNY SHAW	D	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
PAUL SHERRELL	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
WILLIAM SLATER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MIKE SPARKS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ROBERT STEVENS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
TOM STINNETT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BRYAN TERRY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CHRIS TODD	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOE TOWNS JR	D	N				N	Y	Y	N		
RON TRAVIS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		PNV	Y
KEVIN VAUGHAN	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
GREG VITAL	R	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	PNV	Y	Y	PNV	Y
TODD WARNER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y
MARK WHITE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
RYAN WILLIAMS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DAVE WRIGHT	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JASON ZACHARY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

VOTING KEY Y Yes Vote N Nay Vote Blank No Vote Recorded

114TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

TENNESSEE SENATE

Sound Science Act | SUPPORT

Required that certain environmental regulatory actions be backed by the best-available science

Constitutional State Property Tax Ban | SUPPORT

Allowed for a ballot initiative to constitutionally ban a statewide property tax

Local Government Employment Regulation Preemption | SUPPORT

Established the state legislature as having jurisdiction regarding the regulation of the field of employment terms and conditions, preventing local governments from adopting patchwork employment regulations

Community Benefits Agreements Ban | SUPPORT

Prohibited an employer who receives ECD incentives from entering into a community benefits agreement if the contract imposes obligations on the employer that are not directly related to the performance of the employer's duties under the ECD agreement

Wetlands Deregulation | SUPPORT

Reduced the state's jurisdiction over isolated wetlands, providing regulatory relief to property owners across Tennessee

PBM Antitrust | OPPOSE

Required the forced breakup of federally approved corporate structures by prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from owning or having a financial interest in pharmacies operating in Tennessee

Regulatory Freedom Act | SUPPORT

Increased transparency and accountability in the state rulemaking process by requiring agencies to notify impacted stakeholders and provide an opportunity for feedback on proposed regulations. It also ensured that any rule with a projected negative fiscal impact exceeding \$1 million over five years must be approved by the full General Assembly as standalone legislation

Solid Waste Planning Reform | SUPPORT

Strengthened Tennessee's solid waste planning framework by ensuring that regional plans are not only developed, but actionable and enforceable, requiring regions to produce detailed 10-year plans identifying how waste will be managed and disposed, and establishing clear timelines and criteria for plan submission, review, and approval by TDEC

Third Party Litigation Financing Reform | SUPPORT

Established clear and reasonable guardrails around litigation financing arrangements to protect the integrity of Tennessee's judicial system and ensure that lawsuits are driven by the parties involved—not undisclosed financial backers

Artificial Dye Ban for Schools | OPPOSE

Expanded the ban for Red Dye 40 in all Tennessee schools to include all types of artificial dyes

HOW THEY VOTED | TENNESSEE SENATE

LEGISLATOR	PARTY	SOUND SCIENCE ACT	CONSTITUTIONAL STATE PROPERTY TAX BAN	LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT REGULATION PREEMPTION	WETLANDS DEREGULATION	COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS BAN	SOLID WASTE PLANNING REFORM	THIRD PARTY LITIGATION FINANCING REFORM	REGULATORY FREEDOM ACT	ARTIFICIAL DYE BAN FOR SCHOOLS	PBM ANTI-TRUST
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RAUMESH AKBARI	D	N	PNV	N	N	N		N		N	N
PAUL BAILEY	R		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
JANICE BOWLING	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	Y
RICHARD BRIGGS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
HEIDI CAMPBELL	D	N	N	N	N	N	PNV	N	N	N	Y
RUSTY CROWE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TODD GARDENHIRE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
FERRELL HAILE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BOBBY HARSHBARGER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TOM HATCHER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOEY HENSLEY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ED JACKSON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JACK JOHNSON	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
SARA KYLE	D		N	N	N	N		N	N	Y	N
LONDON LAMAR	D	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N		Y	Y
ADAM LOWE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BECKY MASSEY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
RANDY MCNALLY	R		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
CHARLANE OLIVER	D	N	N		N	N	PNV	N		PNV	Y
MARK PODY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
BILL POWERS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SHANE REEVES	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KERRY ROBERTS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
PAUL ROSE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JESSIE SEAL	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
STEVE SOUTHERLAND	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
JOHN STEVENS	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
BRENT TAYLOR	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
PAGE WALLEY	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BO WATSON	R		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
DAWN WHITE	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KEN YAGER	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JEFF YARBRO	D	N	N	N	N	N	PNV	N	N	N	Y

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

114TH LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

KEY COMMITTEE VOTES

HB1777/SB2126	CHAMBER REC: NO
VAUGHAN, KEVIN	NO
BRICKEN, RUSH	YES
BOYD, CLARK	NO
BROOKS, SHAUNDELLE	YES
CAMPER, KAREN	YES
CLEMMONS, JOHN RAY	YES
COCHRAN, MARK	YES
DARBY, TANDY	NO
FAISON, JEREMY	YES
GRILLS, RUSTY	YES
HALE, MICHAEL	YES
HARDAWAY, G.A.	YES
HASTON, KIRK	YES
HEMMER, CALEB	YES
KEISLING, KELLY	YES
LAFFERTY, JUSTIN	YES
LANKFORD, MICHAEL	NO
LYNN, SUSAN	YES
MARSH, PAT	YES
MARTIN, BROCK	YES
MOON, JEROME	NO
POWERS, DENNIS	YES
VITAL, GREG	NO
ZACHARY, JASON	YES

Bill passes and sent to Finance Committee 18-6

Chamber Desired Outcome: X

The legislation, as amended, would have changed the corporate excise tax regarding REITs. It would have restricted specific dividend deductions and partnership excise tax exemptions, applying them only to REITs that own and derive rental income from single-family residential real property. This ends up being a tax increase on REITs holding single-family homes, which could have subsequently increased prices on rents and mortgages to the detriment of workers.

HB1853/SB2423	CHAMBER REC: NO
CHRIS, TODD	NO
STINNETT, TOM	NO
ALEXANDER, REBECCA	YES
BEHN, AFTYN	YES
DARBY, TANDY	PNV
DOGGETT, CLAY	NO
FRITTS, MONTY	YES
GRILLS, RUSTY	NO
HULSEY, BUD	PNV
HURT, CHRIS	NO
JONES, JUSTIN	YES
MARTIN, GREG	NO
REEDY, JAY	NO
SHAW, JOHNNY	YES
TRAVIS, RON	YES
VITAL, GREG	YES

Bill Fails 7 Aye, 7 No, 2 PNV

Chamber Desired Outcome: ✓

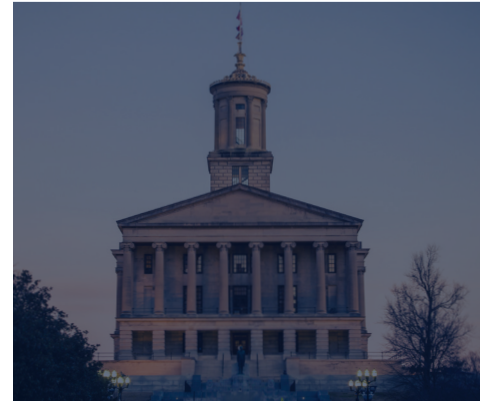
The legislation would have made portion of the Big South Fork River in Scott County a scenic river and thus barring a landfill in that area. The county was trying to stop an already permitted landfill in the county from proceeding after failing to stop it using the typical and existing means. This bill was concerning because of solid waste capacity in the state, taking of private property, and the precedent of the legislature using extraordinary legal means to impede a development.

FY26-27 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

\$58.3

BILLION

Total Budget



\$8

MILLION

to expand the Tennessee Youth Employment Program



\$400

MILLION

to Tennessee Department of Transportation to Support Infrastructure Improvements



\$10

MILLION

Further Investment in the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) Program to Support Nuclear Workforce Education



\$25

MILLION

Further Investment in the Nuclear Energy Fund to Attract Advanced Nuclear Energy Companies to Tennessee



\$671K

for Increased Cargo Theft Penalties

\$750K

to the TN Chamber to Administer a Grant for Learning Blade, Career Blade, and Ready for Industry Programs



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