



AOC New Law Update 2026

JUDICIARY

PC829 – Confidentiality of Judicial Candidate Petition Addresses

Summary: Expands the public records exception to include the addresses on a nominating petition for the office of judge, chancellor, district attorney general, and public defender, unless requested by a candidate or law enforcement authority in anticipation of or as part of a contest of candidacy or contest of election. Requires a person requesting such information to certify on a form provided by the Coordinator of Elections the reason for the request under the penalty of perjury.

Effective date: April 27, 2026

Bill: SB1720 (Haile) / HB1659 (Moon)

PC1129 – Use of Campaign Funds for Residential Security

Summary: This legislation authorizes an officeholder to use campaign funds for security enhancements at the officeholder's personal residence without the expenditure being considered personal use. Permitted expenditures include home security consultations, security equipment, monitoring services, safe rooms, and security guards. Residential security expenditures are capped at \$12,000 per calendar year and must be disclosed as "residential security." The legislation defines allowable security equipment to include items such as cameras, video doorbells, motion sensors, alarms, locks, security fencing, and security doors. Officeholders must maintain documentation of all security-related expenditures, and information provided to the Registry concerning those expenditures is confidential during an audit or investigation. The legislation also clarifies that campaign funds may continue to be used for other non-residential security purposes related to a candidate's campaign or the performance of official duties.

Effective date: May 22, 2026

Bill: SB2320 (Haile) / HB2045 (Marsh)

PC681 – Extension of deadlines for the Judicial Redistricting Task Force

Summary: Changes deadline for the task force to propose a new plan of judicial districts from January 1, 2027 to January 1, 2028. Also changes deadline for the legislature to reapportion the districts from December 31, 2027 to December 31, 2028.

Effective date: April 16, 2026

Bill: SB166 (Walley) / HB181 (Moody)

PC937 - Two new criminal courts in Shelby County

Summary: Effective September 1, 2026, the Governor will appoint two additional criminal courts in the 30th judicial district. Voters will elect the judges in the August 2028 general election. They are designated as “Violent Criminal Courts.”

Effective date: May 7, 2026

Bill: SB846 (Taylor) / HB1268 (Scarborough)

PC953 - Courts and ICE

Summary: Each court must cooperate with the US Department of Homeland Security and federal immigration authorities acting in the enforcement of federal immigration law. A judge who obstructs lawful operations by the US Department of Homeland Security or federal immigration authorities acting in the enforcement of federal immigration law may be referred to the board of judicial conduct for proceedings . . . and any findings by the board that the judge committed judicial misconduct may be cause for removal pursuant to the Constitution of Tennessee, Article VI, § 6. Sunset.

Effective date: May 7, 2026 (and terminates on February 1, 2029)

Bill: SB1952 (Rose) / HB1952 (Scarborough)

PC1141 – Judge Firearm Carry

Summary: Current or former judges who have completed a qualified enhanced handgun training course are authorized to carry weapons during judicial proceedings even while not in the discharge of their duties and are not required for the handgun to be concealed during proceedings. Specifies that judges who have completed enhanced handgun training may open carry and do not need to be in the actual discharge of duties during judicial proceedings.

Effective date:

Bill: SB2469 (Bailey) / HB2174 (Travis)

PC534 – Political Party Nomination Process

Summary: Authorizes statewide political parties to select nominees by any method authorized under the rules of the party if a vacancy for a judge, district attorney general, or public defender occurs less than 180 days prior to a qualifying deadline. Requires the chair of the nominating body to certify to the Coordinator of Elections (COE) the person nominated and the COE to subsequently certify political party

nominees to the county election commissions in each county in which the nominees are candidates.

Effective date: February 23, 2026

Bill: SB367 (Briggs) / HB458 (Rudd)

PC719 – Expunction of certain violent crimes

Summary: permits a court to expunge certain violent offenses for which a person has been pardoned; requires the court to consider, in weighing the best interests of justice and public safety, whether the offense sought to be expunged was violent and any other relevant factors presented by the petitioner and the district attorney general.

Effective date: April 14, 2026

Bill: SB2197 (Johnson) / HB2452 (Garrett)

PC1061 – Recovery Court Renewal Act

Summary: Authorizes a person with a single conviction of driving under the influence (DUI) at least 10 years removed to petition for expunction of certain convictions other than DUI, subject to the person having met certain other conditions, including having completed a certified recovery court program.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1232 (Johnson) / HB1346 (Reeves)

PC605 – Changes to process for restoration of voting rights

Summary: removes the requirement that an individual pay all court costs assessed against them in order to be eligible to have the right of suffrage restored. Authorizes an individual to be eligible to their right of suffrage if they are compliant with child support orders, including arrearages, for the past 12 months, instead of being current on all child support obligations.

Effective date: March 26, 2026

Bill: SB336 (Akbari) / HB687 (Camper)

PC1900- Lifetime OP expansion

Summary: expands eligibility for lifetime orders of protection to include certain felony offenses committed in other states if they would qualify under Tennessee law or have equivalent elements. It also clarifies venue rules, specifying where petitions for these orders may be filed depending on the type of qualifying offense and residency of the respondent.

Effective date: May 22, 2026

Bill: SB2145 (White) / HB1900 (Lamberth)

PC919 – Sheriff may provide firearm storage in courthouses

Summary: Authorizes sheriffs to provide secure storage lockers for lawfully carried firearms that are restricted or prohibited from possession at a county courthouse.

Effective date: May 1, 2026

Bill: SB2352 (Hensley) / HB2376 (Doggett)

PC921 – Changes to the Persistent Domestic Violence Offender Registry

Summary: Amends documentation requirements for the Persistent Domestic Violence Offender Registry. Updates various enacting mechanisms and criteria for submission of data by courts to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for updates of the registry. Expands the list of offenses committed against a domestic abuse victim that requires registry to the Persistent Domestic Violence Offender Registry.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1726 (Massey) / HB2567 (Kumar)

PC955 – Citizenship and Immigration Verification Requirements for Professional Licensure

Summary: Establishes that a person must be a United States citizen or a qualified alien in order to be eligible for certain licenses, certificates, permits, authorizations, or registrations issued by a state department, board, commission, agency or other governmental entity. Encourages the Tennessee Supreme Court to establish guidelines to limit a person's eligibility for a license to practice law or engage in law business to a person who is a United States citizen or a qualified alien.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (other parts May 7, 2026)

Bill: SB1901 (Bailey) / HB1709 (Cochran)

PC594 – Breastfeeding mothers exempt from jury duty

Summary: A mother who is breastfeeding a child is excused from jury service upon providing the court with a supporting medical statement from a licensed physician or a certified professional midwife. The jury coordinator of the county shall excuse a mother who is breastfeeding a child from jury service upon receiving a written request to be excused and a supporting medical statement from a licensed physician or a certified professional midwife.

Effective date: March 18, 2026

Bill: SB1893 (Bowling) / HB1715 (Hale)

PC743 – Court Clerk litigation tax reporting and oversight changes

Summary: Requires, upon request by the State Treasurer (Treasurer), court clerks to report on an aggregate quarterly basis to the Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue (DOR) the following: (1) the amount of litigation tax collected and remitted to the DOR; and (2) the amount of litigation taxes suspended, released, waived, remitted, or otherwise not collected, and the reason for failing to collect the tax, when applicable. Requires, at the request of the Treasurer, clerks to submit the following to the Treasurer: (1) a copy of the court's waiver policy or procedure; (2) a description of how and with what frequency defendants are notified of their tax obligation; (3) a description of the use of a collection agency or other third-party providers; (4) a description of other privilege tax collection efforts utilized by the

courts or clerks such as promissory notes or payment plans; and (5) any other information or documentation requested by the Treasurer. Clarifies that certain litigation privilege taxes that clerks of certain courts fail to collect and pay to the DOR are debts of the clerk.

Effective date: April 16, 2026 (applies to imposition and collection of privilege taxes on or after July 1, 2026).

Bill: SB1099 (Haile) / HB878 (Stinnett)

PC815 - Victim Restorative Justice Notification Pilot Program (Davidson and Shelby)

Summary: Creates a 24-month pilot program, beginning November 1, 2026, to provide a standardized notice to victims that include restorative justice options by the clerk of the court, applicable law enforcement agencies, and assigned victim witness coordinators in Shelby and Davidson County. Establishes requirements for a directory of victim-centered restorative justice options. Requires the Shelby County Juvenile Court Clerk and the Davidson County Juvenile Court Clerk to provide notification of restorative justice options to a victim in a case in which the juvenile is eligible for adjudication as a serious youthful offender and a case in which the juvenile is eligible for transfer to criminal court. Requires the juvenile court clerks to provide the notification utilizing existing resources and forms of communication.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: Sb2650 (Roberts) / HB2564 (Freeman)

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES / LITIGATION

PC664 – Sovereign Immunity

Summary: Eliminates § 1-3-121 and bars causes of action challenging the constitutionality of state statutes, effectively requiring plaintiffs to wait until enforcement (e.g., arrest or prosecution) before suing. Limits pre-enforcement constitutional challenges.

Effective date: April 7, 2026

Bill: SB1958 (Stevens) / HB1971 (Farmer)

PC613 – Appeal as of right for certain interlocutory orders involving the state

Summary: amends appellate procedure for circuit and chancery courts, giving the state an appeal as of right from certain interlocutory orders involving injunctions, sovereign immunity, qualified immunity, and motions to dismiss tied to constitutional challenges or the lawfulness of executive orders, administrative rules, or other governmental actions.

Effective date: March 26, 2026

Bill: SB1731 (Stevens) / HB1791 (Zachary)

PC835 – Three Judge Panel venue change; redistricting deadline increase

Summary: Tennessee Supreme Court may now choose three judges, one from each Grand Division for a Three Judge Panel case. Changes requirement that one of the judges be the judge with whom the case was originally filed. Also, increases the minimum time, from 15 days to 90 days, that a court must give the General Assembly to remedy any defects in a redistricting plan.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1858 (Stevens) / HB2184 (Lankford)

CIVIL GENERAL

PC606 – Residential tenant firearm possession and storage rights

Summary: Prohibits landlords from prohibiting a residential tenant from lawfully possessing, carrying, transporting, or storing a firearm, any part of a firearm, or ammunition in the residential tenant's leased premises, in a vehicle parked in an area provided for residential tenants, or in other locations controlled by the landlord, but only to the extent necessary to directly enter or exit such locations. Authorizes a residential tenant adversely affected by a violation of this act to bring a suit against a landlord for declaratory and injunctive relief, actual damages, punitive damages, and recovery of attorney fees. Establishes specific requirements, requests, and remedies a landlord may utilize with regards to concealment and storage of firearms within the common areas of residential property occupied by multiple tenants. Prohibits a landlord from adopting a rule or regulation concerning the residential tenant's use and occupancy on respective rental property premises which are in violation of this act. Specifies that this act does not apply to: any premises leased to a state agency or department, an entity or facility that is licensed or contracted with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), hospitals, nursing homes, or certain residences or dwellings within independent living facilities which open directly into an interior corridor or common area which serves as a means of entrance or exit to a nursing home, home for the aged, adult care home, assisted living facility, or memory care facility, or public or private school property. Specifies that civil liability does not arise for a landlord solely from complying with this act.

Effective date: January 1, 2027 (applies to agreements entered into, amended, extended, or renewed, and rules or regulations adopted or amended, on or after that date)

Bill: SB350 (Harshbarger) / HB469 (Reeves)

PC684 – Statute of repose for suits regarding design and construction

Summary: amends Tennessee law on actions, arbitrations, and other binding dispute resolution proceedings involving deficiencies in the design or construction of real property, setting a four-year deadline after substantial completion of the improvement. It also applies to resulting property damage, personal injury, or wrongful death claims tied to those deficiencies.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB866 (Stevens) / HB734 (G. Hicks)

PC712 – New COA for individual subject of distributed intimate image

Summary: An individual who is the subject of an intimate image that is distributed in violation of TCA § 39-17-318 may bring a civil action against that person in an appropriate court as set forth in this new law.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (and applies to COAs arising on or after that date).

Bill: SB2041 (Rose) / HB2012 (Littleton)

PC722 – New COA against someone who pays demonstrators who cause harm

Summary: establishes a cause of action for persons to seek damages from persons who compensate others to participate in demonstrations when the paid demonstrators' conduct satisfies the elements of the criminal offense of rioting, or other similar offenses.

Effective date: April 13, 2026 (applies to acts on or after that date)

Bill: SB2222 (Johnson) / HB2109 (Boyd)

PC625 – Transparency for Deepfakes in Political Advertising Act - COA

Summary: requires political ads using deepfake audio or video of candidates to include clear disclaimers stating the content is fake. The law specifies how disclosures must appear (e.g., spoken at the beginning and end for audio, or displayed throughout video) and limits application for non-incumbents to a 120-day pre-election window. It also provides civil remedies for affected candidates while shielding certain platforms and broadcasters that did not create the deepfake.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1624 (Massey) / HB1513 (Zachary)

PC794 – new COA against healthcare prof. for gender affirming care

Summary: This act creates a new private cause of action against healthcare professionals who allegedly coerce a person, or the parent of a minor, into consenting to certain medical procedures related to gender identity or gender transition treatment. The law allows a person to recover compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorney fees, costs, and expenses if the procedure was performed following coercion, and it establishes lengthy statutes of limitation, including up to 30 years after a minor reaches adulthood in some cases. The act took effect upon becoming law and applies to causes of action arising on or after that date.

Effective date: April 23, 2026

Bill: SB2031 (Lowe) / HB1872 (Zachary)

PC903 – COA for violations of providing an abortion-inducing drug to a patient via courier, delivery, or mail

Summary: Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to bring a civil action to impose a civil penalty for a knowing violation of the Tennessee Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act. Establishes that the AG may impose a civil penalty of \$10,000

for each separate violation; and, if a court determines that an individual suffered serious bodily injury or death due to a violation, authorizes the AG to impose a civil penalty of \$1,000,000.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to actions occurring on or after that date)

Bill: SB2412 (Hensley) / HB2380 (Terry)

PC934 – Restrictive covenant changes

Summary: Establishes the criteria a court must follow in determining the reasonableness of the time period of a restrictive covenant sought to be enforced after the termination of an employment or business relationship. Prohibits non-compete agreements between an employer and employee whose annual compensation is less than \$70,000.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to proceedings occurring and agreements entered into, renewed, or amended, on or after that date)

Bill: SB995 (Bailey) / HB1034 (Alexander)

PC589 – Additional information for fiduciary's report to court

Summary: Requires a fiduciary's sworn accounting of receipts and expenditures filed with the court supervising a guardianship or conservatorship to contain documentation of the date of last contact between the respondent and fiduciary. *Currently, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 34-1-111(d)(1)-(2), a fiduciary's accounting is required to contain an itemization of the receipts and expenditures made during the period covered by the accounting and a detail the property held by the fiduciary at the end of the accounting period. The accounting is further required to contain a statement concerning the physical or mental condition of the person with a disability to demonstrate to the court the need, or lack of need, for the continuation of the fiduciary's services.*

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1636 (Akbari) / HB1766 (Clemmons)

PC657 – Eviction process privacy protections

Summary: Prohibits a private entity or person, or an affiliate of such entity or person, from publishing, transmitting, or broadcasting, in real-time or near real-time, in a manner accessible to the public, any video of the service or execution of civil process related to an eviction proceeding upon an individual without the express written permission of the individual if the publishing, transmitting, or broadcasting is for any purpose other than legal documentation of the service or execution of the civil process. Establishes a private right of action for an individual against a person in violation of this act. Establishes a minimum award of \$25,000 for a victim who prevails in any such action, in addition to actual damages, punitive damages, other forms of equitable relief, reasonable costs, and attorney fees. Exempts from this prohibition any law enforcement officer serving civil process while engaged in their official duties, and further exempts various other parties to an eviction proceeding.

Effective date: April 1, 2026

Bill: SB1993 (Lamar) / HB2041 (Parkinson)

PC695 – Tennessee Child Care Hosting Safe Harbor Act

Summary: Exempts an employer or host entity from being held liable in a civil action for damages arising from the acts or omissions of a child care provider that is licensed and provides child care services on property owned, leased, or otherwise made available by the employer or host entity. Specifies that the employer or host entity is exempt from liability so long as damages are not caused by their gross negligence or willful misconduct. Excludes an employer or host entity from the Act if they operate or manage the child care provider, are licensed as a child care provider, or employ, supervise, or direct the child care provider's staff.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026 (applies to actions arising on or after that date)

Bill: SB1683 (Haile) / HB1965 (Farmer)

PC704 – Adoption of new UCC changes by the Uniform Law Commission

Summary: The proposed legislation makes changes to, adds to, and updates the following chapters under Tennessee Code Annotated Title 47 relative to commercial instruments and transactions: 1) 1, Uniform Commercial Code — General Provisions; 2) 2, Sales; 3) 2A, Leases; 4) 3, Negotiable Instruments; 5) 4A, Funds Transfers; 6) 5, Letters of Credit; 7) 7, Uniform Commercial Code — Documents of Title; 8) 8, Investment Securities; 9) 9, Secured Transactions; 10) Adds a new Chapter 6, relative to Controllable Electronic Records; 11) Adds a new Chapter 1A, titled — Transitional Provision for Uniform Commerce Code Amendments (2022)

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1859 (Stevens) / HB1800 (Marsh)

PC709 – Homestead exemption for adult with developmental or intellectual disability

Summary: Entitles a child, who is 18 years of age or older and has a developmental or intellectual disability, to a homestead exemption. Authorizes that any homestead exemption paid to any such child be deposited into the child's Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account.

Effective date: April 14, 2026

Bill: SB1935 (Reeves) / HB1903 (Terry)

PC1005 – Litigation financiers

Summary: Specifies that commercial litigation financing is the act of a commercial litigation financier who is a party or has standing to become a party to a legal action seeking to recover monetary damages, or to the legal representative for such party, in exchange for a right to receive payment that is contingent in any respect on the outcome of such action, but does not include: (1) a party to a civil action, administrative proceeding, claim or cause of action; (2) an attorney engaged through another legal representation to represent a part in the civil action; (3) an entity or insurer with a preexisting contractual obligation to indemnify or defend a party to the

civil action; or, (4) a nonprofit organization that is funded by private donations and represents one or more clients on a pro-bono basis.. Specifies that litigation financing means a non-recourse transaction in which financing is provided to a consumer in return for a consumer assigning to the litigation financier a contingent right to receive an amount of the potential proceeds of the consumer's judgment, award, settlement, or verdict obtained with respect to the consumer's legal claim, but does not include: (1) legal services provided on a contingency fee basis where such services or costs are provided by an attorney representing the consumer in the dispute; or (2) a claim under the Workers' Compensation law. Prohibits a person from registering as a litigation financier or engaging in litigation financing if that person is directly or indirectly affiliated with a foreign person, foreign principal, or sovereign wealth fund of a foreign government designated as a foreign adversary. Prohibits a commercial litigation financier from directing or making any decisions regarding legal proceedings for which they have provided litigation financing. Prohibits a litigation financier from receiving any amount greater than the amount equal to the share of the proceeds collectively recovered by the plaintiffs or claimants in a legal proceeding.

Effective date: May 19, 2026 (applies to contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after such date)

Bill: SB2101 (Taylor) / HB2108 (Boyd)

PC854 – Subterranean Transportation Infrastructure Coordination Act (Three Judge Panel)

Summary: Creates the Subterranean Transportation Infrastructure Coordination Authority (Authority), establishes its powers, and establishes an eleven-member Board (Board) to govern the Authority. Establishes the Governor's Infrastructure Coordination Council (Council), comprised of at least six members, for the purpose of providing coordinated review of transit projects among state departments and agencies to facilitate regulatory review of such projects. Further this Act establishes various additional provisions related to the Authority and the application of it.

Effective date: For purposes of promulgating rules, making appointments, hiring employees, and carrying out administrative duties necessary to effectuate this act, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

Bill: SB2205 (Johnson) / HB2450 (Garrett)

FAMILY LAW

PC683 – New best interest factor to TCA § 36-6-106(a)

Summary: “(17) Without creating any presumption as to parenting time, the extent to which the parenting schedule proposed or ordered provides each parent with meaningful opportunities to participate in the child’s life, consistent with the child’s best interest...”

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB609 (Massey) / HB590 (Atchley)

PC870 – Child support not required past child’s 19th birthday unless there is a disability

Summary: clarifies that parents must continue child support past age 18 if the child is still enrolled in high school, ending upon graduation or when the class graduates, but no later than age 19 (absent disability). It also aligns Title IV-D procedures to allow termination of support once those conditions are met, based on agency records or documentation provided by the obligor.

Effective date: April 27, 2026

Bills: SB2463 (Bailey) / HB2443 (Rudder)

PC810 – Training requirements for Title 36 GALs

Summary: Requires guardians ad litem appointed by the court to complete training appropriate to the role, including instruction in child and adolescent development. However, courts may still appoint individuals who have not yet completed the training, so long as they do so within three years (or by July 1, 2029, for current guardians ad litem).

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2355 (Massey) / HB2154 (Raper)

PC732 – Parents Rights Protection Act

Summary: requires an expedited hearing within 15 days when a bond condition restricts a defendant’s parental contact, custody, or visitation, and the condition becomes void if no hearing occurs in that timeframe. Before imposing or extending such a restriction for a child who is not the victim, the court must find by clear and convincing evidence that a threat of harm exists, less restrictive alternatives are insufficient, and the restriction is in the child’s best interests.

Effective date: April 16, 2026

Bill: SB2365 (Rose) / HB2078 (Farmer)

PC758 – written findings in a temporary or permanent custody order

Summary: requires a court to include written findings of fact as to whether certain limitations in parenting plans / custody order apply in a child custody order, whether temporary or permanent (as opposed to just permanent).

Effective date: April 16, 2026

Bill: SB2359 (Hatcher) / HB2127 (Alexander)

PC846 – Refusing to use a child’s preferred pronouns should not be held against the parent

Summary: specifies that a parent's or legal guardian's action of raising, guiding, or instructing the parent's or legal guardian's child in a manner consistent with the child's biological sex is not a basis for certain findings or actions by the court, does not constitute the criminal offense of child abuse, child neglect, or child

endangerment, and must not be considered as a negative factor by a court in determining a custody arrangement in the best interest of the child.

Effective date: April 27, 2026

Bill: SB1989 (Rose) / HB2082 (Littleton)

ADOPTION

PC936 - Out-of-court surrender

Summary: The new out-of-court surrender process creates a structured, court-supervised pathway that begins with the filing of a signed “notice of intent” and petition in chancery or circuit court, triggering assignment of a docket number and a hearing within fourteen days. At that hearing, the court reviews the notice, home study, and required disclosures to determine compliance, and may enter an order approving the notice along with a provisional guardianship order. Although the actual surrender is executed outside the presence of a judge, it can only occur after court approval and must follow strict statutory safeguards, including attorney involvement, independent witnessing, and notarization. Once executed, the surrender and certification must be filed with the court within three days under the existing docket, keeping the court actively involved throughout the process. Upon filing, the court is required to immediately issue an order of guardianship, transferring custody to the accepting party and maintaining jurisdiction over the matter. The court also retains a central role in post-execution proceedings, including handling revocations, sealing records if the process is abandoned, and ultimately overseeing guardianship and adoption finalization.

Effective date: January 1, 2027 (May 7, 2026 for the purposes of creating forms)

Bill: SB1238 (Stevens) / HB1263 (Slater)

PC878 – Court may waive requirement for a home study

Summary: Public Chapter 878 allows a court to waive the home study requirement in an adoption when the child has lived with the prospective adoptive parents for at least twelve months and custody was previously granted by court order after a full adjudication. Before doing so, the court must review required background information, including a criminal history check and registry search, and make specific written findings that the waiver is in the child’s best interest. The decision remains fully discretionary with the court, preserving judicial oversight while providing flexibility in cases where the placement has already been established.

Effective date: April 27, 2026

Bill: SB1751 (Haile) / HB1692 (Reneau)

TRUSTS & ESTATES

PC616 – Bankers’ omnibus trust bill

Summary: makes a series of updates to Tennessee trust and estate law, including expanding how wills may be admitted to probate and clarifying the rights of charitable

beneficiaries and the attorney general in trust administration. It also enhances flexibility and protections in trust management—such as allowing trustees to pay expenses directly from trust assets and permitting confidential trust information to be filed under seal—while maintaining court oversight where necessary.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1910 (Stevens) / HB2454 (Garrett)

PC717 – UHPHA does not apply to sales of land to pay debts of an estate

Summary: states that the Uniform Partition Heirs Property Act does not apply to sales of land to pay the debts of an estate; revises the method for determining a decedent's gross estate for purposes of calculating a surviving spouse's elective share.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2184 (Stevens) / HB2451 (Garrett)

PC741 – charitable organization designated as a beneficiary

Summary: establishes a process to notify a charitable organization that it has been designated as a beneficiary in an instrument that provides for payment or transfer at death without probate; makes related changes.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to conduct occurring and COAs arising on or after that date)

Bill: SB2642 (Roberts) / HB2112 (Boyd)

PC917 – Alcohol Industry Ownership Interests Through Irrevocable Trust

Summary: Authorizes licensed wineries and non-resident sellers of alcoholic beverages to have a direct or indirect interest in any establishment with a license authorizing alcohol consumption on premises, if such interest is held in an irrevocable trust by an independent trustee. Clarifies that a non-resident seller includes a person with a direct or indirect interest in such establishments. Prohibits a person whose interest in a brand or business is held in an irrevocable trust by an independent trustee from participating in the management or operation of the brand or business. Authorizes a person with such interest to enter into a licensing agreement through the trust for the use of the person's name, image, or likeness and participate in advertising or promotional activities. Requires such advertising and promotional activities to comply with federal law. Clarifies that statutory limitations on personal liability of beneficiaries apply to trustees and beneficiaries under this act.

Effective date: May 1, 2026

Bill: SB2163 (Briggs) / HB2272 (Crawford)

CRIMINAL GENERAL

PC1017 - Pilot project for criminal magistrates in 10 counties

Summary: Creates a pilot project to provide criminal magistrates in the 10

counties that have the highest judicial caseload. Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to notify the legislative body of each of the 10 counties by December 1, 2026 regarding their eligibility to participate in the pilot project. Authorizes the legislative body of an eligible county to create the position of criminal magistrate by ordinance. Authorizes the county to appoint the criminal magistrate, no sooner than January 1, 2027, following the enactment of such ordinance. Establishes the duties of a criminal magistrate under the pilot project. Requires the criminal magistrate to be compensated from the general fund of the county in an amount to be determined by the majority of the elected judges of the county with criminal jurisdiction.

Effective date: May 19, 2026

Bill: SB2025 (Lowe) / HB2251 (Grills)

PC780 – Change to threats of mass violence law

Summary: clarifies, for purposes of criminal offenses relative to threats of mass violence on school property or at a school-related activity or failing to report such threats, that a threat of mass violence is credible if the threat causes another to reasonably expect the commission of an act of mass violence

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB591(Haile) / HB1273 (Doggett)

PC627 – Documentation to be provided by defendant for EMIF

Summary: Public Chapter 627 (2026) revises procedures for determining indigency eligibility for the electronic monitoring ignition interlock fund. It requires individuals to provide documentation and consent allowing the state treasurer to verify receipt of qualifying public benefits through state or federal agencies. Providers must share this information with the state treasurer and local governments, depending on the type of device ordered. The act also authorizes the treasurer to enter into agreements with agencies to facilitate verification.

Effective date: March 26, 2026

Bill: SB1845 (Hatcher) / HB1748 (Wright)

PC943 - Memphis Safe Task Force Accountability Act

Summary: requires the district attorney general of any judicial district in which the Memphis Safe Task Force or a federal task force to combat violent crime is in effect to submit a report whenever the district attorney enters into a plea agreement, lowers the charged offense, or dismisses or otherwise declines to prosecute a serious offense which resulted from the Memphis Safe Task Force or a federal task force to combat violent crime. Requires the report to be submitted to specified recipients at the end of each month that the district attorney enters into a plea agreement, lowers the charged offense, or dismisses or otherwise declines to prosecute a serious offense. Requires the report to be submitted no later than 10 business days of the entry of an agreed plea, reduction in charged offense, issuance of an order of nolle prosequi or dismissal, or another formal action indicating a declination to prosecute.

Effective date: May 7, 2026

Bill: SB1467 (Taylor) / HB1484 (Gillespie)

PC928 - AG study of DA actions in Shelby County

Summary: Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to conduct a study of a district attorney general's disposition of charges and other ancillary matters within the 30th judicial district. Establishes requirements for the study. Authorizes the AG to request that the Comptroller of the Treasury provide the necessary auditing services, if such are determined to be required to conduct the study. Requires the AG to submit a report of the findings of the study to specified parties. Authorizes the AG to petition the Supreme Court for appointment of a district attorney general pro tem as the result of certain findings in the study. Requires the Supreme Court to appoint another attorney from a list provided by the District Attorneys General Conference as district attorney general pro tem, if the Supreme Court determines the district attorney general of the 30th judicial district has refused to prosecute persons accused of committing offenses. Authorizes the AG to have accorded access to and examine any information, records, books, data, or reports maintained by a district attorney general, whether or not the information is subject to public inspection. Requires a district attorney general to fully cooperate with the AG in providing access to such information. Requires the AG to maintain inviolate any privileged or confidential information acquired, unless the information is being provided to specific parties. Establishes that the provisions of this act are severable if any provision is held invalid.

Effective date: May 7, 2026

Bill: SB443 (Taylor) / HB483 (Farmer)

PC897 – Mass Shooter blood/urine test

Summary: A law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a mass shooting may ask if the person consents to a blood or urine test for the purpose of: a) determining the presence of any drugs, including therapeutic levels of psychotropic drugs; and b) studying the interactions between any psychotropic drugs and other drugs that are present in the person's blood or urine. Lays out procedure for the hospital.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to mass shootings occurring on or after that date)

Bill: SB2088 (Crowe) / HB2013 (Littleton)

PC939 – Change in intent requirement for promoting or assisting in crime

Summary: Establishes that a person is criminally responsible for another's conduct when acting with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense, or acting with intent to benefit in the proceeds or results of the offense, the person solicits, directs, or aids another person to commit the offense. Removes criminal responsibility when the person does not act with intent to benefit in the proceeds or results of the offense as it relates to the criminal responsibility for conduct of another. Not just association or presence that makes someone guilty. *Current law does not include intent to benefit from the crime.*

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1170 (Akbari) / HB 1372 (Hulsey)

PC886 – Self-defense protections for human trafficking victims

Summary: Establishes that a person is presumed to have held a reasonable belief of imminent death or serious bodily injury to self if the person uses force intended or likely to cause death or serious bodily injury against an individual who is committing or attempting to commit a human trafficking offense and the person using the force is the victim of the human trafficking offense being committed or attempted by the individual.

Effective date: May 5, 2026

Bill: SB1225 (Rose) / HB1354 (Littleton)

PC626 – Adds to definition of “desecration”

Summary: In regard to the criminal offense of desecration of a venerated object, establishes that "desecrate" includes, but is not limited to, the removal of objects from a place of burial by a person other than a family member of the deceased, an authorized representative of the cemetery, an employee of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Archaeology, or persons otherwise authorized by law to remove such objects.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1841 (Briggs) / HB1731 (Wright)

PC632 – Not a crime to allow student to retake course, test, or assignment

Summary: Clarifies that a school employee does not commit the criminal offense of falsifying educational and academic documents for altering, creating, or duplicating the grade of a student in an educational or academic document if such action is due to the student obtaining the grade through a program that allows students to earn credit by retaking a failed course, exam, or assignment.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB273 (Taylor) / HB369 (Doggett)

PC726 – Traffic violations committed by autonomous vehicle

Summary: Establishes a process regarding traffic violations committed by an automated driving system (ADS), including mailing the notice of violation or citation to the registered owner of the vehicle. Authorizes a state or local law enforcement agency (LEA) to establish a policy relative to such violations committed by an ADS.

Effective date: April 13, 2026

Bill: SB2253 (Pody) / HB2302 (Freeman)

PC793 – Extends SOL for vehicular homicide

Summary: Requires prosecution for vehicular homicide to occur within 10 years from the date of the offense. Currently, it ranges from Class D Felony to Class B felony, depending on the circumstances of the case, and SOL varies.

Effective date: July 1, 2026
Bill: SB1840 (Briggs) / HB2432 (McKenzie)

PC830 – Underage smoking

Summary: Expands the dispositions authorized by a general sessions or juvenile court for a person under 21 years of age who possessed either a tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product, purchased or accepted receipt of either product, or presented or offered to any person any purported proof of age that is false, fraudulent, or not actually that person's own for the purpose of purchasing or receiving any tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine product.

Effective date: July 1, 2026
Bill: SB1740 (Rose) / HB1679 (Moody)

PC875 – Changes definition of serious bodily injury as it relates to vehicular assault

Summary: Deletes language: A broken bone of a child who is 12 years of age or less.

Effective date: July 1, 2026
Bill: SB375 (Rose) / HB359 (Lamberth)

PC993 – DOS online course to reduces points for speeding

Summary: Authorizes a person who submits the fine and costs for a speeding ticket in lieu of appearing in court to also register for an approved driver education course online, of which successful completion can cause points for the speeding conviction to be removed from the person's records in accordance with current law. Requires the Department of Safety (DOS) and course providers to supply certificates and notices of completion.

Effective date: July 1, 2026
Bill: SB2114 (Campbell) / HB1891 (Hemmer)

PC1909 – Expanded Eligibility for Recovery Court Programs

Summary: Removes a person convicted of misdemeanor assault from the definition of a "violent offender," for purposes of eligibility for participation in a drug court treatment program. Establishes that a person with a conviction for certain offenses involving a dangerous weapon or serious bodily injury to another person is only considered a violent offender for purposes of a drug court treatment program if such conviction was for a felony offense that occurred in the previous 10 years

Effective date: July 1, 2026
Bill: SB1909 (Stevens) / HB1471 (Hicks)

Bail

PC604 – Presumption of no ROR for felony involving firearm or serious bodily injury or death

Summary: establishes a presumption that a defendant should not be released on the defendant's personal recognizance if the defendant is charged with an offense that involved the use or display of a firearm or resulted in the serious bodily injury or death of the victim; requires a magistrate who determines that the presumption has been rebutted to include in the bail order written findings for each factor considered in making such a determination.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB218 (Taylor) / HB33 (Gillespie)

PC933 - Bail required for A&B felonies, agg. Assault, felony domestic assault. Rebuttable presumption that bail must be set at \$10k

Summary: Requires defendants charged with specific offenses to post bail, and prohibits said defendants from being released on their own personal recognizance or upon execution of an unsecured bond. Creates a rebuttable presumption that bail must be set at \$10,000 or more to ensure the appearance of the defendant as required. *Currently, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-11-115(d), a person charged with any of the following offenses shall not be released on their own recognizance without the approval of a general sessions judge, criminal court judge, or circuit court judge having jurisdiction over the current charges: 1) A Class A felony; 2) A Class B felony; 3) Aggravated assault; 4) Aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer or first responder; or 5) Domestic assault, if the violation is a felony offense.*

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB900 (Harshbarger) / HB920 (Scarborough)

PC896 - Bail revocation

Summary: Requires a bail revocation hearing within 10 days of revoking the bond of a defendant who violates a condition of release, is charged with an offense committed during the defendant's release, or engages in conduct which results in the obstruction of the orderly and expeditious progress of the trial or other proceedings. Authorizes a court to permanently revoke a defendant's bond and order the defendant held without bail pending trial or without release during trial if, following the bail revocation hearing, the court finds the defendant violated a condition of bond.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1945 (Haile) / HB1980 (Grills)

PC941 – Limits on charitable organizations that donate to bail funds

Summary: Requires any entity, with the exception of a defendant, a member of their family, their legal guardian, their employer, or a professional bondsman, seeking to secure the defendant's release to be approved with regards to sufficiency of sureties. Prohibits such entities from posting security for a single defendant more than one time per calendar year or in an amount greater than \$5,000 per defendant in per calendar year.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1708 (Taylor) / HB1708 (Gillespie)

PC732 – Parents Rights Protection Act

Summary: requires an expedited hearing within 15 days when a bond condition restricts a defendant’s parental contact, custody, or visitation, and the condition becomes void if no hearing occurs in that timeframe. Before imposing or extending such a restriction for a child who is not the victim, the court must find by clear and convincing evidence that a threat of harm exists, less restrictive alternatives are insufficient, and the restriction is in the child’s best interests.

Effective date: April 16, 2026

Bill: SB2365 (Rose) / HB2078 (Farmer)

PC1026 - Revised NCIC Fugitive Entry Requirements and Surety Relief Procedures

Summary: The new law narrows the circumstances in which a defendant must be entered into a state or federal fugitive database, such as NCIC, after a failure to appear. Under prior law, mandatory entry applied not only to failures to appear on violent or sexual felonies, but also to violent or sexual Class A or B misdemeanors and to defendants charged with failure to appear. The new law limits the requirement solely to failures to appear on felonies that are violent or sexual in nature, as determined by the court. The act also changes the timeframe affecting surety liability. Under prior law, a surety was relieved of liability if the defendant was not entered into the applicable database within three business days of the entering agency receiving the bench warrant or capias. The new law extends that period to five business days. Additionally, the revised language specifies that the court “may” relieve the surety of liability, making the relief discretionary rather than automatic.

Effective date: May 19, 2026

Bill: SB2161 (Haile) / HB2374 (Doggett)

NEW CRIMES

PC625 – Transparency for Deepfakes in Political Advertising Act

Summary: Enacts the Transparency for Deepfakes in Political Advertising Act (Act), which creates a Class C misdemeanor when a communication, whether audio or video, impersonates a candidate for an elected office engaging in speech or action in which the candidate did not engage, without clearly stating that the communication contains fake content impersonating or depicting actions or speech that did not occur. Specifies that the Act only applies if the communication is distributed within 120 days of the initiation of voting in an election in which the candidate appears on the ballot if they are not an incumbent. Exempts a person or entity who is a host, third-party producer, or internet service provider including its affiliates or subsidiaries, search engine, or cloud service provider from liability for solely providing access or connection to or from a website or other information or content on the internet or

facility, system, or network, not under the control of the provider to the extent that the provider is not responsible for the creation of the deceptive and fraudulent deepfake. Entitles the impersonated or depicted candidate to damages and equitable relief. Specifies that this Act does not apply to a radio or television broadcasting station, cable or satellite television operator, streaming or other programming service when it is paid to broadcast material containing a deepfake, to the extent such entity is not responsible for the creation of the deceptive and fraudulent deepfake.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1624 (Massey) / HB1513 (Zachary)

PC771 – New state crime to refusing to deport, enter illegally, etc.

Summary: creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally failing or refusing to depart when a final order of removal is outstanding; creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally entering, attempting to enter, or being found in this state after being denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed from the United States.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1779 (Johnson) / HB1704 (Lamberth)

PC868 – new crime of flying drone over a school

Summary: creates the Class C misdemeanor offense of knowingly using an unmanned aircraft over the grounds of a school.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2434 (Crowe) / HB2147 (R. Jones)

PC871 – Freight theft

Summary: new offense of “fraudulent freight theft,” covering schemes like double brokering, impersonation, and diversion of cargo, and makes it punishable as theft. The law establishes broad reporting options and requires law enforcement to accept reports, assign case numbers, and treat them as official theft reports for criminal, insurance, and civil purposes. It also sets detailed reporting requirements, allows multi-jurisdictional coordination, and takes effect July 1, 2026.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2466 (Bailey) / HB2139 (Marsh)

PC918 – Drone over an event

Summary: Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense if a person operates an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of or above a ticketed entertainment event. Provides exceptions.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts occurring on or after that date)

Bill: SB2543 (Gardenhire) / HB2368 (Doggett)

PC949 – Class A misdemeanor to knowingly violate a no contact order that is part of sentence

Summary: Establishes a Class A misdemeanor offense to knowingly violate a no contact order issued as part of a defendant's sentence or conditions of probation or parole following conviction for any criminal offense against a person in which the alleged victim of the offense is a domestic abuse victim.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1717 (Hensley) / HB1624 (Barrett)

PC951 – Bank Juggling

Summary: Creates a criminal offense for a person to knowingly travel, with intent to commit theft of another person's cash, from a commercial business, a financial institution, or an automated teller machine, on the same path or route as another person without substantial deviation from that path or route while in possession of two or more criminal instruments. Establishes penalties for violations.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1737 (White) / HB1668 (Rudd)

PC696 – Class A misdemeanor for mooring a boat too long, etc.

Summary: Prohibits the operator of a recreational vessel from mooring the vessel for more than 14 consecutive days along the water's edge of a reservoir or at any place within one mile thereof. Prohibits the establishment of temporary moorage within the limits of the primary or secondary navigation channels of the Tennessee River System. Further prohibits the operator of a recreational vessel from placing the mooring lines of the vessel in such a way to block or hinder boating access to any part of the reservoir. Establishes a Class C misdemeanor offense for persons who violate such prohibitions.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1725 (Hatcher) / HB1786 (Littleton)

PC702 – Sale of nitrous oxide

Summary: Creates an offense for a retail seller to sell or offer for sale nitrous oxide. Establishes civil penalties for violations. Creates a Class E felony offense to sell, offer to sell, deliver, or give away to another nitrous oxide if the person has reasonable cause to suspect that the nitrous oxide sold, offered for sale, delivered, or given away will be used for the purpose of causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, elation, dizziness, excitement, stupefaction, paralysis, or the dulling of the brain or nervous system, or disturbing or distorting of the audio or visual processes.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1843 (Briggs) / HB1644 (Atchley)

PC766 – Crime to put a virtual currency kiosk in this state

Summary: Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a virtual currency kiosk operator or other person to knowingly install or allow installation of, permit, place, or

otherwise operate a virtual currency kiosk in this state. A virtual currency kiosk means an electronic terminal acting as a mechanical agent of the virtual currency kiosk operator to enable the virtual currency kiosk operator to facilitate the exchange of virtual currency for money, bank credit, or other virtual currency.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts occurring on or after that date)

Bill: SB2251 (Johnson) / HB2505 (Sexton)

PC777 – Crush Transnational Repression in Tennessee Act

Summary: Requires a criminal offense to be punished one classification higher if the offense is: (1) committed by an agent of a foreign adversary or agent of a foreign terrorist organization while acting knowingly at the direction of, on behalf of, or under the influence of the foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization or a proxy of the foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization; (2) committed with the intent to coerce a person to act on behalf of a foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization, coerce a person to leave the United States or cause another person to leave the United States, cause a person to forebear from engaging in protected conduct, or retaliate against a person for engaging in protected conduct; and (3) not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Establishes that a ruling or decision of a state court arbitration panel, tribunal, or administrative agency that is based in whole or in part on a foreign law is void and unenforceable in this state if it would deny a party a liberty, right, or privilege guaranteed by the Constitution of Tennessee or the United States Constitution. Creates a criminal offense to intentionally engage in the prevention, detection, investigation, monitoring, surveilling, or prosecution of an offense under the law or rule of a foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization in violation of the laws of this state or the United States without the knowledge and approval of a state or federal law enforcement agency that is authorized to give such approval. Requires each state agency to include information on transnational repression in agency policies and procedures and provide for direct complaints of transnational repression to be made to a representative of the agency.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2644 (Roberts) / HB2279 (Cochran)

PC972 – Sex offender - knowingly staying overnight at a campground without providing notice to the operator of sex offender status

Summary: Requires a sexual offender or a violent sexual offender to notify the owner or operator of a campground of their sex offender status prior to beginning their overnight stay. Establishes that a person who knowingly stays overnight at a campground without providing the required notice commits a Class E felony offense.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2030 (Lowe) / HB1922 (Carringer)

PC974 – Expands offense of Agg. Animal Cruelty to starving livestock to death

Summary: Expands the offense of aggravated animal cruelty to livestock animals to include starving the livestock to death without justifiable or lawful purpose.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2133 (Haile) / HB2263 (Martin)

PC1021 – Tennessee Anti-Grooming Act

Summary: Creates the criminal offense of grooming a minor and grooming a minor while in a position of trust and establishes penalties for violations. Establishes that preparatory grooming conduct does not include a completed offense of solicitation of a minor, soliciting sexual exploitation of a minor by electronic means, sexual exploitation of a minor, aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, or especially aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor. Requires a defendant convicted of grooming to register as a sex offender.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts committed on or after that date)

Bill: SB2566 (Bowling) HB2317 (Barrett)

PC949 – Kratom

Summary: Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for knowingly possessing Kratom. Creates a Class C felony offense for knowingly manufacturing, delivering, or selling Kratom, or knowingly possessing Kratom with the intent to manufacture, deliver, or sell Kratom. Creates a Class B felony offense for knowingly manufacturing, delivering, or selling Kratom, or knowingly possessing Kratom with the intent to manufacture, deliver, or sell Kratom to a minor. Requires a county medical examiner to test a decedent for the presence of Kratom when conducting an autopsy, if the decedent's suspected cause of death is drug overdose. Requires a treating physician that orders toxicology testing for a suspected drug overdose or suspected neonatal abstinence syndrome, to include testing for the presence of Kratom. Requires the Department of Labor and Workforce (DLWD) to promulgate a rule to add Kratom to the definition of a drug.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1656 (Gardenhire) / HB1649 (Helton-Haynes)

PC1086 – Recklessly discharging firearm

Summary: Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who recklessly discharges a firearm into the air, ground, a body of water, or an object in proximity to the person, if the firearm is discharged at a place of public gathering or at a public event where there are at least 25 people in attendance at the time of discharge. Provides exceptions. Requires handgun safety courses approved by the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DOS) to include instruction on recklessly discharging a firearm at a public gathering

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1747 (Bowling) / HB1757 (Rudder)

PC1097 – Protection of Property Corner and Survey Monuments

Summary: Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person to intentionally move without replacing, alter, destroy, or remove a monument that the person knows, or should reasonably know, is a property corner monument, historic land surveying monument, or geodetic control monument. Excludes an employee or contractor of the Department of Transportation when engaged in official duties on behalf of the department.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1814 (Bailey) / HB2026 (Williams)

PC1098 – New offense of coercive suicide

Summary: Creates the new offense of coercive suicide. Class D Felony.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts committed on or after that date)

Bill: Sb1815 (Bailey) / HB1951 (Williams)

PC1109 – Prediction market manipulation

Summary: Creates a Class E felony offense if a person, for the purpose of deriving a pecuniary benefit, engages in conduct intended to influence the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an event while the person or another is a party to a contract with a prediction-market by which the person will benefit directly from the occurrence or nonoccurrence of the event.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1992 (Haile) / HB2079 (Littleton)

CRIMINAL SENTENCING

PC819 – Court to determine when DUI incarceration to begin

Summary: Requires the sentencing court to determine when an offender shall begin the period of incarceration for driving under the influence. *Currently, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-10-402(f)(1), an offender sentenced to a period of incarceration for a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-10-401, shall be required to commence service of the sentence within 30 days of conviction or, if space is not immediately available in the appropriate municipal or county jail or workhouse within such time, as soon as such space is available*

Effective date:

Bill: SB1302 (Johnson) / HB1317 (Lamberth)

PC715 – Enhancement for leaving the scene

Summary: requires a person convicted of vehicular homicide proximately resulting from the person's intoxication to be punished as no lower than a Range II offender if the person, as a result of the same course of conduct, is also convicted of leaving the scene of the accident.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2138 (White) / HB2014 (Littleton)

PC752 – second degree murder by knowingly killing – no lower than Range II

Summary: requires a person convicted of second degree murder by knowingly killing another to be sentenced as no lower than a Range II offender.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts committed on or after that date).

Bill: SB1930 (Taylor) / HB1871 (Atchley)

PC693 – Changes to current law allowing the death penalty for rape of a child

Summary: adds numerous aggravating circumstances—such as prior sexual offenses, abuse of a position of trust, use of drugs, filming the offense, or especially heinous conduct—that may support a death sentence in these cases. It also removes victim consent or participation as a mitigating factor in prosecutions for rape of a child or aggravated rape of a child. Additionally, the act modifies sentencing procedures to apply capital sentencing provisions to convictions for rape of a child, not just first-degree murder.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts occurring on or after that date).

Bill: SB1659 (Gardenhire) / HB1454 (Martin)

PC1072 - Enhancement for leaving the scene of an accident

Summary: Requires a defendant to serve a minimum sentence of one year and implements a mandatory fine, for the criminal offense of leaving the scene of an accident when the person knew or should have reasonably known that death resulted from the accident.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (and applies to offenses committed on or after that date)

Bill: SB1602 (Hatcher) / HB1967 (Stevens)

PC907 – Enhancement for criminal trespass with motorized vehicle or bike

Summary: Enhances the penalty for criminal trespass, from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor punishable by fine, if the violation involved the use or operation of a motorized vehicle or bicycle. Subjects the motorized vehicle or bicycle to seizure and forfeiture upon a second or subsequent violation

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts committed on or after that date)

Bill: SB2471 (Bailey) / HB2284 (Butler)

PC930 – Enhancement for burglary of vehicle

Summary: Increases, from a Class E felony to a Class D felony, the penalty for the offense of burglary of any freight or passenger car, automobile, truck, trailer, boat, airplane, or other motor vehicle. *Currently, Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-1002(b)(1)-(2), burglary other than a habitation is a Class D felony and burglary of a motor vehicle is a Class E felony.*

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to offenses committed on or after that date)

Bill: SB671 (Taylor) / HB555 (Capley)

PC945 – Required consecutive sentences

Summary: Requires a court to order sentences to run consecutively if a defendant is convicted of two or more offenses involving more than one victim that was a minor, irrespective of whether the multiple offenses were part of a single criminal episode. Authorizes the court to allow the sentences to run concurrently if the imposition of consecutive sentences would not be in the best interest of justice. *Currently, pursuant to TCA § 40-35-115, a court is authorized to run sentences consecutively in certain situations.*

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to offenses committed on or after that date)

Bill: SB1633 (Hatcher) / HB1525 (Stinnett)

PC959 – Human trafficking / prostitution changes

Summary: Increases the penalty for patronizing prostitution from a law enforcement officer 18 years of age or older posing as a minor, from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B felony. Establishes that patronizing prostitution from a person who has an intellectual disability is a Class B felony, and is no longer punishable as trafficking for commercial sex acts. Establishes that patronizing prostitution from a person who is less than 18 years of age is a Class A felony, and is no longer punishable as trafficking for commercial sex acts.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2178 (Yager) / HB1787 (Littleton)

PC1046 – Extension of revocation period for

Summary: Increases the revocation of a person's driver license time-period for an implied consent violation. Fix for 2025's PC403 which changed the law such that an implied consent violation for a first-time DUI involving refusal to take a blood test resulted in a revocation of the person's driver license for 18 months. But, PC403 did not change the revocation period for persons whose implied consent violation involved refusal to take a breath test. This new law makes all implied consent violations (blood or breath) result in an 18 month revocation for first time offenders, so it removes the inconsistency in the current law.

Effective date: January 1, 2027

Bill: SB2640 (Roberts) / HB2574 (Kumar)

PC1104 – Enhancement for Assault of First Responder

Summary: Increases the offense of assault against a first responder, from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony, punishable by a mandatory fine of \$10,000 and a mandatory minimum sentence of 60 days incarceration.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1900 (Bailey) / HB2428 (Capley)

PC1124 – Organized Retail Crime Expansion

Summary: Expands the offense of organized retail crime. Increases the time period, from 90 days to 180 days, that acts in concert with one or more individuals to commit theft of merchandise over \$1,000 can be considered organized retail crime.

Implements a 30-day mandatory minimum sentence if a defendant used or possessed a firearm, ammunition, a firearm-related device, or anti-theft device during the commission of the offense.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (applies to acts committed on or after that date)

Bill: SB2265 (Taylor) / HB2140 (Zachary)

PC1140 – Protection of Religious Worship Services and Houses of Worship

Summary: Expands the offense of disrupting a meeting or a procession to include when a person, by force, threat of force, or physical obstruction, intentionally injures, intimidates, or interferes with or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with another lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise the right of religious freedom at a house of worship. Establishes that it is an offense when the person intentionally damages or destroys or attempts to damage or destroy the property of a house of worship. Establishes penalties for violations. Authorizes an aggrieved party to commence a civil action for injunctive relief, damages, and attorney's fees. Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to seek civil action for injunctive relief and various civil penalties.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2468 (Bailey) / HB2309 (Carringer)

JUVENILE

PC1102 - Juvenile Commitment Review Task Force

Summary: Requires DCS to create a Juvenile Commitment Review Task Force (Task Force) to examine specified system issues and service gaps for children found to be dependent and neglected and committed to the custody of DCS. Establishes the requirements of the Task Force regarding data review identifying necessary statutory or procedural changes. Requires DCS to submit a final report from the Task Force to the Governor and specified members of the General Assembly by February 1, 2027. The Task Force terminates on the date the report is filed. Authorizes a court to order a child to remain in custody of the Department of Child's Services (DCS) for up to an additional six months if the court finds after a hearing or stipulation that the child has committed an assault against a staff member at the child's residential placement. Requires a court to notify the child that committing an assault against a staff member at the child's residential placement may result in an extension of the child's period of commitment.

Effective date: July 1, 2026 (appointment of task force effective May 22, 2026)

Bill: SB1868 (Johnson) / HB2526 (Lamberth)

PC730 – Juvenile Court Reforms, attorney's fees, child support, and parent education

Summary: Makes several changes to juvenile and child-related proceedings, including allowing courts to award attorney's fees and litigation costs to prevailing parties in certain juvenile court cases, while excluding the department from such

awards. It also permits courts to temporarily suspend child support obligations when a child is removed from a parent's custody in a dependency and neglect proceeding. A central feature of the act is the creation of a parent education seminar requirement in juvenile cases involving custody or parenting schedules for unmarried parents. The seminar must meet specific standards, including instruction on child development, co-parenting, and the court process, and must be completed before a final order is entered. Courts retain discretion to waive the requirement for good cause, such as domestic violence or impracticality, and may enforce compliance through contempt or consider noncompliance in custody determinations.

Overall, the act expands judicial tools to manage family cases while emphasizing education and child-focused outcomes in custody and related proceedings.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2324 (Haile) / HB2429 (Farmer)

PC1003 – Strangulation, NAS Oversight, and Expanded Juvenile Court Authority in Dependency & Neglect Cases

Summary: Expands the definition of severe child abuse to include strangulation. Expands the criteria of the offense of aggravated child abuse, aggravated child neglect, or aggravated child endangerment to include abuse, neglect or endangerment that involved strangulation. Requires, beginning January 1, 2027, the Commission to provide a report detailing its findings and recommendations from a review of appropriate sampling by July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to the General Assembly, Governor, and appropriate committees. Authorizes a court to order a child's parent, guardian, or other custodian to submit documentation of compliance with preventative pediatric care until the child reaches one year of age, and to submit to drug testing at regular intervals, if the child who is under one year of age has been found to be dependent and neglected and diagnosed by a licensed physician with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Authorizes the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to initiate a visit to ascertain the well-being of the child if the documentation provided contains allegations of abuse or neglect. Authorizes the Second Look Commission to request data and information from any representative involved in services to dependent and neglected youth.

Effective date: Sections 7 and 8 of this act take effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it. Section 6 of this act takes effect January 1, 2027, the public welfare requiring it. For all other sections, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Bill: SB1937 (Jackson) / HB2081 (Littleton)

PC703 – Relative caregiver need not have separate bedroom for child

Summary: Court and/or DCS shall not require a kinship placement have a separate bedroom for the child.

Effective date: April 14, 2026

Bill: SB1850 (Rose) / HB2283 (Carringer)

PC802 – Copy of TPR petition to foster parents

Summary: requires the department of children's services to provide a copy of a petition to terminate parental rights for a child in the custody of the department to the child's foster parent, if the foster parent has served as the physical placement for the child for a period of nine or more consecutive months; requires the department to provide the required copy within seven days of the filing or being served with the petition.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2165 (Haile) / HB2350 (Littleton)

PC805 – Juvenile courts to report D&N data to AOC

Summary: requires each juvenile court, through the juvenile court clerk or juvenile court staff, each month within the statewide juvenile case management system prescribed by the administrative office of the courts, to report to the administrative office of the courts each new dependency and neglect case, including for each child named in the petition, certain information.

Effective date: January 1, 2027

Bill: SB2219 (Haile) / HB2352 (Littleton)

PC853 – Removal of driver license

Summary: specifies that if a student is referred to juvenile court for being unlawfully absent from school and is ultimately adjudicated to be unruly, that the disposition made by the juvenile judge or magistrate may include the suspension of the student's driving privileges or ability to obtain a driver license for a period of up to one year.

Effective date: January 1, 2027

Bill: Sb2201 (Haile) / HB2146 (R. Jones)

PC869 – DCS prohibited from requesting certain information about firearms from foster parents

Summary: prohibits the Department of Children's Services from requesting detailed information about the number or type of firearms a foster parent owns or requiring access to those firearms. However, DCS may ask whether firearms are present, whether they are securely stored, and may view storage locations without requiring them to be opened. These restrictions do not apply during investigations of abuse or neglect within a foster home and the act takes effect immediately.

Effective date: April 27, 2026

Bill: SB2459 (Bailey) / HB2206 (Sherrell)

PC611 – Safe Baby Court Expansion from 3 to 5 years old

Summary: Eligible children age increase from 3 to 5 years old.

Effective date: March 25, 2026

Bill: SB1605 (Haile) / HB2083 (Littleton)

PC811 – DCS and DDA to collaborate for children with intellectual or developmental disabilities

Summary: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to collaborate with the Department of Disability and Aging (DDA) to ensure that children in state custody or at risk of coming into state custody and who have intellectual or developmental disabilities receive appropriate services and supports. Authorizes the DDA to develop training for DCS related to identification of and supports for a child with a disability, and to provide consultation on oversight tools and monitoring of residential services for children with a disability. Authorizes DCS to refer children suspected to have an intellectual or developmental disability to DDA for service recommendations. Requires DCS to submit a report outlining its compliance with this legislation on January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to various legislative committee chairs.

Effective date: April 23, 2026

Bill: SB2362 (Massey) / HB2188 (Littleton)

PC815 - Victim Restorative Justice Notification Pilot Program (Davidson and Shelby)

Summary: Creates a 24-month pilot program, beginning November 1, 2026, to provide a standardized notice to victims that include restorative justice options by the clerk of the court, applicable law enforcement agencies, and assigned victim witness coordinators in Shelby and Davidson County. Establishes requirements for a directory of victim-centered restorative justice options. Requires the Shelby County Juvenile Court Clerk and the Davidson County Juvenile Court Clerk to provide notification of restorative justice options to a victim in a case in which the juvenile is eligible for adjudication as a serious youthful offender and a case in which the juvenile is eligible for transfer to criminal court. Requires the juvenile court clerks to provide the notification utilizing existing resources and forms of communication.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: Sb2650 (Roberts) / HB2564 (Freeman)

PC830 – Underage smoking

Summary: For a minor: (A) Place the minor on an informal adjustment for a period of ninety (90) days; or (8) For a second or subsequent violation, place the minor on probation for up to six (6) months in addition to requiring community service and the successful completion of a prescribed court program focusing on the dangers of tobacco and vapor products. Any probation ordered must not be under the supervision of the department of children's services.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1740 (Rose) / HB1679 (Moody)

PC815 - Victim Restorative Justice Notification Pilot Program (Davidson and Shelby)

Summary: Creates a 24-month pilot program, beginning November 1, 2026, to provide a standardized notice to victims that include restorative justice options by the

clerk of the court, applicable law enforcement agencies, and assigned victim witness coordinators in Shelby and Davidson County. Establishes requirements for a directory of victim-centered restorative justice options. Requires the Shelby County Juvenile Court Clerk and the Davidson County Juvenile Court Clerk to provide notification of restorative justice options to a victim in a case in which the juvenile is eligible for adjudication as a serious youthful offender and a case in which the juvenile is eligible for transfer to criminal court. Requires the juvenile court clerks to provide the notification utilizing existing resources and forms of communication.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: Sb2650 (Roberts) / HB2564 (Freeman)

PC842 - Opportunity Public Charter School Notifications

Summary: Requires a director of schools, juvenile court judge, or department of children's services caseworker to provide an at-risk student and the student's parents or legal guardian information regarding

Effective date: April 27, 2026

Budget

PC1142 – Appropriations

Summary: Makes appropriations for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2025 and July 1, 2026

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2690 (Johnson) / HB2631 (Lamberth)

Immigration

PC686 – Immigration Enforcement and Law Enforcement Confidentiality Protections

Summary: Requires each state and local government entity and official to treat information relative to the enforcement of federal and state immigration laws as confidential, and not subject to public inspection. Creates a Class E felony offense for a state or local government official who, acting with criminal negligence, releases confidential information relative to the enforcement of federal and state immigration laws. Specifies that "official" includes the mayor of a county, incorporated city or town, and metropolitan government. Expands the grounds for forfeiture and ouster from office to include every person holding any office of trust or profit who, acting with criminal negligence, unlawfully releases confidential information relative to the operational enforcement of federal and state immigration laws. Designates the name of a law enforcement officer who is working undercover as confidential information not open for inspection by members of the public. Revises the criminal penalty for releasing confidential information that pertains to a law enforcement officer or a county corrections officer, if an individual acts with criminal negligence, to a Class B misdemeanor, no longer only punishable by fine. Creates a Class E felony offense if

any person required by law to treat information as confidential acting with criminal negligence, releases the name of a law enforcement officer who is working undercover. Removes the repeal date of provisions designating certain personal information of federal law enforcement agents or officers conducting an operation in this state as confidential information not open for public inspection. Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense if any person required by law to treat information as confidential, acting with criminal negligence, releases personal law enforcement personnel information that is in the possession of any entity or agency in its capacity as an employer. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person knows the information is to be treated as confidential and intentionally releases the information to the public. Creates a Class E felony offense if any person required by law to treat information as confidential who, acting with criminal negligence, releases information that could be used to identify or to locate an officer designated as working undercover. Establishes exceptions.

Effective date: Section 1 – April 13, 2026. All else is July 1, 2026.

Bill: SB1464 (Johnson) / HB2506 (Sexton)

PC1070 – Commercial Driver Employment and Liability Restrictions

Summary: Prohibits an employer from knowingly allowing, permitting, or authorizing an employee to operate a commercial motor vehicle in the United States during any period in which the employee is unlawfully present in the United States. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a direct employer to knowingly employ and allow a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state. Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state if the operation of the vehicle requires the operator to be issued and possess a valid commercial driver license. Requires a law enforcement officer who arrests a person for a violation to notify the officer's law enforcement agency of the arrest, and the agency must notify federal immigration authorities. Establishes that a direct employer who knowingly employs and permits a person unlawfully present to operate a commercial motor vehicle, and any official or employee of any state who recklessly issues a commercial driver license to a person knowing that the person is unlawfully present in the United States, are strictly, absolutely, jointly, and severally liable for any injuries or property damaged caused. Authorizes any person who suffers personal injury or property damage caused by an unlawfully present person operating a commercial motor vehicle to recover compensatory and punitive damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney's fees. Establishes that an employer's liability insurance policy must not be construed to cover an employer's liability for accidents committed by an employee that is unlawfully present. Establishes that a direct employer is presumed to have not acted knowingly if the employer is in compliance with the employment and verification requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 50-1-103(b) and (d) and 50-1-703. Establishes the language of the legislation not impose liability on a person or entity that does not employ the person operating the commercial

motor vehicle and does not have the legal authority to verify employment authorization for that person.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1587 (Johnson, McNally) / HB1706 (Zachary, Sexton)

PC954 – Drivers licenses for non-English speakers

Summary: This act revises Tennessee driver license and motor vehicle registration requirements by imposing additional citizenship and lawful-presence documentation requirements. It authorizes non-English written driver examinations only for certain applicants but limits licenses issued under that process to a single non-renewable 36-month term, after which the applicant must retake the written examination in English only. It also requires proof of U.S. citizenship, lawful permanent residency, or other federally authorized lawful presence before an initial vehicle registration may be processed. The legislation further requires applicants for an initial issuance, renewal, duplicate, or reinstatement of a driver license or identification card to provide documentation establishing U.S. citizenship, subject to limited exceptions where documentation is already on file. The act directs the Department of Revenue to establish acceptable forms of proof and data-sharing procedures with county clerks.

Effective date: Most provisions take effect January 1, 2027

Bill: SB1889 (Taylor) / HB1708 (Capley)

MISCELLANEOUS

PC1033 – Fraud and Economic Crimes Fund Transition

Summary: Requires fees and assessment for the Fraud and Economic Crimes funds (ECF) to no longer be enforced upon the enactment of the fees and assessments established by the \$12.50 Fund. Requires any existing funds collected under the Fraud and Economic Crimes Prosecution Act that are in the possession, custody, or control of a District Attorney General (DAG) to be held and retained by the DAG until the balance of the \$12.50 Fund equals or exceeds the balance of the ECF. Requires the balance of the ECF to be reverted and remitted back to the county government of original assessment and collection.

Effective date: May 21, 2026

Bill: SB2039 (Stevens) / HB2491 (Williams)

AOC

PC801 – AOC required to provide notice when applying for and accepting certain federal aid.

Summary: subjects the AOC to the federal aid reporting and review structure established by PC 512 (2025), which previously applied primarily to executive branch entities. As a result, AOC is required to provide notice to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means before applying for or accepting certain federal aid. Federal aid awards of

\$25 million or more could be subject to committee review and approval procedures, while smaller awards would still require notice to the Committee. The legislation also authorizes the Committee Chairs to request hearings for federal aid awards in any amount, expanding potential legislative oversight of AOC funding requests. AOC may therefore need to establish internal procedures to identify, track, and coordinate all federal grant applications, awards, and reporting obligations. Depending on the circumstances, federal grant acceptance could become subject to additional timelines and review processes that may affect implementation schedules. The legislation could impact future court-system initiatives supported by federal funding, including technology modernization projects, juvenile justice initiatives, treatment court programs, data systems, and similar projects. From an operational standpoint, the legislation primarily creates additional administrative, reporting, and coordination responsibilities for AOC rather than directly altering court procedures

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2158 (Watson) / HB2318 (Gillespie)

PC621 – Paid leave for foster care (state employees)

Summary: Adds foster care placement as a qualifying event for six workweeks of paid leave for eligible state employees. Specifies that leave must end if the child is no longer in the employee's home or custody. Clarifies that an employee may use any remaining balance of paid leave for any qualifying event that occurs in the same 12-month period.

Effective date: January 1, 2027

Bill: SB938 (Rose) / HB957 (Slater)

PC779 – 4 weeks paid leave for organ donation

Summary: Requires an eligible state employee to be granted leave from work for a period of time equal to four weeks for recovery from surgery related to a living organ donation. Establishes that such absence from work is considered full-time employment for the purpose of calculating service anniversary dates.

Effective date: April 23, 2026

Bill: SB579 (Akbari) / HB427 (Love)

PC658 – TCRS Administrative and Retirement Procedures Updates

Summary: This act revises procedures related to the State's Deferred Compensation Program and the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) to align record production requirements with the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure. It authorizes subpoenaed records to be submitted electronically and permits the use of either affidavits or declarations, rather than requiring more restrictive filing methods. The act also makes administrative changes to procedures governing who receives a deceased member's final retirement benefit payment, while maintaining the overall framework that benefits are paid to a designated beneficiary or estate. In addition, the legislation revises provisions concerning retired members who return to service without a bona fide separation from employment. Specifically, it extends from July 1,

2025, to July 1, 2027, the period during which certain retirees who improperly returned to work without a qualifying separation must be treated as having received in-service distributions for tax purposes.

Effective Date: April 1, 2026

Bill: SB2018 (Harshbarger) / HB1907 (McCalmon)

PC723 – AOC to help develop training for child protective team

Summary: Requires, instead of authorizes, child protective teams to include a representative from one non-governmental agency specialized in combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of minors for cases involving an allegation that a child is a victim of a human trafficking offense. Requires members of every child protective team to annually complete 15 hours of training related to severe child abuse and child sexual abuse provided by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), to be developed in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Courts, the state chapter of the Child Advocacy Centers, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association, and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police. Requires DCS, or a child protective team, to determine if reported abuse was indicated or unfounded and report its findings to DCS's abuse registry within 90 days after receiving an initial report, and within 180 days after receiving the initial report if the investigation concerns a child fatality. Authorizes the Commissioner of DCS to provide one extension for up to 180 additional days for an investigation for good cause.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2225 (Johnson) / HB2527 (Lamberth)

PC772 – Mandatory e-verify for government employers

Summary: Prohibits state and local governmental employers (employers) from appointing or hiring, on or after July 1, 2026, a prospective employee without verifying the work authorization status of such employee by using the United States (U.S.) electronic verification system (E-Verify program). Authorizes employers currently using a third-party vendor for Form I-9 verification purposes to continue to use such vendor until January 1, 2027. Requires employers to maintain records of the E-Verify program inquiry results for each verified employee during the duration of employment demonstrating the employee is authorized to be employed by the employer. Authorizes the Attorney General and Reporter (AG) to investigate each credible allegation or complaint that a local government or local education agency has not verified the work authorization status of its employees. Authorizes the AG to enforce compliance if it is concluded that the local government or local education agency has not complied with work authorization status requirements.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1922 (Briggs) / HB1705 (Rudd)

PC777 – Crush Transnational Repression in Tennessee Act

Summary: Requires each state agency to include information on transnational repression in agency policies and procedures and provide for direct complaints of transnational repression to be made to a representative of the agency.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB2644 (Roberts) / HB2279 (Cochran)

PC672 – Removes sunsets for certain public record exemptions

Summary: 1) TCA § 10-7-504(a)(4)(H)(ii) – records on minor created by school resource officers; 2) (a)(31)(F) – personally identifying information in motor vehicle accident report; 3) (a)(32)(B) – license plate data captured by license plate reader; 4) (f)(9) – personal info of state employees ; and 5) (u)(5) – law enforcement video of a school or private residence that is not a crime scene.

Effective date: April 7, 2026

Bill: SB1879 (Johnson) / HB1642 (Lamberth)

PC592 – Adds certain bank account info to public records exemptions

Summary: specifies the following bank account information types that must also be kept confidential: names and locations of financial institutions, and specific account information such as names, taxpayer identification numbers, and addresses associated with the bank account.

Effective date: March 18, 2026

Bill: SB1876 (Johnson) / HB1633 (Lamberth)

PC711 – Non citizen may request law enforcement record for him or herself

Summary: Entitles an individual who is not a citizen of Tennessee to inspect or receive a copy of any law enforcement record or report pertaining solely to that individual that is not privileged or otherwise confidential by law.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB1970 (Akbari) / HB1911 (Shaw)

PC768 – Tennessee Procurement Protective Act

Summary: Enacts the Tennessee Procurement Protection Act. Establishes that it is the policy of the state to: (1) prohibit the public procurement of final products or services from a foreign adversary company; and (2) authorize the public procurement of final products or services from a company that has operations, affiliates, and subsidiaries in a foreign adversary so long as the company is not a foreign adversary company. Prohibits a foreign adversary company from bidding on or submitting a proposal for a contract with a state agency or political subdivision of the state for information and communications technology. Establishes that a state agency or political subdivision must require a company that submits a bid or proposal for a contract for information and communication technology to certify that the company is not a foreign adversary company, and is not knowingly selling final products or services of a foreign adversary company to the state agency or political subdivision. Establishes that, if the Commissioner of the Department of General Services (DGS)

determines that a company has submitted a false certification, the company: (1) is liable for a civil penalty in an amount that is equal to the greater of \$250,000 or twice the amount of the contract for which a bid or proposal was submitted; (2) shall have their contract terminated; and (3) is prohibited from bidding on a state contract for 60 months. Authorizes a state agency or political subdivision to enter into a contract for a final product or service or information and communications technology produced by a foreign adversary company if: (1) there is no other reasonable option for procuring the final product or service or information and communications technology; and (2) the contract is preapproved by the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) of DGS, the state agency, or the political subdivision after a determination that not procuring the final product or service or information and communications technology would pose a greater threat to the state than the threat associated with the information and communications technology itself.

Effective date: July 1, 2026

Bill: SB377 (Rose) / HB548 (Cochran)

SPECIAL SESSION

PC1 – Congressional Redistricting Authority Changes

Summary: Removes the prohibition on changing congressional districts between apportionments. *Before, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-16-102, the General Assembly established the composition of districts for the election of members of the House of Representatives in Congress after each enumeration and apportionment of representation by the Congress of the United States. The districts could not be changed between apportionments.*

Effective date: May 7, 2026

Bill: SB7002 (Johnson) / HB7002 (Sexton)

PC2 – Congressional Redistricting Election Procedures

Summary: Establishes various revisions of candidate qualifications and deadlines for the 2026 primary or general elections, should separate legislation be enacted into law that modifies the composition of one or more congressional districts. Specifies that publication notice requirements can be accomplished by publishing notices on the county election commission's official website, if one exists. Requires costs incurred by the county election commissions be certified by the Secretary of State (SOS) and Comptroller of the Treasury (COT) and then reimbursed by the state. Requires any civil action arising from the revision of the composition of one or more congressional district be heard by a three-judge panel. Repeals the proposed legislation on December 31, 2026.

Effective date:

Bill: SB7001 (Johnson) / HB7001 (Sexton)

PC3 – New Congressional districts

Summary: Establishes descriptions of the nine congressional districts beginning on the August 2026 federal primary elections.

Effective date: May 7, 2026

Bill: SB7004 (Johnson) / HB7003 (Sexton)

PC4 - Appropriations for the special session

Summary: State to pay 10% of mandated local cost of implementing new districts. \$3,154,700 (non-recurring) for SOS to reimburse county expenses related to district changes, not including sum sufficient to General Assembly for staffing, per diem, travel and other expenses.

Effective date: May 7, 2026

Bill: SB7005 (Johnson) / HB7005 (Sexton)