

AOC New Law Update 2025

# JUDICIARY

## PC468 – Expands the offense a for person who threatens an individual involved in the judicial process.

Sponsors: Sen. Roberts, Kerry; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Clarifies the offense of retaliation for past action and expands it to “impeding, intimidating, interfering.” Expands the list of individuals involved in the judicial process to include a former judge, a former law enforcement officer, a former district attorney general, a former assistant district attorney general, an employee of the judge, a former clerk, a current or former district public defender, a current or former assistant district public defender, and an employee of the district public defender.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC298 – Revises the procedure for restoration of rights of citizenship.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Hulsey, Bud

Summary: Rewrites the process for restoring rights of citizenship, including suffrage and firearm rights. Establishes eligibility requirements and a hearing process. AOC – in consultation with the Secretary of State – to provide a petition and order for the new process (petition and order are currently on the AOC website).

Effective Date: 05/22/2025

## PC58 – Expands AG Investigations of a Judge

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Davis, Elaine

Summary: Authorizes the attorney general and reporter to conduct an investigation and initiate criminal prosecution of a judicial elected official or district attorney general whenever the attorney general and reporter has probable cause to investigate whether an official may have violated any state criminal law and either a decision to prosecute the official by the district attorney general may result in a personal, financial, or political conflict of interest ***or*** the attorney general and reporter receives a report of a violation of the prohibition on nepotism within state government entities.

Effective Date: 03/25/25

## PC373 – Appointment of district attorney general to conduct proceedings regarding removal of officers.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Moody, Debra

Summary: Authorizes a district attorney general, on the consent of the district attorney general of any other judicial district, to specially appoint another district attorney general or an assistant to that district attorney general, to conduct specific proceedings under title 8, chapter 47, regarding removal of officers, which the district attorney general is authorized by law to conduct in that district.

Effective Date: 05/05/25

## SR120 – Codes of conduct for Das, PDs, and Court Clerks. Investigation.

Sponsor: Sen. Taylor, Brent

Summary: Urges Supreme Court to draft and adopt codes of conduct in the court rules for district attorneys general, district public defenders, and court clerks. Urges Supreme Court to create panel to investigate current complaints of misconduct regarding three elected district attorneys general.

## PC524 – Less is More Act of 2025 – Removal of the Board of Court Reporting

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

Summary: Enacts the Less is More Act of 2025. Terminates the Board of Court Reporting and moves all rules and regulations of licensing provided to the board under the Tennessee Court Report Act of 2009 to the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI). Deletes the provision in statute that grandfathered in the license of a court reporter who was licensed before January 1, 2010. Changes the name of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting Fund to the Tennessee Court Reporting Fund.

Effective Date: 05/21/25, 07/01/25, 01/01/26

## PC137 – Sunset – Extension of Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Lafferty, Justin

Summary: Extends the Tennessee board of judicial conduct to June 30, 2031.

Effective Date: 04/03/25

## PC487 – Municipal Judge Residency Requirements

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther

Summary: Prohibits the disqualification or removal of a municipal judge who was duly elected or appointed to office prior to March 7, 2025, and who is qualified for such office under the laws and interpretations in effect at the time of such election or appointment, due to a residency requirement during the term of office to which the judge was elected or appointed. Requires that any such municipal judge be deemed a de facto officer whose acts, judgements, and decisions are valid and binding during the completion of the judge's term. Specifies that the requirement for a municipal judge to be a resident of that municipality for a period of one year prior to election, established by the Tennessee Supreme Court in McNabb v. Harrison on March 7, 2025, shall apply prospectively and be enforced beginning with the next regularly scheduled election for any affected municipal judgeship. Specifies that such does not exempt municipal judges from any other qualification or eligibility requirement.

Effective Date: 05/21/25

## PC167 – Use of certified facility dogs during court proceedings.

Sponsors: Sen. Hatcher, Tom; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Permits a court to allow a certified facility dog to accompany a victim or other witness while testifying or in other court proceedings for the purpose of reducing the stress of the witness and to enhance the ability of the court to obtain full and accurate testimony. For this purpose, certified facility dog means a trained working dog that has documentation showing that the certified facility dog is a graduate of an assistance dog organization as defined, has at least two years of training and has passed the service dog public access test, has a current annual certificate of health from a veterinarian licensed in this state and has proof of liability insurance in amount of at least $500,000. Establishes specific procedures a court must follow when allowing a certified facility dog to accompany a witness.

Effective Date: 04/11/25

# THREE JUDGE PANELS

## PC249 – Three-judge panel for civil action regarding proposed charter amendment ordinance that is in violation of the Constitution or state law.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Requires a three-judge panel to hear any civil action in which it is alleged that a proposed charter amendment ordinance that is to be submitted to qualified voters at an election is in violation of the Constitution or state law. Prohibits an amendment to the charter of a home rule municipality from being placed on any ballot if the amendment is in violation of the Constitution or state law.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC514 – Reports on and penalties for violations of state law or the state constitution - Three Judge Panel

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Sexton, Cameron

Summary: Authorizes the attorney general and reporter to review whether a local government action violates state law or the Constitution of Tennessee. If the attorney general and reporter concludes that a local government action reviewed pursuant to this amendment violates state law or the Constitution of Tennessee, then the attorney general and reporter is required to provide to the local government's chief executive officer, governing body, or other subdivision of the local government that adopted the local government action written notice identifying the specific statutory or constitutional provision that the local government action is deemed to violate. If a local government receives a notice pursuant to this amendment, the local government may, within 60 days from receipt of the notice: (1) Resolve the violation by repealing or revising the local government action, subject to review by the attorney general and reporter. If the attorney general and reporter agrees that the violation is resolved, then no further action will be taken; or (2) Challenge the findings by filing a special action before a three-judge panel seeking a declaratory judgment that the local government action is lawful and constitutional. This amendment requires the attorney general and reporter to defend its findings in the special action. If, after 60 days from receipt of the notice of violation under this amendment, the local government has failed to resolve the violation and has either not filed an action or received an adverse ruling from the three-judge panel, this amendment requires the attorney general and reporter to do the following: (1) Instruct the commissioner of finance and administration and the state treasurer to withhold all funds of the state allotted to the local government via grant, contract, or statute, including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes. The amounts withheld must be held in reserve by the department and allocated to the local government once the violation has been resolved. This amendment prohibits the withholding of funds when such withholding would violate contracts to which the state is a party, the requirements of federal law imposed on the state, judgments of a court binding on the state, or constitutional obligations of the state; and (2) Continue to monitor the response of the local government, and when the action is resolved, the attorney general and reporter shall notify: (1) The governor, the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the local government that the violation has been resolved; and (2) The commissioner of finance and administration and the state treasurer to resume funding the local government, which must include the distribution of state-shared revenues to the local government. The provisions of this amendment take effect July 1, 2025, and apply to local government actions taken on or after that date and funds allocated or appropriated during or after the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Senate amendment 3 (007091) makes the following revisions: Instead of the attorney general instructing the commissioner and state treasurer to withhold state funds, requires the attorney general to file a special action before a three-judge panel seeking a declaratory judgment that the local government action is inconsistent with and violates state law or the Constitution of Tennessee. If the three-judge panel finds that the local government action is inconsistent with and violates state law or the Constitution of Tennessee, then the panel must order the commissioner of finance and administration and the state treasurer to so withhold state funds. Requires, upon receipt of sufficient documentation acceptable to the three-judge panel that the action is resolved so as to no longer violate state law or the Constitution of Tennessee, the three-judge panel to notify the attorney general and the other persons described in the bill.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

# BOND

## PC491 – Board of Professional Bondsmen.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile; Rep. Doggett

Summary: Creates the Board of Professional Bondsmen (Board) upon becoming law. Declares for all other purposes this act is effective January 1, 2026. Attaches the Board to the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI) as a regulatory board. Requires bondsmen to be licensed and regulated under the Board. Requires the Board to promulgate rules for the regulation, implementation, and administration of the licensure program. Requires the Board to establish procedures for handling disciplinary matters, establish the standards of practice and qualifications for the issuance of a license, and to establish procedures for the approval of continuing education programs to be administered by approved third-party contractors. Declares a licensee to be valid for two years. Requires the Board to create and keep an up-to-date registry and to post and maintain the registry on DCI's website. Prohibits a professional bondsman from owning or working for a qualified defendant monitoring service provider. Removes the authorization for a bail bondsman or surety, or a defendant, to surrender the defendant in their exoneration under good cause for the reason that the defendant violated the contractual provisions between the defendant and the bondsman. Prohibits any person from operating as a professional bondsman on or after March 1, 2026, unless licensed under the Board.

Effective Date: 5/21/2025, 01/01/26

## PC253 – Qualification of Electronic Monitoring Providers and Process for Defendant’s Failure to Pay

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Requires an electronic monitoring provider to submit an application petition to the local government entity in which the provider seeks to operate as a qualified provider. Authorizes a local government entity to approve and enter into a written agreement with the provider, if the provider's application meets certain requirements. Requires the local government entity to submit to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) a list of qualified approved providers who have entered into such a written agreement. Requires the AOC to keep a list of qualified and approved providers contracted with local government entities on their website. Requires each local government entity to submit updates to the AOC regarding any changes in the status of a provider or if a new provider is qualified and approved. Requires a qualified provider that has entered into an agreement with a local government entity and monitors defendants in this state to maintain accurate and comprehensive records for each defendant, including details of the court order, monitoring terms and conditions, time-stamped proof of activation and location data, tracking logs, violation reports, device maintenance histories, and communications with the court system. Requires such records to be maintained in a confidential and secure manner for a minimum of three years after the defendant is removed for monitoring. Authorizes the local government entity to audit such records upon request. Establishes employment qualifications and training requirements for directors and employees of qualified providers that monitor defendants in this state. Requires all qualified electronic monitoring providers to submit reports in such detail and time intervals as required by the contracting local government entity. Requires, if a defendant who is ordered to wear a global positioning system (GPS) monitoring device as a condition of pretrial release fails to pay the costs associated with operating the device, or the costs associated with the victim's associated cellular application or electronic receptor device, the electronic monitoring service provider to notify the court in writing within five days of the arrearage. Requires, within 10 days of receiving such notice, the court to immediately schedule a show cause hearing to be held within 30 days. Authorizes the court in such hearings to: (1) revoke the defendant's bond and incarcerate the defendant; (2) allow the defendant to immediately bring the payments current and continue the defendant's pretrial release, or; (3) determine whether alternative funding sources are available to pay the costs associated with operating the defendant's or the victim's GPS devices. Authorizes the court to order alternative funding sources, if any are available, to pay for the arrearages and future costs associated with the devices in such cases. Specifies that local governments are not responsible for the costs associated with the devices in such cases unless the local government has established a fund for that specific purpose. Establishes that an electronic monitoring provider is not required to continue to provide service for devices for which they are not receiving appropriate payment. Makes other minor revisions to the existing requirements and processes regarding GPS monitoring devices for defendants on pretrial release as they relate to the responsibilities of local authorities, GPS service providers, and the notifications of violations.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC414 – Use of juvenile court records in bond determinations.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Gillespie, John

Summary: Authorizes a court to use juvenile court records, including the disposition of a child and evidence adduced in a hearing, in pretrial reports used to set bonds if the juvenile court adjudication occurred within the previous five years. Requires, in determining the amount of bail necessary to reasonably assure the appearance of a defendant and the public's safety, a magistrate to consider the defendant's prior juvenile record.

Effective Date: 05/09/25

## PC262 – Use of Reliable Hearsay in Bail Decisions

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Adds that in determining whether or not a defendant should be released on bail pending trial, the magistrate may consider hearsay evidence when the magistrate finds that the evidence is reliable if the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any reliable hearsay evidence considered by the magistrate. Adds that in determining the amount of bail necessary to reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant while at the same time protecting the safety of the public, the magistrate may consider hearsay evidence when the magistrate finds that the evidence is reliable if the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any reliable hearsay evidence considered by the magistrate.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC318 – Appearance bonds - fees assessed.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Updates notice requirements to reflect increased limits on bond premium fees. Changes ten-percent cap on bond premium fees to a ten-percent fee for Tennessee residents and lifts the cap to fifteen percent (with a ten-percent floor) for non-Tennessee residents. Adds a new requirement for bond premium fee installment payments.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC395 – Hearing required for bondsmen to be released

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Scarbrough, Rick

Summary: Sets forth the process for a surety to petition the court for release from their obligations in the event of a forfeiture by the principal. The court must conduct a hearing and, if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the bondsman has complied with the good faith requirements as described in subsection (c)(4), then the court may release or exonerate the bondsman of his obligations. Requires the bondsman to initial each page of the bond order, indicating he has read and is aware of all conditions of bond imposed on the defendant.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC188 – Violations of condition of release - venue for prosecution.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Stevens, Robert

Summary: Provides venue for violations of release conditions as any county in which one or more elements of the offense have been committed.

Effective date: 04/11/2025

## PC396 – Bondsman report to Dept. of Revenue

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Howell, Dan

Summary: Beginning October 25, 2025, every professional bondsman licensed to do business in this state to submit a quarterly report to the Department of Revenue (DOR) no later than the 25th of January, April, July, and October each year, detailing the total number of bonds issued by the bondsman in the preceding quarter in each county where the bondsman operated, and the total amount of the bondsman's liability in each county. Requires each clerk of a court that admits defendants to bail to file such quarterly reports detailing the total number and amount of bonds accepted by the clerk from bondsmen in the preceding quarter. Authorizes the DOR to use the reports to complete audits on the bail bonding tax. Specifies that failure to submit a report is not a criminal offense.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC320 – Electronic monitoring for work release - payment for device.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Hurt, Chris

Summary: Provides that (i) if a prisoner is released for paid employment, the cost of the electronic monitoring device must be deducted from the prisoner's wages by the sheriff and paid directly to the electronic monitoring device provider by the county or state, as applicable, and (ii) if a prisoner is released for unpaid work, the entity utilizing the prisoner for work must pay the costs of the electronic monitoring device.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

# CRIMINAL LAW

## PC282 – Writ of Error Coram Nobis expanded to guilty pleas.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Freeman, Bob

Summary: Expands writ of error coram nobis to include cases in which the defendant entered a guilty, best interest, or no contest plea.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC269 – Ignition Interlock Indigency Determinations Revised (new law in various places of this report)

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Shifts indigency determinations for interlock devices to State Treasurer and the Clerks of Court. Form provided by the Department of Treasury.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC511 – New DMHSAS mental health evaluation required for certain crimes.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Sexton, Cameron

Summary: Requires the court to order a person convicted of domestic assault, child abuse, child neglect or endangerment, aggravated child abuse, aggravated child neglect or endangerment, cruelty to animals, or aggravated cruelty to animals to undergo a mental health evaluation. Requires the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) to establish a mental health evaluation process for such defendants. Subjects the mental health evaluation to the department's workforce availability and funding, which must be evaluated by the department on a quarterly basis. Requires DMHSAS to provide a quarterly report regarding the insufficient workforce availability or funding to provide services if DMHSAS determines it does not have the availability to conduct the mental health evaluations. Establishes that the evaluation must take place prior to the defendant's sentencing. States that the evaluation must be conducted by the community mental health center or a qualified mental health professional as designated by the Commissioner on an outpatient basis. Authorizes the court to include mental health services as a part of sentencing, if recommended by the center or the qualified mental health professional. Requires the defendant to pay for the cost of the evaluation and court-ordered treatment unless the defendant is declared indigent, then DMHSAS shall pay for the costs of the mental health evaluation and court-ordered treatment. The department is authorized to promulgate rules in accordance with the UAPA to effectuate this section. Also authorizes the department, notwithstanding TCA 4-5-208(a), to promulgate emergency rules, if necessary, to effectuate this section.

Effective Date: 05/21/25, 01/01/26

## PC481 – Sentencing requirements for certain misdemeanor offenders.

Sponsors: Sen. Roberts, Kerry; Rep. Scarbrough, Rick

Summary: Requires that if a person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor ***in general sessions court*** shall be required to complete a cognitive behavioral training course unless the court deems such a requirement to be inappropriate. Requires the offender to pay for the required course. Requires that if incarceration is part of the person's sentence, then the cognitive behavioral training course must be completed after the period of incarceration is completed. Establishes that an offender who willfully fails to complete the course, or provide proof of completion within the ordered time period, shall be in contempt of court, and may be punished by a confinement of up to 10 days. Specifies requirements for the behavioral training course, including that it be available to be completed online via computer or a mobile device, and that it cost the offender no more than $100. Requires a provider of such courses to provide all necessary informational or referral materials to counties at no cost to the county. Authorizes a county or municipality to provide an in-person cognitive behavioral training program, provided that any such county must also provide an online behavioral program that meets the specifications established for private providers.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC352 – Failure to Appear timeline reduction for submission to fugitive database.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Specifically names the National Crime Information Center as a fugitive database to which any defendant—against whom a bench warrant or capias is issued when the defendant fails to appear on a Class A or Class B felony that is violent or sexual in nature—must be added. The judicial official must sign the bench warrant or capias by the end of the next business day after the defendant’s failure to appear. Then the clerk shall transmit it to the entering agency by the end of the next business day after issuance. A surety is not liable for any undertaking if the defendant has not been placed on the available database within three days of the entering agency receiving the bench warrant or capias. If the defendant is apprehended outside the state in a jurisdiction outside the limitation entered into the database, then the district attorney must determine within 1 business day of being notified of the apprehension whether to initiate extradition proceedings.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC522 – Criminal offenses for threatening to commit an act of mass violence and posting an individual's number or address. Intent clarification.

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

Summary: Creates a Class E felony offense for ***knowingly***, by any means of communication, threatening to commit an act of mass violence and the threat causes another to reasonably expect the commission of an act of mass violence. This classification is enhanced to a Class D felony if: (1) the violation involves a threat to commit mass violence on the property of a school, house of worship, or government, or at a live performance or event; (2) the defendant has one of more prior convictions for such offense or a Class A misdemeanor threat of mass violence on a school property; or (3) the defendant takes a substantial step towards the execution of the threatened act and engages in preparatory actions. Authorizes a sentencing court to order a person convicted of threatening to commit an act of mass violence to pay restitution, including costs and damages resulting from the disruption of the normal activity that would have otherwise occurred but for the threat to commit an act of mass violence. Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for posting on a publicly accessible website a person's telephone number or address with the intent to threat or cause harm. Enhances the penalty, from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor, if the offense results in harm to the individual or a member of the individual's household.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC246 – Criminal Courts can issue Orders of Protection.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Parkinson, Antonio

Summary: For matters pertaining to domestic abuse, expands the present law definition of "court" to generally include circuit courts exercising criminal jurisdiction when the court is hearing a criminal matter involving a domestic abuse victim, sexual assault victim, or stalking victim. However, provides that this definition does not grant jurisdiction to the criminal court for matters relating to child custody, visitation, or support.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC462 – Mandatory Minimum for Fentanyl and Criminal Courts can issue a Lifetime Order of Protection

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

Summary: Establishes a mandatory minimum of 30 days imprisonment for a violation of simple possession or casual exchange of fentanyl, carfentanil, remifentanil, alfentanil, or thiafentanil, or any fentanyl derivative or analogue. Authorizes a defendant to participate in a drug or recovery court certified by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) or another licensed treatment program after serving the mandatory sentence required. Prohibits a peace officer from issuing a misdemeanor citation in lieu of arrest for any amount of fentanyl or its derivatives. Authorizes a petitioner to file for a lifetime order of protection in criminal court (*unrelated to fentanyl*). Expands the offense of removing or disturbing a body or other articles at a scene of death to include the body, clothing, personal effects, or weapons of, at or near any person who has died or reasonably appears to have died from a drug-related overdose.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC62 – Voyeurism Victims Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff; Rep. Freeman, Bob

Summary: Enacts the "Voyeurism Victims Act," which expands the offense of unlawful photography to include an unauthorized photograph that the defendant knew would include the unclothed intimate area of the victim or the victim engaged in sexual activity. Authorizes the issuance of an order of protection for a person who has been subjected to, threatened with, or placed in fear of unlawful photography.

Effective Date: 03/25/25, 07/01/2025

## PC63 – Collection of biological specimens for DNA analysis.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Gillespie, John

Summary: Requires collection of a biological specimen from certain convicted offenders to be collected within 30 days of sentencing to be used for DNA analysis. Requires a law enforcement agency to submit a biological specimen from an offender who dies while incarcerated and was previously convicted of a qualifying offense, regardless of the date of conviction. Provides guidance to the TBI for maintaining collected specimens.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC66 – Sexual offender classifications.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Requires the Tennessee bureau of investigations (TBI) to classify a offenders as sexual offenders, violet sexual offenders, or violent juvenile sexual offenders, and whether an offender is an offender against children. Allows TBI to rely on investigative reports, files of a US attorney, district attorney general, other persecutorial entity, court records, or other credible information in classifying an offender. Requires TBI to notify the offender of the classification.

Effective Date: 03/25/25

## PC77 – Mandatory Minimum for distributing hemp cannabinoid to minor

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Howell, Dan

Summary: Establishes mandatory minimum penalties of 48 hours in jail and a fine for a person convicted of knowingly selling or distributing a product containing a hemp-derived cannabinoid to a person who is under 21. Prohibits a retailer from knowingly allowing an employee younger than 21 to access, handle, or sell any product containing a hemp-derived cannabinoid on the premises of the retail establishment.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC84 – Offense of intentionally impeding or obstructing a member of division of protective services from movement about a location.

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

Summary: Creates the offense of intentionally impeding or obstructing a member of the division of protective services from ingress to, egress from, or movement about a location where the member is responsible for a person protected by the division of protective services. Creates the offense of intentionally refusing to vacate an area where access has been restricted by a member of the division of protective services for the purpose of maintaining the safety or security of the person being protected. Specifies that a violation of intentionally refusing to vacate an area where access has been restricted by a member of the division of protective services is a Class E felony if the person who committed the offense was a threat to the safety or security of the person protected by the division of protective services. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC88 – Misdemeanor offense of pointing a laser pointer at person driving a vehicle.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense to knowingly activate and point a laser pointer or other device utilizing a laser beam at a person operating an automobile, boat, aircraft, or other motor vehicle.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC89 – Expands the offense of organized retail crime.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Zachary, Jason

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

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC117 – Criminal impersonation of a transportation network company driver.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Howell, Dan

Summary: Creates the Class B misdemeanor offenses of criminal impersonation of a transportation network company driver and criminal impersonation of a private passenger-for-hire vehicle driver. With intent to deceive.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC118 – Access to age-restricted products - tobacco, smoking hemp, and vapor products.

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

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

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC128 – Testing equipment used to determine the presence of a synthetic opioid.

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

Summary: Makes permanent the exclusion of narcotic testing equipment used to determine whether a controlled substance contains a synthetic opioid, unless the narcotic testing equipment is possessed for purposes of the commission of a drug offense, from the definition of drug paraphernalia. Removes the July 1, 2025, repeal date for that exclusion. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 04/03/25

## PC211 – Adds the offense of robbery to the definition of crime of violence.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Adds the offense of robbery to the definition of crime of violence.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC257 – Offense involving material that includes a minor engaged in sexual activity.

Sponsors: Sen. Yager, Ken; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Creates a criminal offense of possessing, distributing, or producing technology, software, or digital tools designed for the purpose of creating material that includes a minor engaged in sexual activity or simulated sexual activity that is patently offensive. Establishes relevant factors to be considered in determining whether artificial technology, software, or digital tools are used or possessed with intent to create material that includes a minor engaged in sexual activity or simulated sexual activity that is patently offensive. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC264 – Expands definition of racketeering activity.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Crawford, John

Summary: Expands the definition of "racketeering activity" to include committing, conspiring to commit, aiding, attempting to aid, soliciting, coercing, facilitating, or intimidating another person to commit the criminal offense of animal fighting. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC291 – Extends the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution of certain child sexual abuse felonies.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. McCalmon, Jake

Summary: Requires the prosecution to present admissible and credible evidence corroborating the allegations or similar acts by the defendant for offenses occurring between July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2025, if the prosecution is initiated more than 25 years after the victim turns 18. Requires the prosecution to present admissible and credible evidence corroborating the allegations or similar acts by the defendant for offenses occurring on or after July 1, 2025 if the prosecution is initiated more than 30 years after the victim turns 18.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC354 – Establishes a permanent criminal proceedings notification system.

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

Summary: Establishes a permanent notification system for criminal proceedings rather than a pilot project. Removes the termination date of July 1, 2025. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC356 – Age lowered for enhanced carry.

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

Summary: One of the present law eligibility requirements for issuance of an enhanced handgun carry permit is that the applicant for a permit has not been convicted of DUI two or more times within 10 years from the date of the application and that none of the convictions has occurred within five years from the date of application or renewal. This amendment clarifies that an applicant who has a DUI conviction that occurred within five years from the date of application or renewal is not eligible for a permit; and (2) Subject to certain exceptions for persons who have military service, present law requires that an applicant for an enhanced handgun carry permit be at least 21 years of age. This amendment lowers the age requirement to 18; provided, that the applicant meets all other eligibility requirements for issuance of the permit.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC368 – Tennessee Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Martin, Brock

Summary: Enacts the "Tennessee Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act," which specifies that a provider of electronic communications service is prohibited from notifying an account holder, or any other person not authorized to be notified, of the service or the content of a search warrant or subpoena issued to the electronic communications service provider if the search warrant or subpoena was issued in relation to an investigation into sexual exploitation of children.

Effective Date: 05/05/25

## PC374 – Definition of racketeering activity.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey; Rep. Scarbrough, Rick

Summary: Adds organized retail crime and possession or employment of a firearm during the commission of or attempt to commit a dangerous felony to the definition of racketeering activity; clarifies that carjacking is racketeering activity. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC375 – Increases the penalty for aggravated sexual battery.

Sponsors: Sen. White, Dawn; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Requires a person convicted of the Class B felony offense of aggravated sexual battery to be sentenced as a Range II offender if the victim was less than 18 years of age or was mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless. Allows the defendant to be sentenced as a Range III offender, if appropriate.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC405 – Protect Tennessee Minors Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Removes the definition of "content harmful to minors” in the Protect Tennessee Minors Act (*see federal case*).

Effective Date: 05/08/25

## PC408 – Expansion of criminal harassment to include communication in the physical presence.

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark; Rep. Scarbrough, Rick

Summary: Expands the criminal offense of harassment to include contacting a person in the physical presence of the person.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC409 – Trespassing and Littering with intent to intimidate.

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense to place a sign, signal, or marking over a highway or to affix or attach a sign, signal, or marking to a bridge, overpass, or tunnel without written authorization from the entity that maintains the highway, bridge, overpass, or tunnel. Expands the offense of civil rights intimidation to include littering or trespassing upon the real or personal property of another person with the intent to unlawfully intimidate another from exercising any right or privilege secured by the constitution or state law, or because that other exercised any right or privilege secured by the constitution or state law. Establishes that a violation of these offenses is a Class A misdemeanor. Creates a Class C misdemeanor offense if a person intentionally gives a false or fictitious name, to a law enforcement officer who has lawfully detained or arrested the person. Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense if a person intentionally approaches, within 25 feet, a law enforcement officer after the officer has ordered the person to stop approaching or to retreat and the officer is lawfully engaged in the execution of official duties. Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense if a person transports another in the cargo area of a box truck. Authorizes a law enforcement officer to make an arrest without a warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe a person has committed a misdemeanor, regardless of whether the offense was committed in the officer's presence. Authorizes a peace officer to make an arrest if the peace officer has probable cause to believe the person committed an offense, regardless of whether or not the offense was committed in the officer's presence. Requires an officer to provide the reasoning why a citation was not issued, relative to specific statutes regarding such, whenever an officer makes a physical arrest for a misdemeanor. Provides an officer who, on the basis of facts reasonably known or reasonably believed to exist, arrests a person for a misdemeanor in lieu of issuing a citation, with civil and criminal immunity from false arrest, false imprisonment or unlawful detention.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC424 – Creates the offense of human smuggling.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Todd, Chris

Summary: Creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for harboring, hiding, or assisting another person in harboring or hiding an individual who has illegally entered or remained in the United States, punishable only by a fine of $1,000 for each person hidden or harbored. Creates a Class A felony offense of aggravated human smuggling. Defines the circumstances under which an action is considered human trafficking including transporting an individual with intent to conceal the individual from a law enforcement officer or a federal immigration officer, while knowing the individual has illegally entered or remained in the United States or concealing or shielding an individual from detection. Defines aggravated human smuggling as smuggling an individual who is under the age of thirteen. Clarifies that it is not considered human smuggling if it is an attorney or healthcare professional is providing their services.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC428 – Abandonment of an animal near animal shelter or veterinary clinic.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane; Rep. Stevens, Robert

Summary: Prohibits the abandonment of an animal in a person's custody. Specifies that it is not a defense to prosecution that the person abandoned the animal at or near an animal shelter, veterinary clinic, or other place of shelter if the person did not make reasonable arrangements for the care of the animal.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC432 – Offense of unlawful exposure.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh; Rep. Chism, Jesse

Summary: Clarifies that a person commits the offense of unlawful exposure by distributing a private, intimate image of another identifiable person with intent to cause emotional distress, regardless of whether the person who distributes the image was a party to the original agreement or understanding that the image would remain private.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC439 – Penalty for the offense of possession of a used, detached catalytic converter by an unauthorized person.

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Rep. Boyd, Clark

Summary: Makes the offense of possession of a used, detached catalytic converter by an unauthorized person punishable by a term of imprisonment not greater than 11 months, 29 days; a fine not to exceed $2,500; or both, instead of only subject to a fine.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC466 – Preventing Deepfake Images Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Authorizes a person who was the subject of an intimate digital depiction that is intentionally disclosed without the consent of the individual, where such disclosure was made by a person who knows that, or recklessly disregards whether, the individual has not consented to such disclosure, to bring a civil action against the person. Establishes that an individual may recover, in a civil action: (1) an amount equal to the monetary gain made by the defendant from the creation, development, or disclosure of the intimate digital depiction; (2) the actual damages sustained by the individual as a result of the intimate digital depiction, including damages for emotional distress; or liquidated damages in the amount of $150,000; (3) punitive damages; and (4) the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred. Creates a Class E felony offense to disclose or threaten to disclose or solicit the disclosure of an intimate digital depiction with the intent to harass, annoy, threaten, alarm, or cause substantial harm to the finances or reputation of the depicted individual; or with actual knowledge that, or reckless disregard for whether, such disclosure or threatened disclosure will cause physical, emotional, reputational, or economic harm to the depicted individual. The punishment is enhanced to a Class C felony offense in the case of a violation in which the creation, reproduction, or distribution of the intimate digital depiction could be reasonably expected to: (1) affect the conduct of any administrative, legislative, or judicial proceeding of a governmental agency, including the administration of an election; or (2) facilitate violence.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC472 – Increase in child abuse penalty.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. McCalmon, Jake

Summary: Increases the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony for a person who commits child abuse by knowingly treating a child between the ages of nine and 17 in such a manner as to inflict injury. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC474 – Unlawful photography.

Sponsors: Sen. White, Dawn; Rep. Bulso, Gino

Summary: Enhances the penalty, from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony, for the offense of unlawful photography if the photograph would: (1) offend or embarrass an ordinary person if the person appeared in the photograph and was taken for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification of the defendant; or includes the unclothed intimate area of the individual or the individual engaged in sexual activity, and the person knew that the photograph would include such content; or (2) is focused on the intimate area of the individual and would be considered offensive or embarrassing by the individual and was taken for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification of the defendant. Requires, as opposed to authorizes, the court to order a person convicted of such unlawful photography offense to register as a sexual offender. Enhances the penalty, from a Class E felony to a Class D felony, and expands the offense of unlawful photography if the defendant disseminates or permits the dissemination of the photograph to any other person or the victim of the offense is under 13 years of age at the time of the offense to include if a minor under 13 years of age was used by the defendant to facilitate the offense. Enhances the penalty, from a Class D felony to a Class C felony, and expands the offense of unlawful photography if the defendant disseminates or permits the dissemination of the photograph to any other person and the victim of the offense is under 13 years of age at the time of the offense to include if the defendant was, at the time of the offense, in a position of trust, or had supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim by virtue of the defendant's legal, professional, or occupational status and used the position of trust or power to accomplish the unlawful photography.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC492 – Offense of possessing a firearm or antique firearm during commission or attempt to commit a dangerous felony.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Adds certain criminal offenses, including first degree murder, second degree murder, and reckless homicide to the list of dangerous felonies for purposes of the offense of possessing a firearm or antique firearm during commission or attempt to commit a dangerous felony.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

## PC499 – Knowingly engaging in conduct that places a child in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Faison, Jeremy

Summary: Creates the offense of knowingly engaging in conduct that places a child in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment by possessing any amount of fentanyl, carfentanil, remifentanil, alfentanil, or thiafentanil in the presence of the child. Punishes the offense as a Class E felony if the child is over eight years of age and as a Class B felony if the child is eight years of age or less.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

## PC513 – Firearms.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. Sexton, Cameron

Summary: Expands the definition of machine gun as it relates to weapons offenses. Provides an exception for acquiring or possessing such a weapon if the person is in full compliance with the National Firearms Act. Increases the offense of intentionally or knowingly possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a machine gun from a Class E felony to a Class C felony. Expands the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm with a prior conviction of a felony crime of violence, an attempt to commit a felony crime of violence, or a felony involving a deadly weapon, or a prior conviction for a felony drug offense, to include possession of ammunition. Expands the offense of unlawful possession of a handgun to include possession of ammunition. Prohibits probation for a person convicted of aggravated assault involving the discharge of a firearm from within a motor vehicle. Establishes that a person incarcerated for the offense of aggravated assault, if the offense involved the use of a firearm from within a motor vehicle, is ineligible to receive sentence reduction credits and must serve 100 percent of the imposed sentence.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC519 – Retirement of charges against a person unfit to stand trial.

Sponsors: Sen. Hatcher, Tom; Rep. Williams, Ryan

Summary: Extends by one year, the time period after which any misdemeanor charges must be retired for a defendant who was deemed incompetent to stand trial if that defendant remains hospitalized on that date. Requires the chief medical officer in charge of such a defendant whose charges have been so retired to notify the court when the defendant is discharged into the community, and to provide the court and sheriff with an outpatient treatment plan that accounts for the safety of the community. House amendment 2 (006981) add that if a defendant is found to be incompetent to stand trial, any misdemeanor charges pending at the time of the incompetency determination must be retired no later than two (2) years after the date of arrest when the misdemeanor charge or charges have not otherwise been disposed of except that misdemeanor charges must not be retired pursuant to this subdivision (e)(2) if the defendant is restored to competency prior to the date on which the misdemeanor charge or charges would have otherwise been retired.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC520 – Savanna's Law – Domestic Violence Registry

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Enacts Savanna's Law. Creates a registry within the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) of persons who have received a second conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim. Requires the TBI to maintain the registry based on information received from court clerks, the Department of Correction (DOC), and local law enforcement agencies, and to make the registry available for public inquiry on the internet. Requires, if a court orders an offender to register, the court clerk to forward to the TBI a certified copy of the conviction within seven days of conviction. Requires an offender ordered to register to pay a registration fee of $150, $50 of which is to be retained by the clerk and $100 of which must be remitted to the Department of Finance and Administration's Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) for the administration of grants to fund family violence prevention and intervention services. Specifies the requirements of the TBI on removal from the registry. Effective January 1, 2026 and applies to persons convicted of domestic assault for an offense that was committed on or after that date; provided, however, that a prior conviction is not required to occur on or after that date.

Effective Date: 01/01/26

## PC217 – Abortion.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: expands the list of affirmative defenses to criminal abortion to include "inevitable abortion" and "serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function." Defines "inevitable abortion" as a dilation of the cervix prior to viability of the pregnancy, either by preterm labor or cervical insufficiency. Defines "serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function" as any medically diagnosed condition that so complicates the pregnancy of a woman as to directly or indirectly cause the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function, including previable preterm premature rupture of membranes; inevitable abortion; severe preeclampsia; mirror syndrome associated with fetal hydrops; and an infection that can result in uterine rupture or loss of fertility. Excludes any condition related to the woman's mental health.

Effective Date: 04/17/25

## PC162 – Admissibility of Child forensic interviews.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Broadens the criteria for a video recording of a forensic interview of a child describing sexual or physically violent contact to be admissible evidence to include testimony from the forensic interviewer who conducted the interview confirming the accuracy of the recording. Prohibits an interview from being deemed inadmissible solely because the interviewer was employed by a federal agency and conducted the interview in the course of a federal crime investigation, or because an interviewer is employed by a child advocacy center and the center did not have a signed memorandum of understanding and working protocol among all relevant county and municipal law enforcement agencies, provided that the center did have such arrangements in place with the Department of Children's Services and any District Attorney General.

## PC503 – Regulation of sober living homes for recovery from alcohol, drug, and substance abuse.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo; Rep. Martin, Greg

Summary: Authorizes Hamilton County and any incorporated city or town in Hamilton County, upon adoption of an ordinance or resolution, to: (1) require a sober living home to be located at a distance equal to or less than 1,000 feet from a kindergarten through grade twelve educational facility, preschool, or daycare be recognized and certified by any nationally recognized recovery residence standards organization, an affiliate of such an organization, or grantees of any state or federal department or agency, and which is included on a list of approved organizations maintained on the website of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS); (2) regulate the location or operation of a sober living home within the jurisdiction of the local government, including, but not limited to, ensuring compliance with applicable state and local zoning laws, and applicable health, safety, fire, and building codes; and (3) require that an operator, prior to authorizing an individual to reside in a sober living home, receive a recommendation or referral from a licensed healthcare provider or a court that the individual reside in a sober living home. Requires than an ordinance or resolution adopted pursuant to this act comply with the federal Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specifies that any ordinance or resolution with respect to the aforementioned distance requirement does not apply to a sober living home in operation prior to the effective date of this act until such home ceases operation.

Effective Date: 05/21/25

## PC288 – Offense of operating a motor vehicle in this state with an invalid driver license.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. Reeves, Lee

Summary: Requires the department of safety to develop and publish a list of out-of-state driver licenses issued to illegal aliens that are invalid in this state. Designates a class of driver licenses issued by another state exclusively to illegal aliens as invalid in this state. Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for operating a vehicle with an invalid driver license.

Effective Date: 04/24/25, 01/01/26

## PC231 – Medical assistance for overdoses including alcohol-related offenses.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Rudder, Iris

Summary: Expands immunity from criminal prosecution for alcohol violations to any person who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for a person experiencing or believed to be experiencing an overdose. Specifies that overdose includes incidents related to drugs and alcohol. Specifies that immunity does not apply to violations committed by a person licensed by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) while working in the scope of the person's employment or to an employee of a person licensed by ABC while the employee is acting on behalf of such person.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC526 – Sale and distribution of hemp derived cannabinoid products.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Provides for the regulation of the manufacturing, supplying, wholesale distribution, and retail sale of hemp-derived cannabinoid products by the commission and department of revenue; creates licenses for suppliers, wholesalers, and retailers. Establishes taxes for such products and the manner in which such taxes are collected and allocated. Establishes civil and criminal penalties for violations. (30pp.).

Effective Date: 01/01/26

## PC407 – Increases penalties for various wildlife violations.

Sponsors: Sen. Walley, Page; Rep. Hemmer, Caleb

Summary: Changes the maximum fine imposed for various violations of state wildlife laws, from $25 up to $1,000, to a maximum fine of $500. Enhances the penalty, from a Class C misdemeanor offense to a Class B misdemeanor offense, with a mandatory minimum of 10 days incarceration, for hunting, taking, chasing, trapping, or killing any wild animal, wild bird, wild fowl, or fish on the land of another without first obtaining the landowner's permission, if the animal is then removed from the land. House amendment 2 (008033) enhances the penalty, from a Class C misdemeanor offense to a Class B misdemeanor offense, punishable only by a fine not to exceed $500, for hunting, taking, chasing, trapping, or killing any wild animal, wild bird, wild fowl, or fish on the land of another without first obtaining the landowner's permission.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC313 – Criminal injuries compensation program award limit.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Sets the maximum award of compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1976 at 105% of the national average of the maximum compensation award provided by the 50 states within the United States, the District of Columbia, and the United States Virgin Islands, rounded up to the nearest $100, instead of stating the legislative intent that 105% of the national average be the minimum amount of the maximum award. Retains the present law requirement that the state treasurer compare the maximum award limit annually, but replaces the present law deadline of October 1 of each year with a requirement that the state treasurer publish any adjustment to the limit by May 1 of the comparison year. If the maximum award decreases from the immediately preceding maximum award determination, then, instead of requiring the state treasurer to adjust the limit to 105% of the national average, this amendment requires the state treasurer to obtain the written approval of the chair of the committee on finance, ways and means of the senate and the chair of the committee having jurisdiction over finance, ways, and means in the house of representatives prior to publishing the reduced maximum award. If written approval is not obtained prior to the May 1 publication date, then the maximum award must not be decreased. This amendment requires that, by June 30, 2025, the state treasurer shall publish on the department of treasury website the maximum compensation award for claims filed for crimes occurring on or after July 1, 2025.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC489 – Montgomery County - criminal case transfer to veterans treatment court program.

Sponsors: Sen. Powers, Bill; Rep. Maberry, Aron

Summary: Permits a criminal case to be transferred to the veterans treatment court program in Montgomery County if the veterans treatment court program would have jurisdiction over the case if the offense had been committed in Montgomery County, the defendant files with the court a written waiver of the right to be tried by an impartial jury of the county in which the crime was committed, and the district attorney general for Montgomery County agrees to accept transfer of the case.

Effective Date: 05/21/25

## PC504 – Driving while privilege canceled, suspended, or revoked.

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Travis, Ron

Summary: Limits to four the number of points that may be assessed to a person's driver record for the offense of operating a motor vehicle while the person's driving privilege is canceled, suspended, or revoked.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC158 – Restrictions on vehicular use of public highways and streets.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo; Rep. Martin, Greg

Summary: Creates the offense of an occupant of a vehicle parking, leaving standing, or stopping the vehicle on a street or highway and blocking or impeding the normal movement of traffic for the purpose of soliciting, negotiating, or consummating an employment transaction with a person standing on or in proximity to the street or highway. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

# DUI

## PC269 – Ignition Interlock Indigency Determinations Revised (new law in various places of this report)

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Shifts indigency determinations for interlock devices to State Treasurer and the Clerks of Court. Form provided by the Department of Treasury.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC327 – TBI report on persons arrested for DUI.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh; Rep. Shaw, Johnny

Summary: Requires the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to provide an annual report to the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2026 and each January 1 thereafter through 2029, detailing the instances in the most recent year for which complete data is available in which a person was arrested for driving under the influence but where no alcohol or other intoxicants were detected in the person's blood or breath. Requires the report to include the law enforcement agency (LEA) that made the arrest. Repeals July 1, 2029.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC430 – Offense of aggravated vehicular assault - BAC limit of defendant.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Gant, Ron

Summary: Decreases from .20 percent to .15 percent the minimum weight of alcohol concentration in a defendant's blood as an element of the offense of aggravated vehicular assault and aggravated vehicular homicide.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC403 – DUI - implied consent violations.

Sponsors: Sen. Roberts, Kerry; Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Authorizes a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe an operator of a motor vehicle is driving under the influence of an intoxicant or committed certain other vehicular offenses to administer oral fluid tests to the operator under specified circumstances. Establishes that any such oral fluid test is admissible as evidence in an associated trial of the operator. Specifies that an operator of a motor vehicle in such circumstances who is placed under arrest, requested by a law enforcement officer to submit to a blood or breath test, and refuses to do so, violates the law pertaining to implied consent, even if the operator's blood sample is obtained by lawful means. Beginning January 1, 2026, increases the amount of time a person's driver license must be revoked for a first offense of an implied consent violation, from one year to one year and six months. Increases, by an additional three years, the time periods for which an individual convicted of a third or a fourth or subsequent offense of vehicular assault must be prohibited from driving a vehicle or operating a vessel subject to registration in this state.

Effective Date: 05/05/25, 01/01/26

## PC184 – Ignition Interlock Device Calibration

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

Summary: Requires an ignition interlock provider to permit a person to appear for calibration, monitoring, or inspection of the device at any time within a two-week period. Authorizes a court to order reinstatement of a person's driver license if the person has no other revocations or suspensions on the person's driving record and the person's only noncompliance with ignition interlock requirements has been with regard to the required calibration, monitoring, or inspection of the ignition interlock device. Makes various other changes in regard to ignition interlock devices and the ignition interlock usage period. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 01/01/2026

## PC451 – Reports and strategic plans to reduce impaired driving in this state.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Moody, Debra

Summary: Creates the Distance to Drive Program Study Committee (Committee) to determine the feasibility of implementing a distance to drive program that would facilitate reinstatement of suspended and revoked driver licenses for criminal defendants based on meeting the objectives set by the court and completing all the requirements set by the Department of Safety. Requires the Committee to gather relevant data and expert opinions on all matters pertaining to such a program, and compile and submit a report on the Committee's findings to the General Assembly by no later than July 1, 2026, at which time the Committee ceases to exist. Effective upon becoming a law for the purposes of appointing public members to the Committee. Becomes effective July 1, 2025, for all other purposes.

Effective Date: 05/09/25, 07/01/25

# EXPUNCTION

## PC268 – Expunction code reorganization and changes.

Sponsors: Sen. Roberts, Kerry; Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Reorganizes provisions of the Tennessee Code Annotated related to expunctions. Clarifies what cannot be expunged, etc.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

# CIVIL

## PC160 – Claims against law enforcement officers - immunity from civil liability.

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Russell, Lowell

Summary: Prohibits holding a law enforcement officer civilly liable or requiring the payment of monetary damages for property damage or personal injury inflicted during the officer's official duties if, at the time the damage or injury occurred, the person suffering the injury or damage was engaged in conduct that resulted in the person being convicted of an offense. Permits an injured party to seek civil liability or monetary damages if a law enforcement officer's actions were grossly negligent or constituted willful misconduct. Permits claims for property damage or personal injury inflicted upon a bystander or any person not engaged in conduct that resulted in a conviction at the time the damage or injury occurred.

Effective Date: 04/11/25

## PC311 – Charitable organizations providing housing to persons unlawfully present in the US.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Grills, Rusty

Summary: Allows a charitable organization that provides housing to a person who the charitable organization knows is unlawfully present in the United States to be held liable for a loss, damages, injury, or death resulting from a criminal offense committed by the person who is unlawfully present in the United States while the person is receiving housing services from the charitable organization if the charitable organization's conduct in providing housing constitutes negligence, gross negligence, or willful and wanton misconduct.

Effective Date: 05/02/2025

## PC312 – Meetings of the district attorneys general conference.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Davis, Elaine

Summary: Expands the proceedings for which a district attorney general pro tem may be appointed to include certain civil proceedings. Declares meetings of the district attorneys general conference to be open meetings except for meetings related to matters that are designated as confidential or privileged, litigation, audits or investigations and other matters. Specifies that the executive director of the district attorneys general conference must provide legal counsel and advice to district attorneys general and their staff and that the legal counsel and advice may be provided by attorneys employed with the district attorneys general conference.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC245 – Discrimination by an institution of higher learning on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and national origin.

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

Summary: Prohibits a four-year public or private institution of higher education, or any officer, employee, or agent of such institution, from excluding a person from participating in, being denied the benefits of, or being subjected to discrimination by an institution, or any program or activity at an institution, including those resulting from affirmative action practices, on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Further prohibits such institutions from using an applicant's race, color, ethnicity, or national origin in determining whether the applicant qualifies for admission into the institution, or for scholarships or financial aid at the institution. Prohibits the use of such aggregated data to develop admission or student population quotas when making admission decisions. Declares that an institution is not prohibited from awarding different scholarships to students, or the same scholarship to students in different amounts, so long as the scholarship awarded or the scholarship amount awarded is not solely based on the student's race, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Requires each institution to provide notice of such requirements and of any relevant policies adopted by the institution in response to complying with the admission requirements to the employees of the institution's central admissions or financial aid offices prior to the start of the 2025-2026 academic year, and to any employees hired on or after the start of that academic year. Authorizes an individual who believes that a violation of this section has occurred to seek injunctive and declaratory relief in a court of competent jurisdiction in which a cause of action must not exist to seek damages.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC329 – Civil actions against arms dealers, manufacturers, and sellers.

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

Summary: Removes the ability to bring a civil liability action for negligence per se against a seller of a qualified product. Expands "qualified products" to include knives, body armor, pepper spray, silencers, tasers, stun guns, and other certain products. Requires physical injury for a negligent entrustment action rather than an unreasonable risk of physical injury. Specifies that a person who will be subject to an ordinance in the future or reasonably intends to be physically present in the political subdivision is an adversely affected party for purposes of filing certain actions. Makes various other changes regarding civil actions against arms dealers, manufacturers, and sellers and the preemption of local regulation of firearms. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC510 – Reduces the notice period for initial hearings on nuisances.

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Rep. Parkinson, Antonio

Summary: Reduces the notice period for initial hearings on nuisances from five to four days.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

## PC227 – Recovery of costs.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd; Rep. Gant, Ron

Summary: Allows a judge, hearing officer, or administrative judge to award a person or entity that prevails in an administrative action brought against the person or entity by the commission, or challenging the actions of the commission, the actual and reasonable attorney's fees and cost incurred as a result of the administrative action.

Effective Date: 04/21/25

# TRUSTS AND ESTATES

## PC101 – Tennessee Bankers Association Omnibus Trust Bill

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Garrett, Johnny

Summary: **1) Changes when a trustee can be appointed.** Allows a court to appoint a public trustee regardless of the market value of the trust estate and in situations where a provision for appointment of the trustee is unable to be implemented and/or if the current trustee does not petition for the appointment of a successor trustee within three months. **2) Access to electronic records**. This amends provisions within the Trust Code relevant to providing required notices to certain persons to take into account that notice of certain information, documents, etc. may be given via through an electronic method that grants access to the information rather than sending the information directly to the recipient. For example, notifying a person electronically that he/she may access trust-related information by creating an account and logging into a website. **3) Clarifies that notice sent to a person’s representative is actual notice**. Clarifies in TCA § 35-15-301 that notice, information, accountings or reports provided to a person who may represent and bind another person may serve as a substitute for and have the same effect as providing such information directly to the person being represented. **4) Allows blanket assignment of certain property to fund revocable trusts**. This adds a provision in TCA § 35-15-402(d) clarifying that a blanket assignment of tangible personal property (other than money, evidences of indebtedness, documents of titles, securities and property in trade or a business) is effective to fund a revocable trust, while other types of property are subject to the general rules about specificity. This can be achieved by assigning applicable property to a trust by delivery of a written instrument that is signed by the transferor, identifies the property in general terms, and specifically identifies the trust. **5) Failure to reimburse a trustee creates a lien against trust property**. This change would allow for a lien to facilitate the recovery of for all valid expenses such as expenses incurred in administering the trust (i.e., fees) or for making advancements to the trust if it were to have a period of illiquidity. It would also allow a lien for costs incurred in trying to recover expenses. **6) Tax reimbursement for a grantor trust**. This creates a new statute, TCA 35-15-819, that makes tax reimbursement for a grantor trust a statutory default rule and provides that unless the terms of a trust instrument provide that a settlor is not to be reimbursed for the settlor’s personal income tax liability and if the settlor is the owner of all or part of the trust for income tax purposes, a disinterested trustee may reimburse the settlor for any amount of the settlor’s personal federal, state, local, or other income tax liability that is attributable to the inclusion of the trust’s income, capital gains, deductions, and credits in the calculation of the settlor’s taxable income. A trustee may pay such amount to the settlor directly or directly to the appropriate taxing authority. Specifies that the settlor shall not be deemed to be a beneficiary of the trust solely based on this power. This provision would not take effect until December 31, 2025. **7) Non-beneficiary may serve as a non-fiduciary.** This adds a new subsection to TCA § 35-15-1202 that codifies a provision in the Official Comments allowing a non-beneficiary to serve as a trust advisor or trust protection in a non-fiduciary role if specifically appointed in such capacity, similar to subsection (a) that allows a beneficiary to serve as a trust advisor or trust protector in a non-fiduciary role. The new subsection provides a standard of care for that role, which person would be liable for acting in bad faith or reckless indifference.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

## PC194 – Removes cap on amount of wages or other compensation owed a deceased employee.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Faison, Jeremy

Summary: Removes the cap on the amount of wages or other compensation owed a deceased employee at the time of the employee's death that an employer shall pay directly to the surviving spouse of the decedent or, if there is no surviving spouse, to the surviving children of the decedent as tenants in common.

Effective Date: 04/11/2025

## PC417 – Creates the conservatorship management task force.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh; Rep. Clemmons, John

Summary: Creates the conservatorship management task force to review the care and management provided by conservators to determine the health, safety, and welfare of individuals under a conservatorship and make recommendations. Specifies other duties of task force. Also specifies membership of task force and terms of office for members. Requires the task force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the department of disability and aging and the administrative office of the courts no later than December 31, 2025 and every year thereafter. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 05/09/25, 07/01/25

## PC515 – Foreclosure notice

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Farmer, Andrew

Summary: In any sale of land to foreclose a deed of trust, mortgage, or other lien securing the payment of money or other thing of value or under judicial orders or process, that advertisement of the sale be made at least two times in a newspaper in the county where the sale is to be made. Requires advertisement of the sale to additionally be made through a third-party internet posting company for at least 20 continuous days. Specifies that if the sale is postponed or adjourned for less than five days after the original sale, announcement by internet posting is not required. Requires an advertisement or notice to identify the website of the third-party posting company. Removes the requirement that written notices of the public sale be posted in at least five of the most public places in the county, including one on the courthouse door and one in the neighborhood of the defendant, for cases in which the advertisement cannot be made in a newspaper. Requires the third-party posting company to submit the company's root domain website address to the Publications Division of the Secretary of State's (SOS) office prior to conducting business. Requires the Publications Division to create a listing of all such companies and their website addresses on the SOS's website. Specifies that a company may be held liable for any damages resulting from the company's failure to comply with such requirements.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

# PROPERTY & HOUSING

## PC72 – Wholesaling real property.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Martin, Greg

Summary: Allows a buyer under contract to purchase real property from a seller to engage in wholesaling, provided the buyer discloses the specified information in writing to a potential subsequent purchaser or assignee and the seller of the property. Requires the disclosures to be in a bold, large font print, and included in the written agreement. Requires a violation of this to be commenced within two years after the execution of a contract for purchase and sale of real property. Defines "equitable interest" as the right of a buyer to benefit or profit from real property after the buyer has entered into a contract for the purchase or sale of real property with a seller, but before the legal title has been transferred from the seller to the buyer.

Effective Date: 03/25/25

## PC90 – Removal of unlawful occupant of a person's commercial real property.

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Rep. Rudd, Tim

Summary: Creates a legal process through which a person may request the immediate removal of an unlawful occupant of the person's commercial real property by filing a complaint with the sheriff for the county in which the property is located. Provides drafting language for such complaints and defines relevant terms. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

# FAMILY LAW

## PC79 – Access to Adoption Records.

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

Summary: Allows adoptees, their parents, DCS, and DAs to access adoption records under certain circumstances. Changes from 21 to 18 the age at which certain adoption records must be made available to certain adopted persons. Makes various other changes regarding adoption records. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC265 – Extension of Abrial’s Law

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Alexander, Rebecca

Summary: Revises, in a suit for annulment, divorce, separate maintenance, or in any other proceeding requiring the court to make a custody determination regarding a minor child, the relevant factors the court must consider in making such a determination. Requires the court in such cases to include certain written findings relative to such considerations. Establishes, when the court orders supervised visitation due to a finding against a parent relative to certain statutory considerations, a rebuttable presumption that the parent whose parenting time is restricted and supervised is solely responsible for all fees and costs incurred as a result of the supervised visitation arrangement, and that the non-offending parent must not bear any such costs. Authorizes the court to order the offending parent to make payment directly to the relevant supervising party or agency as required. Authorizes the court to review and modify the offending parent's financial responsibility for supervised visitation fees based on changes in circumstances or upon motion by either party, taking into consideration the offending parent's ability to pay. Expands the definition of abuse relative to domestic relations to include acts inflicted directly by the offending party, or indirectly through a third party, including, but not limited to, a family member, friend, significant other, or coworker, on behalf of the offending party.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC321 – Custody determinations - failure to pay child support.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Farmer, Andrew

Summary: Requires the court to consider ***any*** failure to pay child support, rather than failure for a period of three years or more, when making a child custody determination. Clarifies that the court may preclude or limit any provisions of a parenting plan if the court finds that a parent has failed to pay child support.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025

## PC322 – Poverty is not Neglect

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Hurt, Chris

Summary: Provides that the economic disadvantage of a parent or guardian alone is not a ground for termination of parental rights. Clarifies that, for purposes of laws relative to juvenile courts and proceedings, "neglect" does not exist solely on the basis of economic disadvantage.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC333 – Extension of Foster Care updates.

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

Summary: Expands the provision of voluntary extended foster care services by the department of children's services to include young adults between 20 and 23 who were in the custody of the department at the time of the young adult's 18th birthday and young adults who were adopted from, or approved for subsidized permanent guardianship by, the department of children's services at 16 or older. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC347 – Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act revised

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Faison, Jeremy

Summary: Authorizes a school to require a parent to attend a meeting to discuss their child's educational future if their child is absent for 20 or more days during a school year for religious purposes. Authorizes a government entity to make a video or voice recording of a child during an activity approved by the school related to academic instruction without first gaining parental consent. Authorizes a local education agency (LEA), which has received previous parental consent for recording their child, to make a video or voice recording of the child during regular instructional hours or extracurricular activities as long as parental consent is obtained before such recording is published. Authorizes an LEA, that has previously issued a blanket consent request to a parent authorizing a school official or a school nurse to treat any injury or ailment of their child that may occur on school property, to act in the best interest of the child if the child needs medical attention during regular instructional hours or extracurricular activities. Prohibits a civil action against a person who acts reasonably to render appropriate, non-emergency first aid to a minor appearing to be sick or injured, such as dressing minor wounds, applying topical agents, providing fluids or ice, and performing checks to identify minor illnesses, without first receiving parental consent. Prohibits a civil action against a healthcare provider who provides a screening to a minor when they reasonably believe the minor may be a victim of human trafficking, exploitation, neglect, or abuse, without first receiving parental consent. Senate amendment 1 (006788) authorizes a school to require a parent to attend a meeting to discuss their child's educational future if their child is absent for 20 or more days during a school year for religious purposes. Authorizes a government entity to make a video or voice recording of a child during an activity approved by the school related to academic instruction without first gaining parental consent. Authorizes a local education agency (LEA), which has received previous parental consent for recording their child, to make a video or voice recording of the child during regular instructional hours or extracurricular activities as long as parental consent is obtained before such recording is published. Authorizes a person who acts reasonably to render appropriate, on-emergency first aid to a minor appear or representing to be sick or injured without first requesting parent authorization. Prohibits a civil action against a person who acts reasonably to render appropriate, non-emergency first aid to a minor appearing to be sick or injured, such as dressing minor wounds, applying topical agents, providing fluids or ice, and performing checks to identify minor illnesses, without first receiving parental consent. Prohibits a civil action against a healthcare provider, using reasonable medical judgment, who provides a screening to a minor when they reasonably believe the minor may be a victim of human trafficking, brutality, neglect, or abuse, without first receiving parental consent. Prohibits a civil action against a school counselor or school psychologist who provides preventative and developmental counseling without first receiving parental consent. Senate amendment 2 (007296) corrects a typographical error.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC393 – Open Adoption for Purposes of Finding Placement

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Authorizes DCS to open specific adoption records to DCS to search for kinship placement for a child.

Effective date: 05/05/2025

## PC386 – One petition for all children in one adoption or termination of parental rights.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Farmer, Andrew

Summary: Authorizes petitioners to file a singular petition for adoption when seeking to adopt more than one child at the same time and the children are siblings who share at least one biological parent, unless the court issues a written order finding that it is in the best interest of the children that separate petitions be filed. Specifies that the clerk of the court shall charge only one filing fee for such a petition.

Effective Date: 05/05/25

## PC390 – Token financial support by biological father.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Clarifies that a biological father or alleged biological father that makes token financial support to or for the benefit of the child or the child's mother during the pregnancy or when the mother had physical custody of the child is not a putative father. States that a healthcare provider shall not provide a vaccination to a child unless the provider receives informed consent from the parent or guardian of the child.

Effective Date: 05/05/2025

# JUVENILE

## PC179 – Statewide juvenile case management system.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Garrett, Johnny

Summary: Requires the administrative office of the courts to maintain a criminal justice information services compliant centralized statewide juvenile case management system. Requires all juvenile court clerks to adopt and convert to the new juvenile case management system on a schedule to be determined in consultation with the administrative office of the courts. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 04/11/2025

## PC418 – TACIR to study the availability of housing and other treatment facilities for juvenile offenders.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Reedy, Jay

Summary: Requires TACIR to study the availability of housing and other treatment facilities for juvenile offenders who have been adjudicated delinquent and committed to the department of children's services, and the availability of local juvenile detention centers and other facilities for the housing and treatment of juvenile offenders who have been detained by the juvenile court prior to an adjudicatory hearing; requires TACIR to report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2026.

Effective Date: 05/09/2025

## PC420 – Voluntary surrender of an infant.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Butler, Ed

Summary: Increases the age the child from 14 to 45 days that a facility may receive possession of an unharmed newborn infant without the mother being subject to criminal liability.

Effective Date: 05/09/25

## PC254 – Dedicated courtroom in proximity to juvenile detention center.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent; Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Requires a juvenile court, that is conducting a child custody, detention, or adjudicatory proceeding, to carry out the proceeding in a dedicated courtroom provided by the county that is closest in proximity to an approved juvenile detention center. Specifies that these provisions only apply to Shelby, Davidson, Knox, and Hamilton counties. House amendment 2 (006984) requires a juvenile court, that is conducting a child custody, detention, or adjudicatory proceeding, to carry out the proceeding in a dedicated courtroom provided by the county that is closest in proximity to an approved juvenile detention center. Specifies that these provisions do not apply if a juvenile court has entered into a written agreement with a licensed institution, other public authority or agency, or the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to manage the approved detention facility or to receive temporary care and custody of children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Effective Date: 10/01/25

## PC387 – Foster Child Bill of Rights

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Requires that any foster child in the custody of the Department of Children’s Services (DCS), or an agency that contracts with DCS, has the right to: (1) go to school and receive an education that fits the child’s age and individual needs; (2) benefit from appropriate care and treatment in the least restrictive setting; (3) live in a safe and healthy environment; (4) report any violation of personal rights without fear of retaliation; (5) receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services and be informed about diagnoses and treatment options; and (6) be free from punishment in the form of restrictions on contact with an appointed guardian ad litem and attorney at litem. Requires DCS to train all employees regarding these rights of foster children by no later than February 1, 2026, and all new employees within 30 days of employment. Requires DCS to develop age-appropriate materials, to be reviewed by DCS every five years, to be provided to foster children to explain their rights within 30 days of entering DCS custody and annually as part of their permanency hearing. Requires DCS to review materials at least every five years and revise, if necessary.

Effective date: 07/01/2025

## PC281 – Creates the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Review Commission.

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

Summary: Creates the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Review Commission (Commission), which will be administratively attached to the Commission on Children and Youth (CCY), and will meet at least quarterly, beginning November 1, 2025, to review a sampling of juvenile justice cases and any critical incidents involving delinquent juveniles in the custody of the Department of Children's Services (DCS). Requires the Commission to provide the Tennessee General Assembly (TGA) with findings and legislative recommendations in an annual report by January 1, beginning with a preliminary report in 2027. Requires the Commission to be comprised of 21 members. Requires DCS to provide the Commission with profiled cases and critical incidents annually by October 1, beginning in 2025. Establishes the potential for civil or criminal consequences if any breach of confidentiality is made by those attending meetings. Authorizes the Commission to hire staff and entitles members of the Commission and witnesses to reimbursement for travel. Establishes the Commission to sunset on June 30, 2027.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC244 – Searches of students and students' lockers and vehicles.

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Rep. Williams, Ryan

Summary: Specifies that certain physical searches of students, lockers, vehicles, or other property on school grounds must be conducted by a school resource officer (SRO), school security officer, or school administrator who has completed training pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. Â§ 49-6-4212. Requires a principal to notify the parent or legal guardian of a student under 18 years of age within a reasonable amount of time of the need to conduct a physical search of the student. Clarifies that the proposed legislation does not authorize a physical search that violates the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Tennessee or restrict a law enforcement officer from conducting a lawful search on school property. Requires the Department of Education (DOE), as opposed to local education agencies (LEAs), to establish and maintain an orientation and training program for LEAs to inform school administrators of the rights of students relative to searches. Authorizes, as opposed to requires, an LEA and a local law enforcement agency to establish and maintain an orientation and training program designed to familiarize school principals with state law and local policies and procedures relative to school security. Requires a school administrator to complete the orientation and training developed by the DOE prior to conducting certain searches.

Effective Date: 04/24/25, 07/01/25

## PC292 – Suspension of a minor's driving privileges for offense of harassment by bullying.

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Russell, Lowell

Summary: Requires suspension of a minor's driving privileges or ability to obtain a driver license for a period of one year as part of the disposition if a minor is adjudicated delinquent for the offense of bullying or cyber-bullying. Authorizes the court to issue an order for a restricted driver license if the juvenile has not previously been adjudicated for such an offense. Requires the juvenile to present an application fee of $20 and a certified copy of the court order within 10 days to the Department of Safety (DOS) for the restricted license to be issued.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC142 – Order denying driving privileges for juvenile offender.

Sponsors: Sen. Kyle, Sara; Rep. Love Jr., Harold

Summary: Removes requirement that certified copy of court order that withdraws order denying driving privileges for juvenile offender be submitted to the department of safety within ten days of issuance.

Effective Date: 04/03/25

## PC109 – Report on status of statewide system of care for children's mental health.

Sponsors: Sen. Campbell, Heidi; Rep. Hemmer, Caleb

Summary: Requires on or before June 30, 2026, and each June 30 thereafter, the council on children's mental health care to submit a report to certain officials regarding the status of the statewide system of care for children's mental health and the service delivery system and the status of children's mental health in this state. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 03/28/25

## PC398 – Witnessing child abuse and reporting Domestic Violence Cases

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

Summary: Requires the permanency plan for a child in foster care as a result of abuse or neglect that includes as a permanency goal the return of the child to the parent to include in the parent's statement of responsibilities a requirement that the parent complete appropriate services to address domestic violence, if the reason for the child's placement in foster care included witnessing or being subjected to domestic abuse by the parent. Requires the commissioner of juvenile justice or the commissioner's designee to report the number of children who were removed into foster care due to allegations of domestic abuse to the specified legislative members. Requires the report to include information on the number of children who were returned home, the number of children who remained in the custody of the department, and other outcomes.

Effective Date: 05/05/25

# CLERKS OF COURT

## PC486 – Clerk / Court fee changes

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Rep. Farmer, Andrew

Summary: Increases incrementally court costs and various fees charged by the clerks of court for a wide variety of services and filings in state and local courts over the next three fiscal years in varying amounts. Requires filing fees and costs in civil cases to be collected at the time services are requested from the clerk or another officer of the court. Requires the clerk, if a party fails to pay the applicable filing fees at the time of requesting services, to give notice of non-compliance to the party and counsel of record within 10 business days. Authorizes the clerk to move the court for relief, up to and including striking a filing or dismissing the judicial proceeding if the party fails to correct such noncompliance within 10 business days. Requires the Tennessee State Court Clerks Association to file a report with the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2028, proposing any increases in the standard fees, costs or commissions chargeable by clerks; provided, however, that increases prior to December 31, 2028, are not prohibited. Creates a special account in the State Treasury to be known as the Court Clerk Continuing Education Account (Account) for the purposes of funding the continuing education of court clerks. Establishes a privilege tax on litigation of $2.00 in all civil and criminal cases instituted in the county, other than those instituted in juvenile or municipal courts for deposit into the new Account. Authorizes the State Treasurer to invest funds in the Account, and stipulates that such funds must not revert to the General Fund. Authorizes funds to be expended by the State Court Clerks' Conference, subject to annual appropriations by the General Assembly, for the development and presentation of continuing education programs, courses, and conferences for court clerks.

Effective Date: 01/01/26

## PC269 – Ignition Interlock Indigency Determinations Revised (new law in various places of this report)

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Shifts indigency determinations for interlock devices to State Treasurer and the Clerks of Court. Form provided by the Department of Treasury.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC179 – Statewide juvenile case management system.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Garrett, Johnny

Summary: Requires the administrative office of the courts to maintain a criminal justice information services compliant centralized statewide juvenile case management system. Requires all juvenile court clerks to adopt and convert to the new juvenile case management system on a schedule to be determined in consultation with the administrative office of the courts. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 04/11/2025

## PC459 – Court costs collected in municipal court.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. Reeves, Lee

Summary: Increases from $1.00 to $2.00 the amount of funds from the court costs collected in municipal court cases that must be forwarded by the municipal court clerk to the state treasurer for deposit and credited to the account for the administrative office of the courts for the sole purpose of defraying the administrative director's expenses in providing training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

## PC369 – Fees charged by clerk of court having jurisdiction of criminal offenses.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Cochran, Mark

Summary: Requires the clerk of every court having jurisdiction over misdemeanors and felonies to include a $12.50 charge in every cost bill, to be remitted to the county government to provide support services for the purpose of promoting public safety at the sole discretion of the district attorney general. Takes effect upon two-thirds vote of the county legislative body. Requires a district attorney general receiving funding to submit an annual report to the district attorneys general conference no later than January 1 of each year detailing the amount of costs charged and collected and the purposes for which the funds were used in the year immediately preceding such date. Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 05/05/25

## PC94 – Acceptance of electronic transmissions by state departments and agencies.

Sponsors: Sen. Powers, Bill; Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: removes references to the use of facsimile transmission or fax as an accepted method of transmission of documents and communications within state and local government and substitutes instead the use of an electronic transmission. Defines electronic transmission as any form of communication not directly involving the physical transmission of paper that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved, and reviewed by a recipient of the communication, and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by such a recipient through an automated process including, but not limited to, electronic mail, electronic communication, and internet communication and does not include communications by fax or facsimile. Requires each department, agency, office, commission, institution, or instrumentality of the executive branch to accept the electronic transmission of any document that could have been submitted by fax or facsimile. Requires the Supreme Court to develop court rules and procedures to control the process of courts using electronic transmissions of documents. Becomes effective January 1, 2026.

Effective Date: 01/01/26

# WORKERS COMPENSATION

## PC86 – Workers' compensation appeals board - terms and age requirements for judge.

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

Summary: Increases, from 30 to 35, the minimum age for an individual to serve as a judge on the workers' compensation appeals board. Increases, from two to three, the number of additional terms to which a judge of the workers' compensation appeals board may be reappointed. Makes other changes related to workers' compensation. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 07/01/25

# HR, GENERAL ADMIN., FISCAL, MISC.

## PC243 – Leave and compensation available to government employees called to active military service.

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Moon, Jerome

Summary: Defines a â??working dayâ? as the number of hours an employee is scheduled to work within a 24 hour period for purposes of state employees in military service.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC423 – Employee leave to care for family member with serious health condition.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Sparks, Mike

Summary: Requires that an eligible employee be granted leave of up to six work weeks because the employee is caring for a family member with a serious health condition. Provides that leave granted may be taken on a reduced schedule or intermittently as provided under the Family and Medical Leave Act. For purposes of this section, defines a family member and a serious health condition.

Effective Date: 01/01/2026

## PC280 – Confidential records - exceptions.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane; Rep. Sparks, Mike

Summary: Expands public records exception to include residential information of local government employees such as street address, city, state and zip code.

Effective Date: 04/24/25

## PC74 – Bereavement leave for certain state officers and employees.

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

Summary: Expands bereavement leave for certain previously excluded state officers and employees upon the death of certain relatives. Provides three days paid leave in the event of the death of such officers' or employees' siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, foster parents, or parents-in-law; five days paid leave in the event of such officers' or employees' parents or stepparents; and 10 days paid leave in the event of the death of such officers' or employees' spouse, children, or stepchildren. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 03/25/25

## PC82 – Pay period for state employees.

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

Summary: Requires the pay period for state employees be no less than twice per month as determined by the commissioner of finance and administration. Removes the requirement that the pay period be semimonthly. Part of Administration Package.

Effective Date: 03/28/25

## PC159 – Reemployment for Tennessee consolidated retirement system members.

Sponsors: Sen. Yager, Ken; Rep. Marsh, Pat

Summary: Requires a retiree who is a member of the Tennessee consolidated retirement system to have had a bona fide separation of service before the retiree is allowed to accept temporary reemployment without a loss or suspension of benefits in the retirement system. Prohibits the retiree from working more than 120 days or the equivalent of 120 days during a 12-month period. Prohibits a person employed as a teacher at an institution of higher learning from working more than 24 quarter credit hours or 18 semester credit hours in a 12-month period. Allows for exceptions for a retired member employed as a substitute teacher in a public school system. Stipulates that the entire compensation payable to the retired member for the temporary employment period must not exceed an amount equal to the sum of 60% of the annual full-time salary received by the retired member in the year immediately prior to the member's last paid day of covered employment, adjusted by 5% for each year since the member's last paid day of covered employment or as determined by the treasurer and the commissioner of human resources.

Effective Date: 01/01/26, 07/01/25

## PC341 – Fairness in Benefits Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Cochran, Mark

Summary: Enacts the "Fairness in Benefits Act;" which requires an employer participating in TCRS to allow the dissemination of information and educational materials developed by a private entity regarding the entity's alternative retirement plans and life contracts to its employees on the employer's premises.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC367 – Mandatory membership in TCRS for certain public officials.

Sponsors: Sen. Walley, Page; Rep. Haston, Kirk

Summary: Establishes that certain public officials, including members of the general assembly, who take office on or after July 1, 2025, have mandatory membership in the Tennessee consolidated retirement system (TCRS). Permits a retiree to reannuitize retirement benefits in favor of a new spouse beneficiary following cancellation of a former spouse beneficiary due to divorce. Makes other changes to provisions governing TCRS (20 pp.).

Effective Date: 05/05/25

## PC307 – UAPA - permanent rules filed on or after January 1, 2024.

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Lafferty, Justin

Summary: Generally establishes that permanent rules filed in the office of the secretary of state on or after January 1, 2024, that are in effect on the effective date of this act, and that are scheduled for expiration on June 30, 2025, do not expire on June 30, 2025, but remain in effect until repealed or amended by subsequent rule of the appropriate rulemaking agency or until otherwise superseded by legislative enactment.

Effective Date: 05/02/25

## PC415 – Makes various changes to campaign finance requirements.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Hicks, Tim

Summary: Requires a local candidate to file their certification of a political treasurer form in each county their local election occurs if the election covers more than one county. Requires all political campaign committees registered with the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance (TREF) to pay an annual registration fee of $150 beginning January 1, 2026. Increases, from $100 to $250, the total cost of real or personal property, invitations, food, and beverages that can used for candidate-related activities without being considered a contribution. Removes the requirement that an affirmation of statements be signed in the presence of a witness, and instead requires such statements be signed under penalty of perjury. Requires statements filed electronically be acknowledged by the filer that such statement is filed under penalty of perjury. Authorizes a TREF investigator to conduct investigations of sworn complaints, and authorizes TREF to, in lieu of conducting any investigation or audit, to proceed directly to a show cause hearing on a sworn complaint. Establishes that expenditures of campaign funds to defend civil litigation involving the candidate's nomination for election or election to office is deemed not for personal use and is therefore allowed. Specifically prohibits expenditures of campaign funds for purposes of public relations, consulting, and legal expenses of a candidate or officeholder concerning a criminal matter involving the candidate or officeholder. Requires a multicandidate political campaign committee to certify the name and address of at least one officer, instead of all officers, of such committee and of all persons who directly control expenditures to the TREF. Increases the threshold, from $1,000 to $3,000, of contributions, loans, or transfers of funds for which a candidate or political campaign committee must report specified personal information on interim reports in certain instances. Clarifies that a successful candidate may continue to accept contributions for the purpose of defraying officeholder expenses until the close of the reporting period following the election of the individual who is elected to replace them. Authorizes a candidate or official to continue to accept contributions in excess of outstanding debts and obligations relating to the election between the date of the election and the close of the reporting period immediately following the reporting period in which the election occurred. Prohibits a candidate from accepting an in-kind contribution relating to an election after the date of the election, unless the in-kind contribution can be converted to a monetary value for the purpose of defraying outstanding debts and obligations incurred during that election. Removes individual and aggregate contribution limits for political campaign committees if the contributions are associated with a political party or a caucus of such political party that is established by members of the General Assembly, but only if the political campaign committees are not directly controlled or maintained by such groups. Requires the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's (ECF) annual ethics training to be provided to all department commissioners in the executive branch and all of the Governor's cabinet level staff, beginning January 1, 2026. Establishes that all ECF proceedings regarding a sworn complaint are public records and are open to public inspection, except for financial records of the alleged violator. Eliminates the Class C misdemeanor offense for a member or staff of the ECF who knowingly discloses confidential information. Removes the requirement that the ECF refer a factually and legally sufficient complaint to the Attorney General and Reporter and authorizes the ECCF to conduct its own investigation or conduct a probable cause determination without an investigation. Senate amendment 1 (007493) requires a local candidate to file their certification of a political treasurer form in each county their local election occurs if the election covers more than one county. Requires all political campaign committees register with the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance to pay an annual registration fee of $150 beginning January 1, 2026. Increases from $100 to $250 the total cost of real or personal property, invitations, food and beverages that can be used for candidate-related activities without being considered a contribution. Removes the requirement that an affirmation of statements be signed under penalty of perjury. Requires statements filed electronically be acknowledged by the filer that such statement is filed under penalty of perjury. Authorizes a TREF investigator to conduct investigations of sworn complaints, and authorizes TREF to, in lieu of conducting any investigation or audit, to proceed directly to a show cause hearing on a sworn compliant. Clarifies that expenditures of campaign funds to defend litigation involving a candidate's nomination or election is not considered personal use. Removes individual and aggregate contribution limits for political campaigns are associated with a political party or a caucus of such political party that is established by members of the General Assembly, but only if the political campaign committees are not directly controlled or maintained by such groups. Requires the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance annual ethics training to be provided to all department commissioners in the executive branch and all of the Governor's cabinet level staff, beginning January 1, 2026.

Effective Date: 05/09/25, 01/01/26

## PC457 – Modernization of Towing, Immobilization, and Oversight Normalization (MOTION) Act of 2025.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. McCalmon, Jake

Summary: Revises various provisions of the Modernization of Towing, Immobilization, and Oversight Normalization Act including adding penalties for violating the act. Adds a motor vehicle inspection portal to input abandoned or immobile vehicle information for public notice. Requires the removal of firearms from a stored motor vehicle. Prohibits booting a vehicle. Requires signage for the use of automatic license plate readers and parking fees collected. Details specific instances when towing a vehicle is allowed. Specifies the responsibilities of garage keepers who store towed vehicles. Allows a law enforcement agency to take into custody a motor vehicle found abandoned, immobile, or used in curbstoning. Allows public auction on unclaimed vehicles if certain aspects are met. (26pp.). Broadly captioned.

Effective Date: 05/09/2025

**PC153 – Governor's emergency management powers prohibited from contravening with the state constitution.**

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark; Rep. Grills, Rusty

Summary: Prohibits orders, proclamations, or rules issued by the governor under the governor's emergency management powers from contravening, suspending, or conflicting with a provision of the Tennessee Constitution. Restricts governor's ability under such powers to suspend certain procedural provisions of a law, order, rule, or regulation.

Effective Date: 03/24/25

**PC153 – Emergency management powers of the governor.**

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

Summary: Limits the duration of a state of emergency declared by the governor to 30 days. Authorizes the general assembly to terminate, extend, or renew a state of emergency by joint resolution. Establishes an ad hoc legislative council to extend a state of emergency during the interim between legislative sessions and specifies membership of council.

Effective Date: 03/24/2025

**PC530 – Appropriations – Fiscal Year 2026**

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

Summary: Makes appropriations for the 2026 fiscal year.

Effective Date: 07/01/2025