



CAPITOL & 5TH
PUBLIC STRATEGIES

Legislative Update

March 8, 2024

Following the announcement of multiple Senate committees and House subcommittee closures, the legislature is picking up the pace towards a high water mark. With several final calendars scheduled to be heard this week, nearly one thousand bills are on notice. The budget appropriation process began this week with March 18 slated as the deadline to put requests on notice. **Let your C5 team member know if you have a budget request.** Several C5 clients successfully held days on the hill this week including the TN Medical Association, TN Wildlife Officers Association, and TN Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Legislation Spotlight:

HB1858, will update Tennessee's Safe at Home program, passed unanimously on the House Floor.

The bill sponsored by Representative Elaine Davis (R-Knoxville) will confidentially provide more protections for victims of domestic abuse, stalking, human trafficking, and other related crimes through their home address.

The Senate companion, **SB1775**, sponsored by Sen. Art Swann (R-Maryville) is scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor on March 11.

Next Week:

Monday, March 11, at 9:00am

House Finance, Ways, and Means (HHR I)
Department of Education budget hearing
State Board of Education budget hearing
Public Charter School Commission budget hearing
Department of Tourist Development budget hearing

Monday, March 11, at 1:00pm

Senate Judiciary (SHR I)
District Public Defenders Conference budget presentation
Office of the Post Conviction Defender budget presentation

Tuesday, March 12, at 8:30am

Senate Finance, Ways, and Means (SHR I)
Department of General Services budget presentation
Tennessee Higher Education Committee budget presentation

Wednesday, March 13, at 9:00am

House Ag and Natural Resources (HHR III)
National Waste and Recycling Association presentation

Wednesday, March 13, at 12:30pm

Senate Health and Welfare (SHR I)
Department of Health budget presentation
Department of Human Services budget presentation
Department of Children's Services budget presentation

Wednesday, March 13, at 3:00pm

Senate Education (SHR I)
Tennessee State University budget presentation

Client Spotlight:

The **Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics** (TNAAP) is a not-for-profit group of medical professionals and child advocates that are dedicated to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children and adolescents. TNAAP members aim to work with everyone who has the ability to impact the lives of children from public officials and governing entities to individual families and community leaders. The group engages in advocacy, education, quality improvement, and practice support.

Pediatricians from across the state (top photo) gathered in Nashville to participate in TNAAP's annual day on the hill. Members heard from TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse commissioner Marie Williams as well as met with legislators to continue advocating for the needs of children.

TNAAP members joined legislators at a press conference to celebrate the momentum of **HB2251/SB2175**, known as the Smart Heart Act.

The bill sponsored by Representative Scott Cepicky (R-Culleoka) and Senator Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald) would work to ensure the well-being and safety of children in schools by requiring that all schools develop a cardiac emergency response plan which must include easy access to an automatic electronic defibrillator (AED) during regular school hours and any athletic activity. School athletic directors and coaches will also be required to undergo annual training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic first aid, and proper AED use.

TNAAP members were able to watch as the bill passed unanimously out of the Senate Education committee. The bill is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on March 11.



Sen. John Lundberg (R-Bristol)



Sen. Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald)

Other News:



Governor Lee's judicial appointee, **Mary L. Wagner's** confirmation to the Tennessee Supreme Court is scheduled to be voted on during a joint convention of the General Assembly on **Monday, March 11, at 5:30pm** in the House Chamber.

Wagner previously practiced at Memphis law firm Rice, Amundsen, and Caperton PLLC, where she specialized in civil litigation and has served as a Shelby County circuit judge since 2016.