

**INDEX OF ACTS
RELATED TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

2026 TSA EDITION



**Prepared by
CTAS Legal Staff**

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These summaries are intended for information only and should not be relied upon for implementation purposes. The full text of all acts summarized in this publication can be viewed on the Secretary of State's website.

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PART I - PUBLIC ACTS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

COUNTY CLERKS

Public Chapter 648 SB 1635 - HB 1942

Precious Cargo Act

Amends Title 55, Chapter 21, Part 3 to clarify that a “medical condition” includes communication disorders, including speech, language, and fluency disorders, such as stuttering. The Precious Cargo Act authorizes drivers with certain medical conditions to apply for a designation in the Tennessee Vehicle Title and Registration System database of the need for communicating with first responders during a traffic stop.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 954 SB 1889 – HB 1708

Driver’s License

Amends TCA 55-50-322 to provide that if an applicant for a driver’s is unable to speak and read English, then an applicant may take a written test in another language that is offered by the department. If the applicant takes a driver’s license test in another language, then the driver’s license is non-renewable and is valid for 36 months. When the license expires, an applicant must take the written test in English and may not use a dictionary, interpreter, or electronic device to assist with the test. This law does not apply to an applicant for a commercial driver’s license, or someone that can read and write English but has a hearing impairment and has provided documentation from their doctor.

Amends Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 1 by adding a new section to provide that the commissioner or county clerk shall not process an application for initial issuance of registration of a vehicle in which a license plate is issued until the applicant provides documentation, paper or electronic that the person is 1) a U.S. citizen, 2) a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.; or 3) a person who has been authorized by the federal government to be in the U.S. for a specific purpose and for a specified authorized stay. A REAL ID, Tennessee driver’s license or temporary driver’s license, and a photo ID or temporary photo ID are satisfactory. The department will publish a full list of other acceptable forms on its

website that can be used. Display of images on cell phones or other portable devices are acceptable electronic formats. Every registration and renewal must be accompanied by a notice that the owner and/or operator of the vehicle is required to be a US citizen, lawful permanent resident, or lawful temporary resident. If a dealer handles registration, then the dealer must obtain required identification/documentation and submit it with the application for registration.

Amends TCA 55-50-321 to make other related changes.

For the purposes of coordinating data sharing between the department and county clerks, and creating rules and forms, the act takes effect May 7, 2026. For all other purposes the act takes effect on January 1, 2027.

Public Chapter 1077
SB 1667 – HB 1690

Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility

Amends Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 1 to add a new section to provide that the commissioner or a county clerk shall not process and application for initial issuance of registration of a vehicle unless the person applying for registration provides proof of insurance. Proof of insurance may include the declaration page, insurance binder, or an insurance card from an insurance company authorized to do business in Tennessee. The proof of insurance may be in a paper or electronic format and must be good for at least 30 days.

Alternatively, a person applying for initial insurance of registration may provide a certificate issued by the commissioner stating that a cash deposit or bond as required by the Financial Responsibility Law of 1977 has been filed with the commissioner, or the driver has qualified as self-insured 55-12-111. Every initial and renewal of registration must be accompanied by a notice that vehicle owners and operators are required to carry proof of compliance with the Financial Responsibility Law of 1977. This section shall be repealed on June 30, 2029.

Amends 55-12-211 to provide that the neither the department or county clerk shall process a renewal of registration when an owner of a vehicle has been provided a notice for failure to provide proof of insurance until the owner or lessee of the vehicle pays

all fees owed and provides proof of insurance. The policy must be in place for at least 30 days.

Substantially increases fees for failure to have insurance. The fees collected will be distributed to the county clerk, the department of revenue, and the uninsured motorist identification restricted fund created in 55-12-213. If the owner of a vehicle receives a subsequent notice within three years of the first notice being issued, then the owner of the vehicle is subject to additional fees, and suspension or revocation of the vehicle registration.

Imposes additional requirements on liability insurance providers.

Amends 29-39-102 and 29-39-103 to make additional changes related to non-economic damages available to plaintiffs who were involved in a automobile collision and who were not in compliance with Financial Responsibility Law of 1977.

Makes other changes related to compliance with the Financial Responsibility Law of 1977.

Sections 1 through 15 become effective January 1, 2027. Sections 16 and 17 are effective May 22, 2026.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Public Chapter 581 SB 1625 - HB 1684

Personal Delivery Devices

Amends 55-8-101 and 55-8-209. Clarifies the areas in which a personal delivery device may be operated and where such devices are prohibited. Personal delivery devices may be regulated or prohibited by local resolutions or ordinances if the local government determines that the regulation or prohibition is necessary, in the interest of public safety. A regulation adopted by a local government must not be inconsistent with this section.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 596
SB 624 - HB 618

Dual Office Holding Prohibited

Amends Title 8, Chapter 50, Part 1. Provides that an individual holding an elected office of a local government shall not hold another elected office in this state at the same time. However, individuals holding an elected office of a local government and another elected office in this state on January 1, 2027, may continue holding such offices and may be reelected to such offices. If an individual ceases holding more than one office after January 1, 2027, then the individual is prohibited from holding more than one office. The prohibition does not apply to an office in a political party's state executive committee.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Public Chapter 673
SB 2028 - HB 2017

TWRA - Taking Wildlife

Adds 39-17-1314(j)(1) and (j)(2). Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(2) or another law to the contrary, a city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government shall not regulate the manner and means of taking wildlife, including the discharge of a firearm while lawfully hunting. Such manner and means of taking wildlife is regulated pursuant to rules promulgated and proclamations issued by the fish and wildlife commission under its delegated authority in Title 70. This part does not prohibit a county or municipality from regulating the discharge of a firearm by a person lawfully hunting within five hundred feet of school property.

Effective April 7, 2026.

Public Chapter 828
SB 1712 - HB 1697

Flag Protocol

Amends Title 5, Chapter 1, Part 1. Authorizes the county mayor to order the flags flown on county property to be lowered to halfstaff to honor the death of a prominent citizen of that county.

Effective April 27, 2026.

Public Chapter 832
SB 1788 - HB 1671

Relocation of Homeless Persons

Amends Title 71, Chapter 5. A local governmental entity shall not relocate a homeless individual to another jurisdiction unless: (1) The local governmental entity receives written consent for such relocation from the receiving jurisdiction; and (2) The relocation is made through a program established by the local governmental entity for the purpose of reuniting homeless individuals with their place of origin when proof of substantial ties to the place of origin exists. This prohibition does not apply to a local law enforcement agency.

A local governmental entity shall not use public funds to relocate homeless individuals to other jurisdictions unless: (1) The local governmental entity verifies that housing and other necessary services are available for the homeless individuals in the receiving jurisdiction; or (2) The relocation is made through a program established by the local governmental entity for the purpose of reuniting homeless individuals with their place of origin when proof of substantial ties to the place of origin exists. This prohibition does not apply to a local law enforcement agency.

A jurisdiction that is affected by a violation of this law may seek damages and injunctive relief against the local governmental entity.

Effective April 27, 2026.

Public Chapter 897
SB 2088 - HB 2013

Investigation By County Medical Examiner

Amends 38-7-109. "Mass shooting" means: (1) A shooting resulting in four or more individuals sustaining an injury; or (2) A shooting in which a reasonable person would conclude that the decedent attempted to kill four or more individuals.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 938
SB 936 – HB 1271

Biological Sex

Amends Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4 to add a new section that provides that no later than July 1, 2027, local governments shall revise any rule or policy to state that there are only two sexes, a biological male or biological female. Local governments are prohibited from

adopting or enacting a rule that define sex or gender in different way. A resident in that jurisdiction that believes the local government is not in compliance with this law may file a complaint in chancery court. If the court finds that the local government is not in compliance with the law, it may order the local government to comply with this law or take another action within the scope of the jurisdiction to ensure compliance. If the local government does not comply with the court's order within 90 days, the local government becomes ineligible for grants from the department of economic and community development until the local government comes in compliance with the law. A local government is not noncompliant with this law simply for accepting a valid birth certificate, or other lawfully issued form of identification.

Effective May 7, 2026.

Public Chapter 1025
SB 2388 - HB 2369

Cost of Autopsy

Amends 38-7-106 and 109. In any case where an autopsy is requested by a municipality or municipal law enforcement agency, the cost of the autopsy must be paid by the municipality, unless the cost is paid by the state.

Effective May 19, 2026.

Public Chapter 1052
SB 468 - HB 571

Riley Gaines Women's Safety and Protection Act

Amends Title 68. Creates the "Women's Safety and Protection Act," which clarifies and reconciles the meaning of sex, female, male, and related terms in state law to provide protections for women and girls against sexual assault, harassment, and violence in correctional facilities, juvenile detention facilities, domestic violence shelters, dormitories, and restrooms, or where women have been traditionally afforded safety and protection from acts of abuse committed by biological men.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1106
SB 1915 - HB 1710

Immigration

Amends numerous provision in Title 4, Chapter 58, Part 1 relative to verifying citizenship. Provides that local governments must verify that each applicant for a public benefit who is eighteen years of age or older is lawfully present in the United States. Requires local governments to report individuals who are not lawfully present to the centralized immigration enforcement division within the department of safety (and makes it a crime for an employee or official to intentionally fail to report).

Effective July 1, 2026.

COURTS & COURT CLERKS

Public Chapter 582
SB 1640 - HB 1552

Victim's Rights - Address Confidentiality Program

Amends 40-38-601, 603, 604. Adds that a person who by law is required to be registered under the registry of persistent domestic violence offenders is prohibited from participating in the address confidentiality program.

Effective March 6, 2026.

Public Chapter 604
SB 218 - HB 33

Bail - Release on Recognizance or Unsecured Bond

Amends 40-11-115. Adds there is a presumption that a defendant should not be released on the defendant's personal recognizance if the defendant is charged with a felony offense that involved the use or display of a firearm or resulted in the serious bodily injury or death of the victim. The terms "firearm" and "serious bodily injury" mean the same as defined in 39-11-106. If a magistrate or other official authorized to admit a defendant to bail determines that the presumption established has been rebutted, then the magistrate or such official must include in the bail order written findings for each factor listed in subsection 40-11-115 (b).

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 627
SB 1845 - HB 1748

Electronic Monitoring Indigency Fund

Amends 55-10-419 to provide that a person ordered to use an ignition interlock device shall provide the selected provider and the clerk of the court that has jurisdiction over the person with: (i) Documentation demonstrating that the person is either qualified to receive or is receiving funds on the date the person was ordered to use the device from at least one (1) of the sources listed in subdivision (h)(4) of 55-10-419; and (ii) An authorization and consent for the state treasurer to obtain or access documentation or information from state or federal agencies verifying that the person is either qualified to receive or is receiving funds on the date the person was ordered to use the device from at least one (1) of the sources listed in subdivision (h)(4).

In addition to providing the information in subdivision (j)(1), providers shall also provide: (i) The state treasurer with the documentation and information referenced above for persons ordered to use an ignition interlock device; and (ii) The respective local government with the affidavit of indigency, and other information considered by the court to determine whether the person is indigent, for a person ordered to use an alternative device.

Provides that in order to verify that a person is receiving or is eligible to receive funds from at least one (1) of the sources listed in subdivision (h)(4), the state treasurer is authorized to enter into memoranda of understanding with appropriate state agencies. The appropriate state agencies, as identified by the state treasurer, shall fully cooperate with the exchange of documentation or information, as permitted by applicable laws and rules.

Effective March 26, 2026.

Public Chapter 719
SB 2197 - HB 2452

Expungement of Pardoned Individuals

Amends 40-32-107 and 108 to expand the type of convictions a court may approve to be expunged for a person who has been pardoned.

Effective April 14, 2026.

Public Chapter 882
SB 2210 - HB 2221

Criminal Proceedings Notification System

Amends 40-38-507. Adds that the clerks of the criminal courts shall provide the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association with all court data necessary for the administration of the criminal proceedings notification system required by this section.

Effective April 27, 2026.

Public Chapter 896
SB 1945 - HB 1980

Bond Revocation

Amends 40-11-141 to provide that if after the defendant is released upon personal recognizance, an unsecured personal appearance bond, or any other bond approved by the court, the defendant violates a condition of release, is charged with an offense committed during the defendant's release, or engages in conduct which results in the obstruction of the orderly and expeditious progress of the trial or other proceedings, then the court may, upon the filing of a written order and notice of hearing, temporarily revoke the defendant's bond and order the defendant held without bail for no more than ten (10) days pending a bail revocation hearing. Following a bail revocation hearing, if the court finds that the defendant has violated a condition of bond, then the court may permanently revoke the defendant's bond and order the defendant held without bail pending trial or without release during trial.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 916
SB 1804 - HB 1986

Liability of State for Costs or Fees

Amends 40-25-129(a)(3). Adds that a county incurring expenses pursuant to a criminal prosecution under this subdivision (a)(3) shall provide an invoice of the expenses imposed on the county to the Department of Correction. Within sixty (60) days of receiving an invoice pursuant to this subdivision (a)(3)(C), the department shall pay the amount of the invoiced expenses permitted by law to the county.

Effective May 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 921
SB 1726 - HB 2567

Domestic Offender Registry (Savanna's Law)

Amends 40-39-402 to make numerous changes to the persistent domestic violence offender registry.

Provides that if a court orders a defendant to register, then the court clerk shall forward to the TBI a copy of the final judgment. The clerk shall forward the information to the TBI within seven (7) days from the date the clerk receives a final judgment signed by the judge.

Provides that notwithstanding 40-35-111 and in addition to any other punishment that may be imposed for a conviction of the offense, a defendant required to register must be assessed a registration fee in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), which must be paid to the clerk of the court at the time of conviction who shall: (1) Retain fifty dollars (\$50.00) of the fee for the administration of Savanna's Law, which must be reserved for the purposes authorized by Savanna's Law at the end of each fiscal year; and (2) Remit one hundred dollars (\$100) of the fee to the department of finance and administration's office of criminal justice programs for the purpose of administering grants to fund family violence prevention and intervention services.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 933
SB 900 - HB 920

Bail

Amends 40-11-115 (d). Prohibits a defendant being released on the defendant's personal recognizance or upon execution of an unsecured bond if the defendant is charged with any of the following offenses: (1) A Class A felony; (2) A Class B felony; (3) Aggravated assault; (4) Aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer or first responder; or (5) Domestic assault if the violation is a felony offense.

Adds that in determining the amount of bail required for a defendant charged with an above offense there is a rebuttable presumption that bail must be set at ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more to reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community. In order to rebut the presumption, the court must make specific findings on

why such bail is not required to reasonably ensure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community. The findings must be reduced to writing and included in the court's order establishing bail.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 941
SB 1708 - HB 1450

Bail

Amends Title 40, Chapter 11, Part 1. Provides that an entity, however organized, shall not secure the release of a defendant unless specifically authorized under this chapter. An entity, other than the defendant, a member of the defendant's family, the defendant's legal guardian, the defendant's employer, or a professional bondsman authorized under 40-11-124, seeking to secure the release of a defendant must be approved in accordance with 40-11-123 for each bond the entity seeks to secure. An entity, other than the defendant, a member of the defendant's family, the defendant's legal guardian, the defendant's employer, or a professional bondsman authorized under 40-11-124, shall not: (1) Post security for a single defendant more than one time per calendar year; or (2) Post security in an amount of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each defendant per calendar year.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 953
SB 1952 - HB 1707

Court Cooperation with Immigration

Amends Title 16, Chapter 1 to provide that each court must cooperate with the United States department of homeland security and federal immigration authorities acting in the enforcement of federal immigration law. Provides that a judge who obstructs may be removed for judicial misconduct pursuant to current removal procedures. Provides that the law will terminate on February 1, 2029.

Effective May 7, 2026.

Public Chapter 1017
SB 2025 - HB 2251

Criminal Magistrates

Enacts a new Part 3 in Title 40, Chapter 5 to create a pilot project to provide for criminal magistrates in the ten (10) counties in which the criminal courts experience the highest judicial caseload. Provides that by December 1, 2026, the AOC must notify the legislative body of each of the ten (10) counties that are eligible to participate in the pilot project. Upon being notified of eligibility, the legislative body of an eligible county may, by ordinance, create the position of criminal magistrate within the county. The criminal magistrate must be compensated from the general fund of the county in an amount to be determined by the majority of the elected judges of the county with criminal jurisdiction and subject to the approval of the legislative body.

Effective May 19, 2026.

Public Chapter 1026
SB 2161 - HB 2374

Bail

Amends 40-11-139(d)(1). If a court issues a bench warrant or a capias due to a defendant's failure to appear on a felony that is violent or sexual in nature as determined by the court, then the defendant shall be placed on any available state or federal list or database as a fugitive from justice, including the National Crime Information Center.

Amends 40-11-139(d)(3). The court may relieve the surety of liability for an undertaking if the defendant has not been placed on the available state or federal list or database within five business days of the entering agency's receipt of the bench warrant or capias.

Effective May 19, 2026.

Public Chapter 1051
SB 254 - HB 489

Pretrial Release/Probation Monitoring Devices

Amends 40-11-118 to provide that a defendant who is ordered to wear a transdermal monitoring device or alternative device as a condition of pretrial release, and who has not been determined by the court to be indigent, is responsible for the payment of all fees associated with the installation, monitoring, maintenance, and operation of the device. A defendant's failure to make a payment within five (5) days after the due date constitutes nonpayment and may result in

termination of device monitoring. If a defendant fails to pay the costs associated with operating the defendant's transdermal monitoring device or alternative device, then the qualified electronic monitoring provider or the government agency providing electronic monitoring services of defendants must notify the court and the defendant in writing within five (5) days of the arrearage. The court shall, within ten (10) days of receiving the qualified electronic monitoring provider's or government agency's notice to the court, set a show cause hearing to be held within thirty (30) days.

The clerk of the court shall notify the defendant and the qualified electronic monitoring provider, or the government agency providing electronic monitoring services, of the date and time of the show cause hearing. The qualified electronic monitoring provider, or the government agency providing electronic monitoring services, shall not discontinue the defendant's monitoring before the show cause hearing has been held.

Amends 40-35-303 to provide that a defendant who is ordered to wear a transdermal monitoring device or alternative device as a condition of probation, and who has not been determined by the court to be indigent, is responsible for payment of all fees associated with the installation, monitoring maintenance, and operation of the device. A defendant's failure to make a payment within five (5) days after the due date constitutes nonpayment. If a defendant fails to pay the costs associated with operating the defendant's transdermal monitoring device or alternative device, then the qualified electronic monitoring provider, or the government agency providing electronic monitoring services, must provide written notice of the arrearage to: (i) The supervising probation officer or supervising agency; and (ii) The defendant. The notice required must be provided within three (3) business days of the arrearage. If the defendant does not pay the arrearage within five (5) days of the issuance of the notice then the qualified electronic monitoring provider, or the government agency providing electronic monitoring services, may suspend or terminate monitoring services for the defendant after providing notice of the pending suspension or termination to the supervising probation

officer. If monitoring services are suspended or terminated due to nonpayment, then the supervising probation officer may take any action authorized by law for violation of a condition of probation. A qualified electronic monitoring provider, or a government agency providing monitoring services, is not required to provide monitoring services without compensation, and this subsection does not require a provider to subsidize monitoring services ordered by the court.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1105
SB 1909 - HB 1471

Drug Courts

Amends 16-22-103 to allow additional defendants to participate in drug court programs (by amending the definition of who is a violent offender).

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1118
SB 2145 - HB 1900

Lifetime Protection Order

Amends 36-3-627 to authorize a victim to file a petition for a lifetime order of protection against an offender who was convicted of a felony offense committed in another state that would constitute a felony assaultive offense, a criminal homicide offense, a kidnapping or false imprisonment offense, or a sexual offense if committed in this state. If an offense in a jurisdiction other than this state is not identified as one of those offenses, then it must be considered to be such an offense if the elements of the offense are the same as the elements of the comparable offense in this state.

Effective March 22, 2026.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Public Chapter 591
SB 1778 - HB 1467

TEMA Disaster Grants

Amends 58-2-109(c). Clarifies that disaster grants administered by the agency are exempt from the requirements of public purchasing laws, related to procurement, except that the agency retains the right to inspect places of business and audit books and records for compliance and the agency must establish procedures to monitor recipient and subrecipient

compliance with disaster response and disaster grant terms and conditions.

Effective March 18, 2026.

Public Chapter 600
SB 1616 - HB 1489

Firefighters - Compensation for Injury or Death

Amends 7-51-201. Expands the applicability of the presumption that a firefighter's cancer was caused by the firefighter's employment to include arson investigators. "Firefighter" means a full-time, paid employee of a fire department of this state or a political subdivision of this state, including an arson investigator who is employed by the Tennessee bureau of investigation or is a sworn deputy of a county sheriff's department.

Effective March 18, 2026.

Public Chapter 652
SB 1865 - HB 2531

Volunteer Firefighter Rescue Squad Grant Program

Amends 68-102-154. In addition to the existing volunteer firefighter equipment and training grant program, establishes the rescue squad grant program to provide annual grants to select rescue squads to be used for the purchase of firefighting equipment and rescue equipment. The Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Title 4, Chapter 5, to establish guidelines for evaluating grant requests and determining which volunteer fire departments or rescue squads will receive grants pursuant to this section.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 721
SB 2212 - HB 2477

Compensation for Death of Emergency Responder

Amends 7-51-210. Requires a claim for payment of the annuity to be filed with the Department of Finance and Administration within three years after either: (1) the date of death of the decedent or (2) the date of a final order or other determination designating the decedent's death as being in the line of duty that is issued by a court, administrative law judge, or other state or local government official, entity, or body with the authority to issue such order or determination. A denial of a claim made under this section by the estate of a law enforcement officer is subject to review by the

Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission within one year of the date of the denial. A denial of a claim made under this section by the estate of a firefighter or volunteer rescue squad worker is subject to review by the Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education within one year of the date of the denial. A denial of a claim made under this section by the estate of an emergency medical technician is subject to review by the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board within one year of the date of the denial.

Effective April 13, 2026.

Public Chapter 782
SB 1110 - HB 357

Rescue Squad Recognition Act

Amends Title 68, Chapter 140, by adding a new part. Enacts the Rescue Squad Recognition Act. Provides that a municipality, county, or political subdivision shall not operate a rescue squad, and a nonprofit organization shall not operate as a rescue squad, unless the rescue squad has been duly recognized and authorized to perform rescue services pursuant to this part by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads and other interested industry groups, shall promulgate rules pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, relative to the standards and qualifications for becoming and remaining a rescue squad. The State Fire Marshal's Office shall not oversee or have control over funding for a rescue squad whose certificate of charter with the secretary of state is active before July 1, 2026.

A new rescue squad must not be established or recognized without the approval of the local elected governing body in which jurisdiction the rescue squad will operate. This approval must include the geographical territory to be covered by the new rescue squad. A governmental unit, person, or nonprofit organization shall not operate as a rescue squad without a valid certificate of recognition issued by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with this part.

For purposes of promulgating rules and carrying out administrative duties necessary to effectuate this act,

this act takes effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

Public Chapter 847
SB 2005 - HB 1870

Arson Fire Investigation

Amends 68-102-127. The commissioner of commerce and insurance and the commissioner's deputies have police powers when necessary to preserve the law relative to cases of arson or suspected arson, including the power to make arrests; provided, that, the individual seeking to exercise the powers has a current certification from the peace officer standards and training commission (POST). In addition, the commissioner and the commissioner's deputies may conduct further investigations as to the origin or circumstances of a fire occurring in this state by the appointment of special assistants or the employment of other means necessary in the commissioner's discretion. Does not prohibit the commissioner or the commissioner's deputies from otherwise conducting investigations as to the origin or circumstances of a fire occurring in this state without a current certification from POST if the commissioner or the commissioner's deputy is not exercising police powers in conducting the investigation.

A municipal fire investigator has police powers, including the power to make arrests, when necessary to preserve the laws of this state or the investigator's respective municipality relative to cases of arson or suspected arson if the municipal fire investigator: (1) Has been authorized by the chief of the municipal fire department or the director of fire services to conduct investigations relative to the cause and origin of fires or arson investigations; and (2) Has a current certification from POST. Does not prohibit a municipal fire investigator from conducting an investigation relative to the cause and origin of a fire or arson investigations without a current certification from POST if the municipal fire investigator is not exercising police powers in conducting the investigation.

A county fire investigator has police powers, including the power to make arrests, when necessary to preserve the laws of this state or the investigator's respective jurisdiction relative to cases of arson or suspected arson

if the county fire investigator: (1) Has been authorized by the chief of the county-wide fire department or the director of fire services to conduct investigations relative to the cause and origin of fires or arson investigations; and (2) Has a current certification from POST. Does not prohibit a county fire investigator from conducting an investigation relative to the cause and origin of a fire or arson investigations without a current certification from POST if the county fire investigator is not exercising police powers in conducting the investigation.

The POST certification requirement does not apply to a municipal or county fire investigator serving as a fire investigator on January 1, 2027, who was hired as a fire investigator prior to January 1, 2021.

A municipal or county fire investigator serving as a fire investigator on January 1, 2027, who was hired as a fire investigator on or after January 1, 2021, shall comply with the POST certification requirement by January 1, 2030.

Amends 38-8-107(h). Except as otherwise provided in 68-102-127(d), the commission shall also issue a certificate of compliance to the commissioner of commerce and insurance; the commissioner's deputies; a municipal fire investigator, as described in § 68-102-127(b)(1); or a county fire investigator, as described in § 68-102-127(c)(1), on or after January 1, 2028, if the person meets the qualifications for employment as a police officer and satisfactorily completes an approved recruit training program as required by this part. To retain this certification, the person shall also successfully complete an annual in-service training session appropriate for the fire investigator's responsibilities.

Effective January 1, 2028.

Public Chapter 957
SB 2004 - HB 1753

Local EMA Required Training

Amends Title 58, Chapter 2, Part 1. Requires each local emergency management agency on an annual basis to: (1) Require all employees to receive training provided by TEMA on the Mutual Aid and Emergency and Disaster Assistance Agreement Act of 2004, compiled in

Title 58, Chapter 8, and the Interlocal Cooperation Act, compiled in Title 12, Chapter 9; and (2) Document the completion of the required in the employee's personnel or training file. TEMA shall document the completion of the required training.

The chief executive of each police department, sheriff's department, fire department, public works department, highway department, municipal utility, or county or municipal finance office that is a participating governmental entity, as defined by 58-8-102, is encouraged to designate employees to receive the training provided by TEMA.

Effective July 11, 2026.

Public Chapter 965
SB 343 - HB 398

Paramedics - Pronouncement of Death

Amends Title 68, Chapter 3, Part 5. A paramedic, licensed pursuant to 68-140-306, may make an actual determination and pronouncement of death if the paramedic has successfully completed training in the determination and pronouncement of death and the paramedic has attempted to resuscitate the person in accordance with standards established by the emergency medical services board. This section does not permit a paramedic to make the actual determination and pronouncement of death of a patient who is in a hospital when the apparent death occurs.

Amends Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 3. A paramedic who intends to determine and pronounce death shall, before doing so, complete a course of instruction in determining and pronouncing death. A paramedic who determines and pronounces death shall retain proof of successful completion of the required course and make the proof readily available to the board or the board's designee upon request. A paramedic who fails to comply with the standards for determining and pronouncing death set forth in this part or rules of the board may be subject to discipline by the board.

Effective January 1, 2027.

Public Chapter 1031
SB 2338 - HB 2446

Volunteer Fire Dept Vehicle Grant Program

Amends Title 68, Chapter 102, Part 1. The volunteer firefighter vehicle grant program is established to annually provide grants to select volunteer fire departments to assist with local match requirements for federal grants to purchase vehicles. The commissioner of commerce and insurance shall establish the amount the state contributes. However, the grant program must not fund the total local match portion in any year. The commissioner shall strive to distribute grant program funding proportionally based on the number of recognized volunteer fire departments serving each of the three grand divisions of this state. The commissioner shall decide which grants to award and shall disburse the grants to the selected volunteer fire departments. It is the legislative intent to fund the grant program by providing an initial appropriation of one million dollars in the appropriation act for fiscal year 2026-2027. The commissioner shall promulgate rules to establish guidelines for evaluating grant requests and determining which volunteer fire departments receive grants.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1045
SB 2248 - HB 2560

Dept of TEMA

Amends Title 4, Chapter 3. Creates the Department of the Tennessee Emergency Management Authority ("TEMA"). The Department of TEMA is under the charge and general supervision of the commissioner of TEMA. The commissioner of TEMA is vested with such powers and required to perform such duties as are set forth in Title 58, Chapter 2, and is charged with the administration of such laws as the general assembly from time to time may enact. All current rules, orders, decisions, and policies issued or promulgated by the Tennessee emergency management agency under Title 58, Chapter 2, remain in full force and effect and must be administered and enforced by the department of TEMA. To this end, the department of TEMA, through its commissioner, may, consistent with the statutes and rules pertaining to the programs and functions transferred by this section, modify or rescind orders, rules, decisions, or policies so issued and to adopt, issue, or promulgate new orders, rules, decisions, or policies

as may be necessary for the administration of the programs or functions transferred by this section.

Amends 58-2-104. Provides that the department shall authorize the creation of local organizations for emergency management in the political subdivisions of this state, and authorize cooperation with the federal government and the governments of other states. The commissioner, subject to the direction and control of the governor, is the executive head of the department and is responsible to the governor for carrying out the program for the department for this state. The commissioner shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for the department within this state and shall maintain liaison with and cooperate with emergency management agencies and organizations of other states and of the federal government. The department of the military is a resource for this state as with all other departments and agencies; further, the commissioner shall make recommendations to the governor for the use of the national guard and other state resources as disaster conditions mandate, including, but not limited to, the assistance of local and private agencies. The commissioner shall coordinate with the governor's office on the activation or the potential activation of any mutual aid agreement or compact. The commissioner may employ such area directors and professional, technical, clerical, and other personnel, and the commissioner shall fix their compensation and may make expenditures from available funds appropriated for the department or from funds made available to the commissioner for purposes of emergency management, as may be necessary to carry out this chapter. The commissioner must be provided with necessary and appropriate office space, furniture, supplies, printing, and equipment, including, but not limited to, radio, radiological, and any and all other proper equipment necessary to carry out the emergency management program for this state. The necessary mileage, office expenses, salaries of personnel, postage, telephone, and expressage must be chargeable to any funds available for emergency management.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1092
SB 1773 - HB 1844

Surrendering Custody of Unwanted Infants

Amends 68-11-255. Adds ambulance stations that has staff scheduled 24 hours a day to the list of facilities that must receive possession of a newborn infant left on the premises with an employee or member of the professional medical community if certain listed conditions are met.

Effective May 22, 2026.

FIREARMS

Public Chapter 919
SB 2352 - HB 2376

Possession of a Firearm in a County Courthouse

Amends 39-17-1359. Provides that if the possession of a firearm in a county courthouse is restricted or prohibited pursuant to subsection 39-17-1359 (g) or 39-17-1306, then the sheriff of the county may provide secure storage lockers for those individuals who are carrying a firearm pursuant to 39-17-1351, 39-17-1366, or 39-17-1307 to store the firearm in separate secured, lockable storage units at or near a designated public entrance to the building or structure at no cost to the individual.

Effective May 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1141
SB 2469 - HB 2174

Carrying Weapons During Judicial Proceedings

Amends 39-17-1306(c)(3). Authorizes a judge to carry a weapon during judicial proceedings who is in the actual discharge of official duties as a judge, and is vested with judicial powers under 16-1-101 and is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to 39-17-1351.

Effective July 1, 2026.

JAILS

Public Chapter 609
SB 1589 - HB 1502

Tennessee Corrections Institute

Amends 41-4-140(a). Provides that the Tennessee corrections institute has the additional power and duty to establish certification requirements for corrections officers; and inspect and certify local correctional training academies associated with local jails, lock-ups, and workhouses.

Amends 41-4-140(d). Provides a local currently certified facility must not be decertified if the local government has submitted a plan of action within 90 days of the initial annual inspection that is reasonably expected to eliminate fixed ratio deficiencies, staffing emergencies, capital projects, or deficiencies that do not impact the life or safety of the inmates or employees in that facility and cause that facility to remain certified. Provides further guidance on plans of actions

Amends 41-7-106. Adds that the board is authorized to establish uniform standards for the training of corrections recruits and corrections officers, including requirements for corrections officer certification, continued certification, and revocation of certification. The board is authorized to establish uniform standards for the certification of local correctional training academies for the purpose of training corrections recruits and corrections officers. The board may issue, or revoke as required, special certifications to persons who, by reason of experience and completion of in-service training, advanced education, or specialized training, are especially qualified for particular aspects or classes relevant to the corrections profession.

Amends 39-17-1315(a). Adds to the list of authorized persons who may carry a handgun any director or full-time employee of the Tennessee Corrections Institute in the performance of the director or employee's duty.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 751
SB 1724 - HB 1815

Arrestee Requiring Medical Attention

Enacts 41-4-145. Provides that a sheriff, jail administrator, or deputy jailer may refuse or delay acceptance into the jail an arrestee if the arrestee has not received medical treatment for obvious serious physical injuries or conditions of an emergency nature. Upon refusal or delay the sheriff, jail administrator, or deputy jailer shall document the factual basis for the determination. It is the responsibility of the arresting law enforcement agency to obtain medical attention for the arrestee prior to delivery to the jail. Upon medical release by the healthcare facility or healthcare provider, the sheriff, jail administrator, or deputy jailer must

assume custody of the individual when presented at the jail. The arresting agency shall provide the jail with the medical release or discharge documentation from the healthcare provider or healthcare facility.

Notwithstanding this section, the sheriff, jail administrator, or deputy jailer may accept an arrestee into custody who appears to be in need of medical attention and who refuses medical examination or medical attention. The sheriff, jail administrator, or deputy jailer is immune from civil and criminal liability for accepting such arrestees into custody.

Amends 8-8-201. A sheriff, jail administrator, or deputy jailer whose duty it is to receive persons arrested pursuant to law may refuse or delay acceptance of an arrestee as provided in 41-4-145.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 841
SB 1914 - HB 1839

State Inmates

Amends Title 41, Chapter 22, Part 1. Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, if an inmate is housed in a local jail and the inmate is participating in a work release or re-entry program, then the department of correction shall not remove the inmate from the local jail facility for the purpose of relocating the inmate to a state facility unless the inmate has failed to meet the work release or inhouse duty requirements or the inmate's disciplinary records warrant the inmate's removal from participation in the work release or re-entry program.

Effective April 27, 2026.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public Chapter 597
SB 920 - HB 679

Sexual Assault

Amends 39-13-519(b). Clarifies that when the victim of a sexually oriented crime is a minor, the consent of a parent or guardian is not required for the victim to receive a forensic medical examination pursuant to this section.

Effective March 18, 2026.

Public Chapter 626

SB 1841 - HB 1731

Desecration of Venerated Object

Amends 39-17-311. Adds, "desecrate" includes, but is not limited to, the removal of objects from a place of burial by a person other than a family member of the deceased, an authorized representative of the cemetery, an employee of the department of environment and conservation's division of archaeology in the ordinary course of the employee's duties under Title 11, Chapter 6, or persons otherwise authorized by law to remove such objects.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 692

SB 1637 - HB 1798

Sheriff's Fees

Amends 8-21-901 (a)(2)(B)(ii). Provides that for purposes of the payment of fees for garnishments as provided in this subdivision (a)(2)(B), all garnishments are deemed to be original garnishments and the sheriff or other person authorized by law to serve garnishments is entitled to the fee provided for in this subdivision (a)(2)(B) for each such garnishment served. The sheriff or other authorized person may demand that the fee for performing service of the garnishment be paid in advance of such performance.

Effective April 14, 2026.

Public Chapter 702

SB 1843 - HB 1644

Nitrous Oxide Abuse

Amends Title 39, Chapter 17. Adds 39-17-2001 to 2003. Enacts the "Nitrous Oxide Abuse Prevention and Retail Sale Prohibition Act." Provides that it is unlawful for a retail seller to sell or offer for sale nitrous oxide. As used in this amendment, "retail seller" means a tobacco vending machine, place, store, booth, concession, truck or vehicle, person, partnership, firm, entity, corporation, or association engaged in the business of making sales at retail of nitrous oxide directly to the ultimate consumer within this state.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 706
SB 1880 - HB 1639

Office of Homeland Security

Amends Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 20. Creates within the Department of Safety the Office of Homeland Security.

Effective April 13, 2026.

Public Chapter 726
SB 2253 - HB 2302

Automated Driving System Vehicles

Amends 55-8-202. Authorizes a state or local law enforcement agency to establish a policy regarding methods in which to enforce traffic offenses committed by an ADS, including providing notices of violation or citations, and if such a policy is established, then the policy must align with the process for issuing citations for traffic violations by autonomous vehicles described in the bill.

Effective April 13, 2026.

Public Chapter 738
SB 2597 - HB 2215

TWRA Agreements with Local Law Enforcement

Amends 70-1-305. Specifies that an agreement between TWRA and a local law enforcement agency does not authorize the local law enforcement agency to exceed TWRA's jurisdiction. The agreements created and entered into pursuant to this law must require local law enforcement agencies to provide regular reports to the executive director, or the director's designee, when the authority under the agreement is exercised. Such reporting must include, but not be limited to, all details related to the citation, including the facts of the offense, and the final disposition.

Amends Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 2. Establishes a criminal offense for feeding bears under certain circumstances.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 764
SB 2258 - HB 2356

Cameras on School Buses – Failure to Stop

Amends 55-8-151(c)(2). Requires a local education agency that installs cameras on the exterior of school buses for the purpose of recording images of motor vehicles that fail to stop upon approaching a school bus to either: (1) enter into a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement that includes the review of evidence from a camera and overall enforcement; or (2) authorize school safety personnel

to review evidence from a camera to determine whether a violation has occurred.

Authorizes a memorandum of understanding entered into with local law enforcement by a local education agency to require only POST-certified or state-commissioned law enforcement officers to review evidence from a camera to determine whether a violation has occurred. Further, a local education agency may both enter into a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and authorize school safety personnel to review evidence from a camera.

Effective April 13, 2026.

Public Chapter 766
SB 2251 - HB 2505

Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator

Enacts 45-16-201 and 45-16-202. Makes it a class A misdemeanor for a virtual kiosk operator or other person to knowingly install or allow installation of, permit, place, or otherwise operate a virtual currency kiosk in this state.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 770
SB 1210 - HB 1254

Brady Lists

Amends Title 38, Chapter 8, Part 3, by adding a new section. Requires a prosecuting agency that maintains a Brady list to adopt a policy that includes all of the following: (1) The criteria used by the prosecuting agency to place an officer's name on a Brady list; (2) The officer's right to receive written notice and a summary of the reasoning of the prosecuting agency before the prosecuting agency places the officer's name on a Brady list, and the officer's right to provide input to the prosecuting agency before the prosecuting agency makes a determination of whether the officer's name should be placed on a Brady list; (3) The officer's right to make a request for reconsideration of the prosecuting agency's determination to include the officer's name on a Brady list and to submit supporting and corroborating documents and evidence in support of the officer's request for reconsideration; (4) The applicable time frame and procedures for notifying the officer of the prosecuting agency's final decision on an officer's request for reconsideration.

Requires the prosecuting agency to send the policy to all law enforcement agencies in the district for comment before the policy is adopted. As used in this amendment, a "Brady list" means a designation made, letter issued, or list compiled by a prosecuting agency containing the names and details of law enforcement officers who have sustained incidents of untruthfulness, criminal convictions, candor issues, or other issues that place the officer's credibility into question.

Requires a prosecuting agency to send written notice by mail or email to a law enforcement officer's last known employment address before a prosecuting agency makes a determination to place a law enforcement officer's name on a Brady list. Such a written notice must include: (1) A notice that the officer's name may be placed on a Brady list; (2) A summary of the justifications for Brady list consideration; (3) The officer's right to provide input to the prosecuting agency prior to the prosecuting agency's determination of whether the officer's name should be placed on a Brady list; and (4) The prosecuting agency's procedural requirements for an officer to provide input to the prosecuting agency.

If the prosecuting agency places an officer's name on a Brady list, then the prosecuting agency shall send a written notice by mail or email to the officer's current or last known employment address. Upon receipt of the notice, the officer's current or last known employer shall provide the written notice to the officer at the officer's last known address. The written notice must include, at a minimum, the following: (1) The officer's right to make a request to reconsider the allegations and placement on a Brady list; (2) The prosecuting agency's procedural requirements for submitting a written request for reconsideration, including the method and time frame for submitting the request for reconsideration and any supporting and corroborating documents and evidence from any pertinent sources; (3) A summary of the justifications for inclusion of the officer's name on a Brady list; and (4) A statement that, if the officer intends to make a request to reconsider placement on a Brady list, then the officer must submit the written request for reconsideration to the

prosecuting agency as soon as practicable after receiving the notice.

If an officer submits a request for reconsideration pursuant to this section and the officer's request for reconsideration is approved by the prosecuting agency on its merits, then the officer's name must be removed from the Brady list. If the officer's request for reconsideration is denied by the prosecuting agency, then the officer's name must remain on the Brady list. If an officer does not submit a request for reconsideration or fails to comply with the requirements for submitting a request for reconsideration, then the officer's name must remain on the Brady list.

Effective April 21, 2026.

Public Chapter 771
SB 1779 - HB 1704

Immigration

Amends Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 1 by adding a new section. Creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally failing or refusing to depart when a final order of removal is outstanding.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Amends Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 1 by adding a new section. Creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally entering, attempting to enter, or being found in this state after being denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed from the United States.

Effective on the thirtieth day following the occurrence of either of the following circumstances, the public welfare requiring it: (1) The issuance of the judgment in any decision of the United States Supreme Court overruling, in whole or in part, *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387 (2012), thereby authorizing states to determine that a person is unlawfully present in this state; or (2) Adoption of a federal statutory provision that, in whole or in part, removes the preemption of states' ability to determine that a person is unlawfully present in this state.

Public Chapter 777
SB 2644 - HB 2279

Crush Transnational Repression in Tennessee Act
Amends Title 39, Chapter 16. Enhances criminal offenses, nullifies certain actions, creates new offenses. The offense is committed by an agent of a foreign adversary or a foreign terrorist organization while acting knowingly at the direction of, on behalf of, or under the influence of the foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization or a proxy of the foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization. The offense is committed with the intent to (1) coerce a person to act on behalf of a foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization; (2) coerce a person to leave the United States or cause another person to leave the United States; (3) cause a person to forebear from engaging in constitutionally protected conduct; or (4) retaliate against a person for engaging in constitutionally protected conduct. The offense is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 780
SB 591 - HB 1273

Threat Of Mass Violence On School Property
Amends 39-16-517(d). Clarifies that a threat of mass violence is credible for purposes of this section if the threat causes another to reasonably expect the commission of an act of mass violence.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 789
SB 1603 - HB 1972

Marijuana
Amends 39-17-403(d). Provides that if marijuana is rescheduled or deleted as a controlled substance under federal law, then the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services is prohibited from rescheduling or deleting marijuana under state law, unless the general assembly has established a regulatory framework for marijuana and authorized the commissioner to reschedule or delete marijuana as a controlled substance.

Effective April 23, 2026.

Public Chapter 836
SB 1864 - HB 2528

Private Protective Services
Amends Title 62, Chapter 35. Clarifies that a reserve officer/deputy, part-time officer/deputy, or auxiliary officer/deputy who meets or exceeds the training

requirements for the type of security services or location where the officer or deputy is providing services is not required to obtain a registration. However, such officer or deputy must complete biannual refresher training or its equivalent. The officer or deputy is prohibited from providing security services if they have not completed required training within the last two years. Makes multiple additional changes to the law.

Effective April 27, 2026.

Public Chapter 868
SB 2434 - HB 2147

Unmanned Aircraft – Public Schools

Amends 39-13-903. Makes it a criminal offense to knowingly use an unmanned aircraft over the grounds of a public school that serves students in any of the grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) with the intent to conduct surveillance of the school grounds without permission of a school administrator, the director of schools, or the director's designee. Does not apply to: (1) A law enforcement officer acting within the scope of the law enforcement officer's lawful duties; or (2) The operator of an unmanned aircraft that is being used for a commercial purpose if the operator is authorized by the federal aviation administration to conduct operations in that airspace.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 871
SB 2466 - HB 2139

Fraudulent Freight Theft

Amends Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 1. Provides that fraudulent freight theft is punishable as theft pursuant to present law pertaining to property theft. "Fraudulent freight theft" means the unlawful obtaining, control, diversion, or disposition of freight through deception, misrepresentation, impersonation, false pretenses, or identity fraud. Prohibits a law enforcement agency from refusing to accept a report solely on the basis that the physical theft did not occur within the geographic boundaries of the agency's jurisdiction. The department of safety is authorized to promulgate rules and forms to effectuate this act.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 875
SB 375 - HB 359

Vehicular Assault

Amends 39-13-106. Adds that "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves: (1) A substantial risk of death; (2) Protracted unconsciousness; (3) Extreme physical pain; (4) Protracted or obvious disfigurement; (5) Protracted loss or substantial impairment of a function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or (6) A broken bone.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 880
SB 2323 - HB 2101

Immediate Methamphetamine Precursor

Amends 39-17-431. Increases the amount of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine a person may purchase in a one-year period from 43.2 grams to 61.2 grams. Makes multiple additional changes to the law.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 886
SB 1225 - HB 1354

Human Trafficking

Amends 39-11-611. Provides that a person is presumed to have held a reasonable belief of imminent death or serious bodily injury to self if: (1) The person uses force intended or likely to cause death or serious bodily injury against an individual who is committing or attempting to commit a human trafficking offense; and (2) The person using force is the victim of the human trafficking offense being committed or attempted by the individual. A person must prove the person's status as a victim of human trafficking by clear and convincing evidence. A person may provide clear and convincing evidence of the person's status as a victim of human trafficking through testimony.

Effective May 5, 2026.

Public Chapter 897
SB 2088 - HB 2013

Mass Shooting – Drug Testing

Amends Title 40, Chapter 7, Part 1. A law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a mass shooting may ask if the person consents to a blood or urine test for the purpose of: (1) Determining the presence of any drugs, including therapeutic levels of psychotropic drugs; and (2) Studying the interactions between any psychotropic drugs and other drugs that are present in the person's blood or urine. If the person consents to a blood or

urine test, then the law enforcement officer must cause to be administered the blood or urine test by a qualified practitioner at a hospital. If the person is a minor, then only the parent or legal guardian may consent to the blood or urine test for the minor.

This section does not preclude a law enforcement officer from seeking a search warrant pursuant to title 40, chapter 6, part 1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 907
SB 2471 - HB 2284

Criminal Trespass

Amends 39-14-405(d). Adds new definition, "enter" means: Intrusion by driving, parking, or otherwise operating a motorized vehicle or bicycle. "Motorized vehicle or bicycle" includes, but is not limited to, all-terrain vehicles, utility task vehicles, side-by-sides, electric bicycles, motorcycles, and motorscooters.

Criminal trespass is a Class A misdemeanor if the violation involved the use or operation of a motorized vehicle or bicycle and is punishable only by a mandatory fine in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), and the sentence must include an order of restitution for all damages to the property resulting from the violation. Upon a second or subsequent violation involving the use or operation of a motorized vehicle or bicycle, the motorized vehicle or bicycle is, upon conviction of the offense, subject to seizure and forfeiture as provided in Title 40, Chapter 33, Part 1.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 918
SB 2543 - HB 2368

Unmanned Aircraft - Ticketed Entertainment Event

Amends Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 9 by adding a new section. A person commits the offense of unauthorized operation of an unmanned aircraft who operates an unmanned aircraft within four hundred feet of or above a ticketed entertainment event. A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor. "Ticketed entertainment event" means any music, sporting, or performing arts event held in a location with gated entries or barriers that prevent access to the general public and in which a ticket that has been issued by an

owner, operator, or lessee of such property is required for attendance at such event.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 967
SB 1492 - HB 1924

Crime Stoppers Programs

Amends Title 38; Title 39 and Title 40. Directs the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) to study the status of the crime stoppers programs across the state and make recommendations to enhance such programs. TACIR may request information and input from other appropriate state and local governmental entities, as necessary, and such entities shall comply with TACIR's request. The study must be conducted from TACIR's existing resources.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 972
SB 2543 - HB 2368

Sex Offenders - Campgrounds

Amends 40-39-211. While mandated to comply with the requirements of this part, a sexual offender or violent sexual offender must notify the owner or operator of any campground on which the offender intends to stay overnight of the offender's status as a sexual offender or violent sexual offender prior to beginning the stay. A person who knowingly stays overnight at a campground without providing the required notice commits an offense, which is punishable as provided in law.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 974
SB 2133 - HB 2263

Cruelty to Animals

Amends 39-14-217(b). Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e), a person commits aggravated cruelty to a livestock animal who, in a depraved and sadistic manner, intentionally: (1) Starves the livestock animal to death without justifiable or lawful purpose; or (2) Engages in any of the conduct described in subdivisions (c)(1)-(12), the conduct results in serious bodily injury to the animal or the death of the animal, and is without justifiable or lawful purpose.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1001
SB 1486 - HB 2018

Enforcement of Immigration Laws

Amends 7-68-105(d). A sheriff's department that is currently operating pursuant to a memorandum of agreement under an available federal 287(9) program must accept and honor any immigration detainer received from federal immigration authorities. As used in this subsection (d), "accept and honor" means to comply with the requested conditions in the immigration detainer and includes maintaining custody of the subject of an immigration detainer for forty-eight hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, beyond the time when the subject would have otherwise been released from the sheriffs department's custody to allow federal immigration authorities to take custody of the subject and notifying federal immigration authorities as soon as possible prior to releasing the subject of the immigration detainer.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1010
SB 2405 - HB 2157

Tennessee Safe Initiative Task Force

Amends 38-6-102. There is established a Tennessee Safe Initiative Task Force, which is administratively attached to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The task force shall determine when criminal activity in a particular jurisdiction is so prevalent as to endanger public safety and require additional law enforcement operations.

A sheriff, chief of police, or district attorney general may submit to the task force a written request that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation provide additional law enforcement operations from the Tennessee Safe Initiative within the official's specific jurisdiction. The task force shall notify the sheriff, chief of police, and district attorney general within the district who did not submit the request, if any, of the request. The task force is not required to vote on a request. The director of the TBI may provide the requested law enforcement operations from the Tennessee Safe Initiative.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1015
SB 2223 - HB 2219

Enforcement of Immigration Laws

Amends 7-68-105(b). Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (b), by January 1, 2027, the sheriff of each county must enter into an agreement under an available federal 287(g) program pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1357(9)) with the appropriate federal official, concerning the enforcement of federal immigration law. An agreement under this subdivision (b)(1) is not subject to approval from the governing body of the local government that the sheriff serves. For purposes of this subdivision (b)(1), "an available federal 287(g) program" must be one of the following programs: (1) Jail enforcement model; (2) Warrant service officer model; (3) Task force model; or (4) Tribal task force model.

A violation of this subdivision (b)(1) may result in the state withholding all funds of the state allotted to the sheriff's office or to the local government for use by the sheriff's office via grant, contract, or statute, including, but not limited to, state-shared taxes, pursuant to 4-1-429.

A sheriff's office may temporarily suspend compliance with a memorandum of agreement executed pursuant to this subdivision (b)(1) if an emergency arises that requires the sheriff's office to redirect deputy sheriffs and resources to respond to the emergency due to a legitimate threat to the public safety and welfare. If a sheriff's office temporarily suspends compliance with the memorandum of agreement pursuant to this subdivision (b)(1)(D), then the sheriff must provide notice as soon as practicable to the chief immigration enforcement officer and the commissioner of safety.

Effective May 19, 2026.

Public Chapter 1021
SB 2566 - HB 2317

Tennessee Anti-Grooming Act

Amends Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 5. Enacts the "Tennessee Anti-Grooming Act," which creates the criminal offense of grooming a minor.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1024
SB 2157 – HB 2366

Tourism Development Zones

Enacts a new chapter at Title 7, Chapter 92, Part 1, to prohibit local governments from blocking streets or rights-of-way within tourism development zones except under certain conditions. Provides the Tennessee Highway Patrol has concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction within tourism development zones. Authorizes the department of tourist development to promulgate rules regulating ingress and egress into businesses and public property as well as unlawful loitering, sitting, camping, or sleeping on public property.

Effective May 19, 2026, for purposes of promulgating rules. For all other purposes, this act takes effect August 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

Public Chapter 1070
SB 1587 - HB 1706

Unlawful Presence in The United States

Amends 55-50-403. Makes it an offense for a direct employer to knowingly employ and allow a person unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state. It is an offense for a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state if the operation of the vehicle requires the operator to be issued and possess a valid commercial driver license. A violation is a Class A misdemeanor. A law enforcement officer who arrests a person for a violation of this law shall notify the officer's law enforcement agency of the arrest, and the agency shall ensure that federal immigration authorities are notified, either through the agency's participation in the 287(g) program pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1357(9)) or by contacting the centralized immigration enforcement division of the department of safety, created in 4-3-2014. Does not apply to a person or entity that does not employ the person operating the commercial motor vehicle and does not have the legal authority to verify employment authorization for that person.

Amends Title 55, Chapter 50, Part 4. A direct employer who knowingly employs and permits a person unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle, and any official or employee of any state who recklessly issues a commercial driver

license to a person unlawfully present in the United States, are strictly, jointly, and severally liable to any person who suffers personal injury or property damage caused by the unlawfully present person's operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1086
SB 1587 - HB 1706

Discharge of a Firearm

Enacts 39-17 -1330. A person commits an offense who recklessly discharges a firearm into the air, ground, a body of water, or an object in proximity to the person if the firearm is discharged at a place of public gathering or at a public event where there are at least twenty-five people in attendance at the time of the discharge. A violation is a Class A misdemeanor.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1091
SB 1772 - HB 1739

Traffic Enforcement - Megasite of West Tennessee

Enacts 64-9-116 Notwithstanding 55-8-102 or another law to the contrary, the authority and a law enforcement agency of a county or municipality in which the megasite is located may enter into a written agreement authorizing sworn peace officers of the law enforcement agency to enforce Title 55, Chapters 8, 9, and 10, Parts 1-5, on one or more designated private megasite roadways identified in the agreement. An agreement under this section must be approved by the authority's board of directors and approved by resolution or ordinance, as applicable, of the governing body of the participating county or municipality.

Effective May 22, 2026.

Public Chapter 1100
SB 1847 - HB 1802

Defense of Property

Amends 39-11-614. Specifies that a person who is not engaged in conduct that would constitute a felony or a Class A misdemeanor and who is in a place where the person lawfully resides is justified in using deadly force against another to protect property: (1) If the person would be justified in using force against another under subsection (a) or (b); (2) When and to the degree the person reasonably believes deadly force is immediately necessary to prevent the other's imminent commission of arson, burglary, robbery, aggravated robbery, or

aggravated cruelty to animals; (3) The person reasonably believes the property cannot be protected or the other's actions terminated by any other means; and (4) There is an imminent danger to the person or a third person of death, serious bodily injury, or grave sexual abuse; or The use of force other than deadly force to protect or terminate the other's actions would expose the person or a third person to a risk of death, serious bodily injury, or grave sexual abuse.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1104
SB 1900 - HB 2428

Assault Against A First Responder

Enacts 39-13-116(c)(1). Assault against a law enforcement officer or first responder is a Class E felony, and shall be punished by a mandatory fine of ten thousand dollars and a mandatory minimum sentence of sixty days incarceration. The defendant is not eligible for release from confinement until the defendant has served the entire sixty-day mandatory minimum sentence.

Assault against a nurse is a Class A misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a mandatory fine of five thousand dollars and a mandatory minimum sentence of thirty days incarceration. The defendant is not eligible for release from confinement until the defendant has served the entire thirty-day mandatory minimum sentence.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 1121
SB 2177 - HB 2204

Compensation of Law Enforcement Officers

Amends Title 38. Requires The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) to conduct a study of the salaries and other benefits paid to state and local law enforcement officers in this state. TACIR shall publish a report of its findings and recommendations and deliver a copy of the report to the governor, the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislative librarian no later than January 31, 2027.

Effective May 22, 2026.

PERSONNEL

Public Chapter 552

SB 674 - HB 900

Regulation of Employment

Amends Title 7 and Title 50 to provide that unless expressly provided by state law, a local government shall not adopt a rule or policy that requires a term or condition to employment that exceeds or conflicts with state or federal law.

Effective March 6, 2026.

Public Chapter 617

SB 2024 - HB 1958

Employment Compensation

Amends Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1 to provide that any employee who leaves or is discharged from employment must be paid in full all wages earned no later than the next regular pay day, or 21 days following the date of termination, whichever occurs last. If an employee is paid on a commission basis, then compensation earned must be paid by last day of the succeeding month following the date of employment termination.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 772

SB 1922 – HB 1705

Government E-Verify Requirements

Amends Titles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 50.

Title 50, Chapter 1, Part 1 is amended by adding a new section to require the state, local governments, local education agencies (LEA), and other agencies of the state to verify work authorization using E-Verify. Requires government employers to keep records of the E-Verify inquiries of verified employees during their employment. The attorney general is authorized to investigate complaints of a local government or LEA who has violated this section. If the attorney general concludes that a local government or LEA has violated this section, then the state may withhold all funding.

Further amends 4-1-429(f)(2) to provide that “local government action” also means an alleged failure to comply with the E-Verify requirements provided above or another law relating to state law immigration enforcement or persons unlawfully present in this state. Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 849
SB 1981- HB 2179

Access to Employment Record

Amends Title 50, Chapter 1, Part 3 to add a new section that requires a public safety employer (“employer”) to grant an employee or prospective employee full access to their employment record, including mental health screenings. If a prospective employee is not hired due to the results of a mental health screening, the employer must grant access to the records and allow a prospective employee to submit the results of an alternative, equivalent mental health screening conducted at the prospective employee’s expense. The employer may evaluate the prospective employee based on the results of the alternate mental health screening.

An employee or prospective employee may bring a private cause of action against the employer for failure to grant access to their full employment record for declaratory or injunctive relief. If the employee or prospective employee prevails, the court shall award attorneys’ fees and costs.

Effective April 27, 2026.

Public Chapter 1083
SB 1713 – HB 1664

Discriminatory Preferences to Increase DEI

Amends Titles 4, 5, 6, 7, and 49 to require the executive head of state departments, counties, cities, and metropolitan governments to submit an annual attestation that the entity does not and will not use discriminatory preferences to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion to the comptroller by January 1, 2027 and by January 1 of each year thereafter. The attorney general may investigate any allegation(s) that an entity described above has used discriminatory preferences to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Effective May 22, 2026.

PURCHASING

Public Chapter 863
SB 2334 – HB 2407

Construction Projects Delivery Methods

Amends Title 12, Chapter 3, Part 12 to add a new section that provides a local government entity, may use any project delivery method that the local government entity determines most effectively meets the needs of

the local government for construction if the local government (1) has a full-time purchasing agent or full-time purchasing employee satisfactory to the comptroller; (2) has governmental revenue of \$150,000,000 for metropolitan governments and counties, or \$125,000,000 for cities and other local government entities, or is approved by the comptroller after a determination by the comptroller that it is in the best interest of the county, (3) uses the competitive proposal process and request for proposal to select the project delivery method, and (4) has rules or policies that authorize such competitive bid process.

“Competitive Proposal Process” means prior to issuing an RFP, the local government publicly discloses the evaluation criteria which is based on best value and the weight assigned to each criterion. Most of the criteria must be based on experience and qualifications, as compared to pricing considerations. The local government must disclose members of the selection committee, and all members must maintain conflict of interest disclosures. The local government must publish evaluation scores and written justification of the scores cast by each member. The local government must create a mechanism for a proposer to file a written protest of the selection decision that must be filed within seven days of the award. The local government must respond to the protest prior to executing a contract. All procurement documents are public records available upon request.

Defines construction manager at-risk, design-bid-build, design-build, qualified local project, and other terms relevant to this

Effective April 27, 2026.

RECORDS

Public Chapter 582
SB 1640 - HB 1552

Crime Victim Address Program

Amends Title 40, Chapter 38, Part 6 relative to the crime victim address confidentiality program. Adds that a sibling may be a co-applicant to the program. Prohibits participation by anyone required to register under the registry of persistent domestic violence

offenders. Removes provision requiring that an order of protection must be from a court within this state relative to program requirements for a substitute address.

Effective March 6, 2026.

Public Chapter 686
SB 1464 - HB 2506

Immigration and Law Enforcement

Amends numerous provisions relative to immigration and law enforcement related records.

Adds a new section in Title 7, Chapter 68 that provides that each local government entity and official shall maintain certain information relative to the operational enforcement of federal and state immigration laws as confidential. Provides the name of a federal, state, or local officer, agent, or official participating in federal immigration enforcement activities in this state shall be confidential when the name is accompanied by contact information, a residential address, or other personal identifying information of the officer, agent, or official. With certain exceptions, also provides that the name of a federal, state, or local officer, agent, or official participating in federal immigration enforcement activities in this state shall be confidential if: (i) The release would endanger the safety of the individual during an active or planned enforcement operation; (ii) The individual is currently serving in an undercover capacity; or (iii) A documented threat assessment by the supervising agency head, or a designee, demonstrates a specific, ongoing risk of harm.

With certain exceptions, makes confidential information related to specific future immigration enforcement operational activities, such as the date and time, location, logistics, or strategies of such activities.

Provides that violations are a Class E felony and subject the official to ouster.

Clarifies that the name of a law enforcement officer working undercover is confidential.

Makes criminal the release of any personal information of law enforcement made confidential per 10-7-504(g)

(personal information when the chief law enforcement officer determines there is a reason not to disclose).

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 711
SB 1970 - HB 1911

Non-citizen Record Request

Amends 10-7-503 to allow a person who is not a citizen to make a records request for a law enforcement record pertaining solely to that person.

Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Chapter 837
SB 1881 - HB 1640

Homeland Security Related Records

Amends 10-7-504 to make numerous records of the office of homeland security confidential. Makes confidential all homeland security records involving intelligence sharing and sensitive capabilities that are received from, produced for, or shared with a federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, or private-sector partner that are marked, designated, or accompanied by restrictions indicating the information is sensitive security information, homeland security information, or otherwise restricted from public release by the originating entity, to the extent disclosure would reveal security capabilities, analytical tradecraft, operational methods, or specific threat indicators.

Effective April 27, 2026.

PART II - PUBLIC ACTS OF LOCAL APPLICATION

SHELBY

Public Chapter 937
SB 846 – HB 1268

Violent Criminal Court Act

Amends 16-2-506 to provide that effective September 1, 2026, there are created in the thirtieth judicial district two (2) additional criminal courts to be designated as violent criminal courts. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as judge of each of the violent criminal courts, and each person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2028, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2028 general election, the qualified voters of the thirtieth

judicial district shall elect one (1) person to serve as judge of each violent criminal court. The person so elected at the August 2028 general election shall hold office until September 1, 2030, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, the judges of the violent criminal courts shall be elected for a full eight-year term. Provides that the presiding judge is directed to address caseload backlogs in the criminal courts by transferring cases involving criminal offenses set forth in 40-35-501(aa), (bb), and (cc) to the violent criminal courts for disposition.

Effective May 7, 2026.