



LWVTN End of Session Report

SB1/HB2 Independent dispute resolution procedures for emergency services, etc. -- surprise billing*

Establishes independent dispute resolution procedures for emergency services. Allows for greater billing transparency and notice.

Deferred to a summer study committee.

SB2/HB1560 Fair Elections Act

Changes appointment and composition of state and county election commissions. Transfers duties from the secretary of state to the coordinator of elections.

No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB3/HB971 Fair Maps Act

Creates various requirements for redistricting congressional and general assembly districts, including keeping together communities of interests and not unduly favoring or disfavoring political parties or communities.

Failed in Senate Judiciary committee.

SB18/HB561 Suspension of voting rights

Changes qualifications of voting rights to only disqualify those currently imprisoned or on parole for a judgement of infamy. Automatically restores voting rights upon release from confinement, probation, or parole.

No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB106/HB1158 Placement of absentee voting ballot boxes

Allows a county election commission to place absentee ballot boxes at locations within its jurisdiction in addition to county commission offices.

No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB135/HB197 Mediation – public records custodian and records requestor

Establishes a process for a records custodian to petition a court to enjoin a requestor whose intent is to disrupt governmental operations after the requestor has been provided certain notification.

Enacted as [Public Chapter 242](#) effective April 28, 2021.

SB152/HB174 Tennessee Cleaner Landscapes for the Economy, Agriculture, and Nature (CLEAN) Act

Establishes the Tennessee CLEAN Commission consisting of 13 members to create and implement a program to collect plastic, glass, and aluminum beverage containers. Requires commission to develop and implement a statewide litter prevention and collection program.

No actions taken this year during the session but last week the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) voted to do a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind study of Tennessee's litter problem.

SB249/HB209 Voting in municipal elections by property owners

Authorizes up to two members of an LLC that owns property in a municipality to vote in the municipality's elections.

Failed in the House Elections Subcommittee.

SB301/HB327 County commission – participation in meetings by electronic means*

Authorizes county commission members to participate electronically in meetings if member is out of town for work, dealing with a family or medical emergency, or has been called out for military service.

Passed through committees in both chambers but did not become law.

SB318/HB18 Open or concealed carrying of a firearm with the intent to go armed*

Creates exceptions to the offense of open or concealed carrying of a firearm with the intent to go armed for any person legally in possession of a firearm.

Taken off notice in the House after passing in two committees. Senate Judiciary deferred to first calendar of 2022.

SB383/HB1126 Redefines seclusion with regard to children in custody at juvenile detention facilities*

Redefines "seclusion" with regard to children in custody at juvenile detention facilities approved, certified, or licensed by the department of children's services. New definition: the involuntary segregation of a child from the rest of the resident population regardless of the reason for the segregation, including confinement to a locked unit or ward where other children may be seen or heard but are separated from the child. Limits the time of seclusion to no more than 6 total hours per 24-hour period.

Enacted as [Public Chapter 492](#), effective May 25, 2021.

SB419/HB722 Candidate who is a family member of the county election commissioner

Prohibits a county election commissioner from voting on issues that directly affect the commissioner's immediate family member who is on the ballot for public office. Requires county election commissioner to be recused from official duties 30 days prior to an election if immediate family member of the commissioner is a candidate for office in that county. Specifies that the county election commissioner who is recused is to be reinstated to the office after the election in question is certified.

Enacted as [Public Chapter 292](#) effective July 1, 2021.

SB455/HB535 Charter schools contracting with for-profits organizations*

A charter school may contract for management with a for-profit entity.
Passed some committees but did not pass this year.

SB508/HB509 Electronic participation by utilities board members*

Establishes that utility governing bodies may meet virtually. These groups include utility districts, water, wastewater, energy and natural gas authorities and boards of public utility.
Passed a subcommittee but did not ultimately pass.

SB623/HB580 Critical race theory banned

Makes various changes to education laws including a last minute amendment to prohibit the teaching of “critical race theory”.
Enacted as [Public Chapter 493](#), effective May 25, 2021.

SB647/HB1393 Restoration of suffrage with a plan to pay restitution

Allows persons to be eligible to apply for a voter registration card and have their right to vote restored if they have agreed on a plan to pay the full amount of required restitution in installments and are current on payments. If they willfully fail to adhere to this payment plan and are more than 180 days behind, the right to vote may again be revoked.
Failed in Senate Judiciary committee.

SB684/HB896 Restoration of voting rights – payment plan for child support obligations

Allows person who has lost the right to vote due to not being current on child support obligations to regain that right by entering into a payment plan to become current . If the individual does not adhere to the payment plan's terms, suffrage rights may be revoked.
Deferred to summer study.

SB685/HB429 Oversight committee for inclusion of African American history

Creates a state oversight committee for the inclusion of African American history to ensure that the standards are accurate and consistently applied.
No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB751/HB142 DHS bill dealing with funding and not accumulating surplus reserves.

Deals with benefits and programs including community grants, opportunity pilot programs, increases in monthly grants and lifetime benefits. Provides funding for some contracts with nonprofit groups. Governor’s bill.
Enacted as [Public Chapter 515](#), effective July 1, 2021.

SB765/HB786 Handgun carry permits and offenses involving handguns*

Detailed bill allows the carrying of firearm if person meets qualifications for enhanced handgun carry permit, lawfully possesses handgun and is in a place where they have a right to be. Must be 21 (18 if member of armed services). Some exceptions.
Enacted [as Public Chapter 108](#), effective July 1, 2021.

SB800/HB1178 Reporting regarding use of convenient voting centers

Expands, somewhat, the amount of counties able to use convenient voting centers and the date that they may be used until.

Enacted as [Public Chapter 419](#), effective May 12, 2021.

SB818/HB1447 County election commission – voter website*

Requires each county election commission to maintain a website to provide voter information to residents of the county.

Deferred to 2022 in both the House and the Senate.

SB835/HB1251 Transmitting an application to vote absentee*

Prohibits a county election commission from sending an absentee voting application without a written request from a voter. Provides exemptions for voters on the permanent absentee voting register.

No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB843/HB513 Penalty for obstructing a highway*

Makes it a felony to obstruct a highway while protesting or injuring someone while throwing an object. Grants immunity to drivers who unintentionally hit someone engaging in these acts.

Passed the House, deferred to first calendar of 2022 in Senate.

SB868/HB1130 New court of special appeals created to hear constitutional challenges*

Create the court of special appeals of Tennessee, which will be composed of three judges, one from each grand division of the state and will hear civil actions that challenge the constitutionality of a state statute, executive order, administrative rule.

Enacted as [Public Chapter 566](#), effective July 1, 2021.

SB914/HB1020 LEAs providing voter registration to students who are 18 years of age*

Requires LEAs to provide each enrolled student who will be 18 years old on or before the date of an election with info on voter registration by mail, email, or hand delivery.

Failed in the Senate, deferred in the House until February 2022.

SB915/HB1072 Appeal stays any injunction of chancery court orders (read voting rights)

In an action brought against the state, department, agency, or government official in Tennessee, the state may appeal as of right from an order of a circuit or chancery court. An appeal stays any injunction issued pending the outcome of the appeal.

Enacted as [Public Chapter 564](#), effective July 1, 2021.

SB947/HB1324 College ID used for purposes of voter identification at a polling place

Allows for student IDs issued by accredited colleges and universities to be used for voter identification at polling places.

Failed in House Elections subcommittee.

SB957/HB1557 Tennessee Independent Redistricting Commission Act

Establishes the Tennessee Independent Redistricting Commission, along with regulations and membership requirements. Requires creation of a redistricting plan for the state that ensures minimal population variance between districts and maintains geographic continuity. Prohibits use of voting history or political affiliation as a factor when making these plans.
No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB968/HB1165 Creates the Tennessee African American historical commission

Establishes commission and process for membership and establishes the position of state historian for African American history and a fund for acquiring properties.
Passed House subcommittee but did not become law.

SB1101/HB1460 Establishes age-appropriate instruction to public school students on Black history and culture*

Requires instruction on Black history and culture in fifth and eighth grades.
Deferred to summer study in the House.

SB1162/HB1239 Voter fingerprinting

Allows state and county elections commission to use technology to identify voter's fingerprints to conduct elections. Requires state agencies with fingerprint databases, to collaborate with the Secretary of State to make this happen.
No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB1163/HB1229 Review of executive orders of the president of the United States

Authorizes the joint government operations committee of the general assembly to review any executive orders put in place by the United States president to determine if the order falls outside the scope of federal authority.
No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB1273/HB1098 Voting in nursing homes*

Allows person who lives in an independent living facility that is on the same property as a licensed nursing home, assisted care living facility, or home for the aged to vote by absentee ballot when the county election commission conducts an election on the premises.
Enacted as [Public Chapter 233](#), effective April 22, 2021.

SB1315/HB1276 Tennessee Election Integrity Act

Require that absentee ballots, other than ballots authorized by state or federal law to be delivered electronically to qualified voters who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot, include a watermark approved by the coordinator of elections as an extra safety measure.
Enacted as [Public Chapter 374](#), effective January 1, 2022.

SB1342/HB1280 Shelby and Davison – Nonpartisan county elections

Requires all elections for legislative bodies, judicial offices and offices elected in countywide elections in 2 counties, Shelby and Davidson County to be nonpartisan.
Failed in House subcommittee.

SB1363/HB1436 Establishment of a three-judge panel for redistricting challenges*

Establishes a three-judge panel to hear challenges of state or congressional redistricting actions. Establishes membership and procedural requirements for the panel. Applicable actions can be heard in any chancery court in the state (instead of just Davidson County).
House passed. Taken off notice in the Senate without passing any committees.

SB1412/HB1579 Policies regarding pregnant inmates and those who have recently given birth*

Bans the use of physical restraints while in labor and requires the use of least restrictive restraints necessary for any pregnant inmate. Requires correctional facility to provide necessary tools for breast feeding. Bans solitary confinement for pregnant inmates and inmates who have recently given birth.
Deferred to first calendar of 2022 in the House. Taken off notice in the Senate.

SB1413/HB805 Deletes provisions on offenses relating to absentee ballot applications*

Removes criminal charges for non-employees of the election commissions giving out absentee ballot applications or application requests.
Taken off notice in House and Senate. Could be discussed next year but unlikely to pass.

SB1458/HB1087 Requirements for passage of a congressional redistricting plan

Requires the general assembly's passage of a plan for congressional redistricting to comply with applicable judicial decisions and mandates of the state and federal constitutions.
No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB1459/HB1583 Legislative redistricting – updates census references

Updates references from the 2010 census to the 2020 census for the purpose of redistricting.
Deferred to first calendar of 2022 in the House.

SB1461/HB1004 Voter registration at high schools

Increases the number of supplemental voter registrations that county election commissions are required to hold at every public and private high school from one annually to one per semester.
No actions taken this year beyond filing.

SB1478/HB933 Removes Nathan Bedford Forrest Day as a day of special observance

Removes Nathan Bedford Forrest Day as a day of special observance.
Failed in House committee.

SB1541/HB1429 Automatic voter registration based on driver's license or photo identification applications

Requires the department of safety to obtain the information required to register a voter through applications for the issuance or renewal of a driver's license or photo identification license and send the information to the appropriate county election commission.
Deferred to first calendar of 2022 in both the House and the Senate.

SB1593/HB1120 Review of executive orders issued by the President of the United States

Authorizes the joint government operations committee of the general assembly to review any executive orders put in place by the United States president.
Passed House but taken off notice in the Senate.

SJR25 Authorizes the governor to implement the TennCare III demonstration waiver

Authorizes the Governor to implement the TennCare block grant.
Passed in the House and the Senate. Signed by the Governor.

SR21/HR23 Removes Ellen Hobbs Lyle from the office of Chancellor of the Twentieth Judicial District*

Calls for a joint committee between the House and the Senate to consider the removal of Ellen Hobbs Lyle from the office of Chancellor of the Twentieth Judicial District by the Tennessee General Assembly.
Failed in House Civil Justice committee.