




Legislative Updates  
and Cool Stuff  
from John & Laura

MCC Spring 2026



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Quick update on Reinstatement documents



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## Refresher on Payment Plan Compliance



If you default on a payment plan, city court clerk reports default to Safety.



Safety sends letter to driver, "Hey, you have 30 days to pay the court or your driver's license will be suspended."



Either the person pays on time and keeps his license, or he doesn't and he gets suspended.



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## Refresher on Payment Plan Compliance

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If a court clerk uses paper, court issues documentation to show proof of compliance and gives to driver.

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Driver then goes to local DMV office or online and applies for reinstatement / restricted license

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Courts can also use electronic portal to report compliance without paper.



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## New-ish – Certification of Court Action Reports



Department of Safety now requires court clerks to certify Court Action Reports as authentic.



Prevents fraud from drivers.



Certification can be a stamp showing the name of the city court, seal, or embossed press.



Needs to be visible if submitted online.

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## Court Action Report showing compliance



### COURT ACTION REPORT



DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY USE ONLY  
 TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY IN BLACK INK. DO NOT WRITE IN SHADED AREAS.

<b>DEFENDANT</b>	NAME: FIRST		MIDDLE		LAST		RACE	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH: mm/dd/yyyy	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
	ADDRESS (NO., STREET, APT, OR RT. AND PO BOX NO.)						CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE
	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER:	CLASS	STATE	LIC. PLATE NO.	STATE	YR	VEH YR	VEH MAKE	VEH MODEL	
	ASSIGNED NO. HISTORY ONLY	COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEH <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		HAZARDOUS MATERIALS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		CDL <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

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# Show compliance

VIO. DATE	COUNTY	CODE	STREET/HIGHWAY	AGENCY
<b>1</b>	CITATION NO.	DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION	SPEED MPH	ZONE
OTHER COURT ORDERED RESTRICTIONS			DUI OFFENSE	1ST 2ND 3RD
HEARING DATE	COURT DOCKET NO.	CASE DISPOSITION: (CHECK ONLY THE ONE APPROPRIATE BOX)		
TRAFFIC SCHOOL	DATE COMPLETED	<input type="checkbox"/> GUILTY AS CHARGED	<input type="checkbox"/> REDUCED - GUILTY OF	(LIST CONVICTION)
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> DISMISSED	<input type="checkbox"/> FAILED TO APPEAR - INITIATE SUSPENSION	DEFAULTED ON T.C.A. 55-50-902(b)-COMPLIANT PAYMENT PLAN TO PAY FINES/COSTS AFTER CONVICTION - INITIATE SUSPENSION; DEFAULT DATE <input type="checkbox"/> SENT IN ERROR
REMARKS <b>Mr. Smith paid \$50 under the payment plan and is eligible for reinstatement.</b>				
FINE	COSTS	OTHER	TOTAL ASSESSED	PAID IN FULL
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
VIO. CODE	BAT CODE	FTA CODE	FINE CODE	LIC. SURR CODE
				<input type="checkbox"/> PAYMENT PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> WAIVED/INDIGENT
				REVOKE/SUSPEND
				TN LICENSE SEIZED
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				BEGIN ELIGIBLE

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FINE	COSTS	OTHER	TOTAL ASSESSED	PAID IN FULL	PAYMENT PLAN	WAIVED/INDIGENT	TN LICENSE SEIZED
VIO. CODE	BAT CODE	FTA CODE	FINE CODE	LIC. SURR CODE	REVOKE/SUSPEND	BEGIN	ELIGIBLE
NAME OF COURT City of Kingston Municipal Court				CORRECTED/AMENDED ABSTRACT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, EXPLAIN CORRECTION BELOW			
COURT MAILING ADDRESS 300 Waterford Place				STAPLE COPY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SUBMITTED.			
CITY Kingston	STATE TN	ZIP CODE 37763	Was submitted as an FTA. Has not been to court yet. Sent in error.				
COURT ID NO. 73022	TELEPHONE NUMBER (AREA CODE) 865	376-2081	The driver contacted court on 11/25/25 and rescheduled court date.				
THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ABSTRACT		<input type="checkbox"/> CITATION SATISFIED 392	<input type="checkbox"/> FINES & COSTS ON MANDATORY PAID 2				
JUDGE/CLERK SIGNATURE		REPORT DATE 1/28/2026	JUDGE/CLERK SIGNATURE		WITHDRAWN DATE 01/28/26		

Stamp naming court or police department

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## Embossing thing city recorders love





## New Legislation – Let's dive in







## SB 1473 – Judges can order property cleanup



- ” Deals with property maintenance citations in court
-  Judge finds person guilty
-  Owner has 30 days to remedy the violations
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## SB 1473 – Judges can order property cleanup

- ” Deals with property maintenance citations in court
-  Judge finds person guilty
-  Owner has 30 days to remedy the violations
-  If owner fails to remedy, judge may order the city to remedy the violation at “cost in conformity with reasonable standards”
-  City then places costs of clean up as a lien on the property.

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## SB 1473 – Benefits



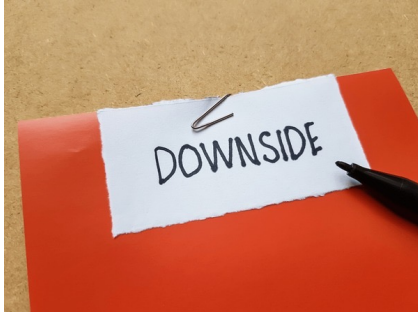
Previously, only remedy was money.

Now, judges can order the city do to the clean up.

This allows direct action in addition to the Property Abatement and Slum Clearance Act

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## SB 1473 - Downsides



The lien does not appear to take any special priority like the Slum Clearance Act or Property Abatement laws.

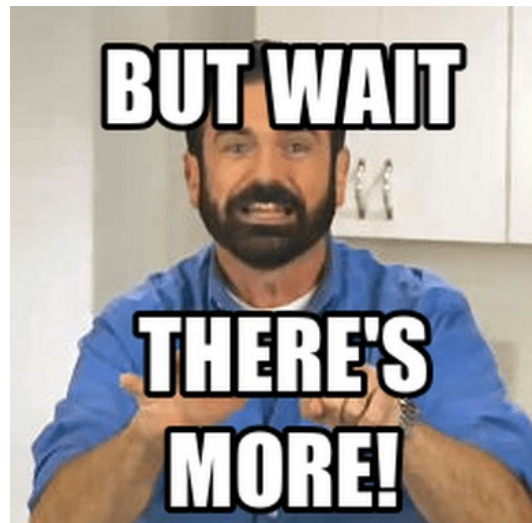
This lien does not go on the property tax.

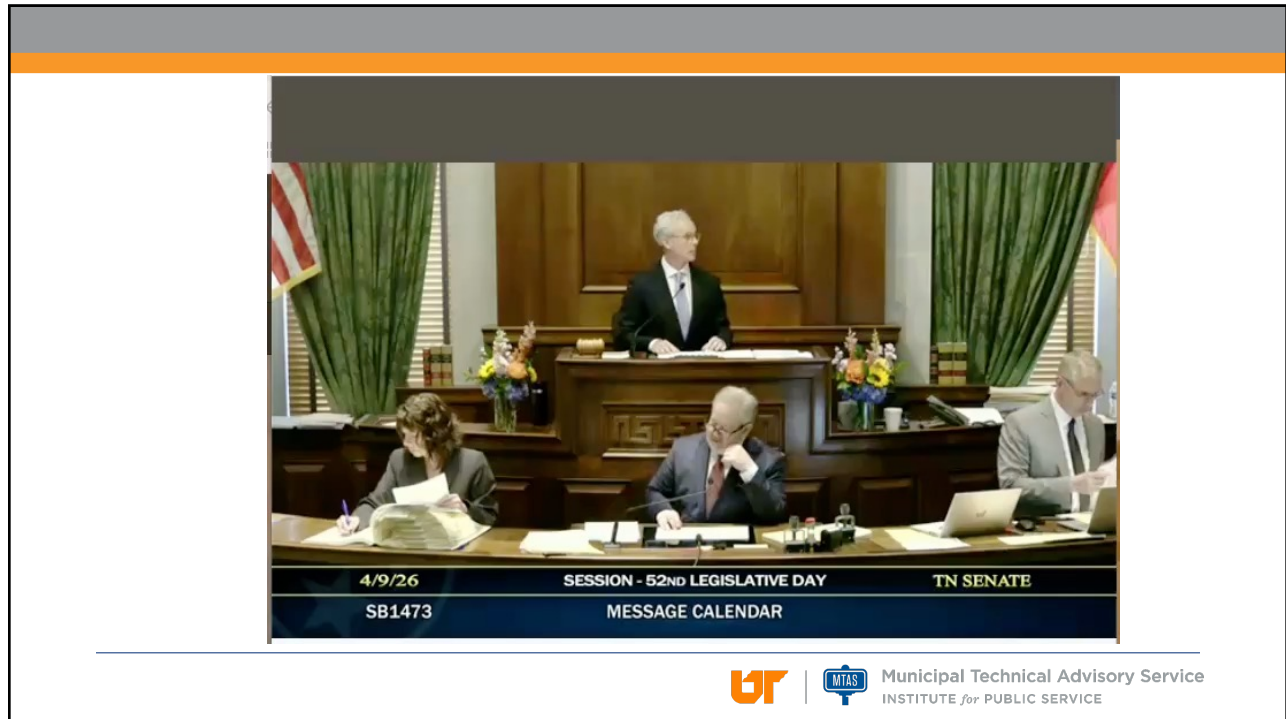
City may not have enough money to tear down structures.

Judge will need to have excellent communication with the city to not order more clean ups than budgeted.

## Amendment 1 to HB 2034

April 9, 2026





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## Final Language – Judges can order clean up

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Judge convicts someone of property maintenance code violation (*like normal*)

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Judge can order the property owner to clean it up (*judges can do this now, but no real enforcement*)

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If no clean up within 30 days, municipality may do the clean up (*new*)

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City shall not clean up if city determines cost “negatively impacts the city financially or budgetarily prohibitive.” (*new*)



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City can do lien, or seek to collect through any other means (like collections agency, lawsuit, wage garnishment, etc.)

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## Final takeaways on HB 2034



-  Law allows city to use the city court judgment to clean up the property.
-  No longer solely dependent on property abatement and Slum Clearance Act to take action to enter property and clean up.
-  City has the discretion on whether to remediate based on cost, so a judge cannot break a city's budget.
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## Final takeaways on HB 2034

-  Law allows city to use the city court judgment to clean up the property.
-  No longer solely dependent on property abatement and Slum Clearance Act to take action to enter property and clean up.
-  City has the discretion on whether to remediate based on cost, so a judge cannot break a city's budget.
-  Still collect through liens (but no special priority liens like SCA).
-  Collect through any other lawful mechanisms.

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## Next Up! – Tiered Civil Penalties



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## SB 1668– Tiered system of money penalties for repeated ordinance violations

“A municipality may, by ordinance, adopt a tiered system of monetary penalties for repeated violations of the same municipal ordinance by the same person or entity within a 12 month period.”

Applies to all types of city charters.

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CHAIRMAN  
RICHARD BRIGGS

1ST VICE CHAIRMAN  
PAGE WALLEY

3/25/26 STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE TN SENATE  
SB1668 REGULAR CALENDAR

Senate State and Local Government Committee

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## But...what about the \$50 Constitutional limit?

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## Is this Administrative or Judicial?

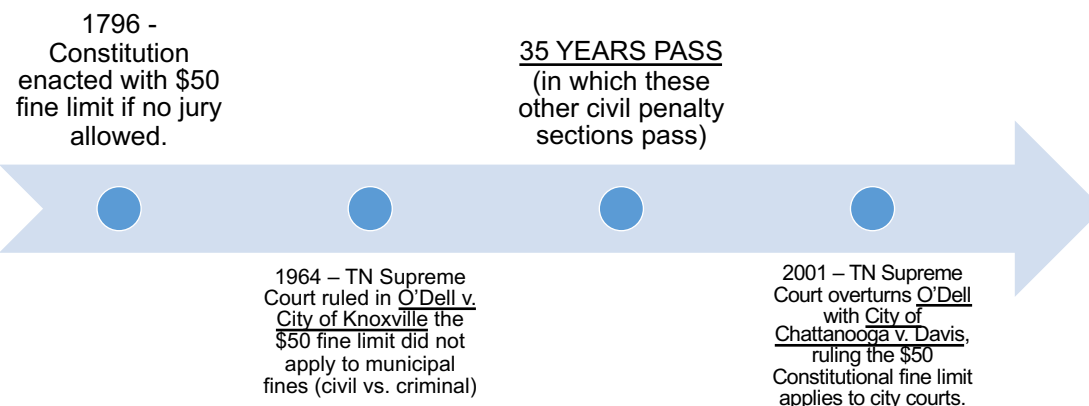
Bill sponsor used words “fine” and “judges” and “courts”

But the bill uses the phrase “monetary penalties”

Some programs like the Administrative Hearing Officer programs can exceed \$50 because they are not judicial in nature.

What type of program or officer will assess these tiered fines if they exceed \$50?

## Quick history lesson



# Let's take a closer look at the old statute

Proposed Legislation

T. C. A. § 6-54-308

**§ 6-54-308. Non-home rule municipalities; ordinances not regulating moving traffic; increased monetary penalties for violation**

Currentness

(a) Except as provided in § 6-54-306 for home rule municipalities, the legislative body of any other municipality may establish a monetary penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for each violation of an ordinance of such municipality.

(b) The authority for increased monetary penalties for ordinance violations provided by this section does not apply to ordinances regulating all moving traffic violations.

**Credits**  
1993 Pub.Acts, c. 393, § 1, eff. May 19, 1993.

1993, during that 35-year timeline Supreme Court said \$50 limit not apply to city courts.



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# Title 6 – Cities and Towns

**Title 6. Cities and Towns (§ 6-1-101 to § 6-59-107)**

[Add to Favorites](#) | [Copy link](#)



Includes current version of the Tennessee statutes, constitution, & court rules. Tennessee statutes cont. Table of Contents below or search above.

**Effective Date:** 04/10/2026

Effective date versioning not available for certain content such as court rules and Federal Sentencing G


Select all content • No items selected • Clear Selection • Expand All

- Mayor-Aldermanic Charter (§ 6-1-101 to § 6-4-402)
- City Manager-Commission Charter (§ 6-18-101 to § 6-23-113)
- Modified City Manager-Council Charter (§ 6-30-101 to § 6-36-118)
- Municipal Government Generally (§ 6-51-101 to § 6-59-107)





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# Chapter 54 – Municipal Powers Generally

- Municipal Government Generally (§ 6-51-101 to § 6-59-107)
  - Chapter 51. Change of Municipal Boundaries (§ 6-51-101 to § 6-51-410)
  - Chapter 52. Dissolution and Liquidation of Affairs (§ 6-52-101 to § 6-52-304)
  - Chapter 53. Municipal Elections (§ 6-53-101 to § 6-53-111)
  - Chapter 54. Municipal Powers Generally (§ 6-54-101 to § 6-54-1018) 
  - Chapter 55. Licensing and Taxing Powers (§ 6-55-101 to § 6-55-605)
  - Chapter 56. Fiscal Affairs (§ 6-56-101 to § 6-56-408)











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# Sections 306 & 308 – Based on charter type

- Part 3—Police Authority and Penalties for Violations (§ 6-54-301 to § 6-54-308)
  - § 6-54-301. Extension Beyond Corporate Limits 
  - § 6-54-302. Warrants; Service Within County 
  - § 6-54-303. Municipal Court Judgments; Execution Within County 
  - § 6-54-304. Fines and Costs; Remittance to County and State 
  - § 6-54-305. Nonmoving Traffic Violations; Service by Mail  
  -  § 6-54-306. Home Rule Municipalities; Maximum Penalties 
  - § 6-54-307. Contracts and Mutual Aid Agreements 
  -  § 6-54-308. Non-Home Rule Municipalities; Ordinances Not Regulating Moving Traffic; Increased Monetary Penalties for Violation

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## Takeaway on HB 1667 / SB 1668

MTAS does not believe a municipal judge can assess a civil penalty as described above \$50.

Constitution limits municipal judicial actions to \$50

This would have to be administrative proceedings, but we don't know who would hear that.

But the Administrative Hearing Officer program unchanged (TCA 6-54-1001 et. seq.)



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## Next up...Electric Bikes!



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## SB1782/HB1712

**Authorize a local government to regulate or prohibit the operation of a class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle on any part of a street or highway where bicycles are authorized to travel within its jurisdiction.**

**Further, this legislation authorizes a state agency having jurisdiction over any part of a street or highway where bicycles are authorized to travel to regulate or prohibit the operation of a class 1 or class 2 electric bicycle on that part of the street or highway.**



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## SB1782/HB1712 (cont.)

**It also clarifies that a class 3 electric bicycle is prohibited from operating on any part of a path or trail where bicycles are authorized to travel unless**

- (i) the bicycle lane, shoulder or berm, or path or trail is within or adjacent to the street, highway, or state highway; or**
- (ii) the governing body of the local government in which that bicycle lane, shoulder or berm, or path or trail is located or a state agency with jurisdiction permits its operation.**



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## SB2596/HB2267 – UTV for Ag Use

Exempts utility terrain vehicles being operated for agricultural purposes from the restriction that such vehicles are authorized to operate only on certain state highways and county roads with a speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less



## Hands free law change



## New \$5 admin fee for Hands Free

TCA 55-8-199(c)(5) was added effective January 1, 2026.

(5) In addition to any other fine or fee, a person **violating** this section is subject to a five dollar (\$5.00) administrative fee to be **retained by the court clerk**.

Collect this \$5 admin fee with \$10 court costs.

Total ticket convicted = \$65;

Dismissed with costs = \$15



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## Failed –Hands Free regular court costs bill

HB 1555 wanted to remove the statutory cap of \$10 court costs on Hands Free violations, TCA 55-8-199.

This would allow cities to assess full court costs for hands free.

Passed committees and Senate easily.

Failed spectacularly in the House with no discussion.



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## SB2443/HB2474

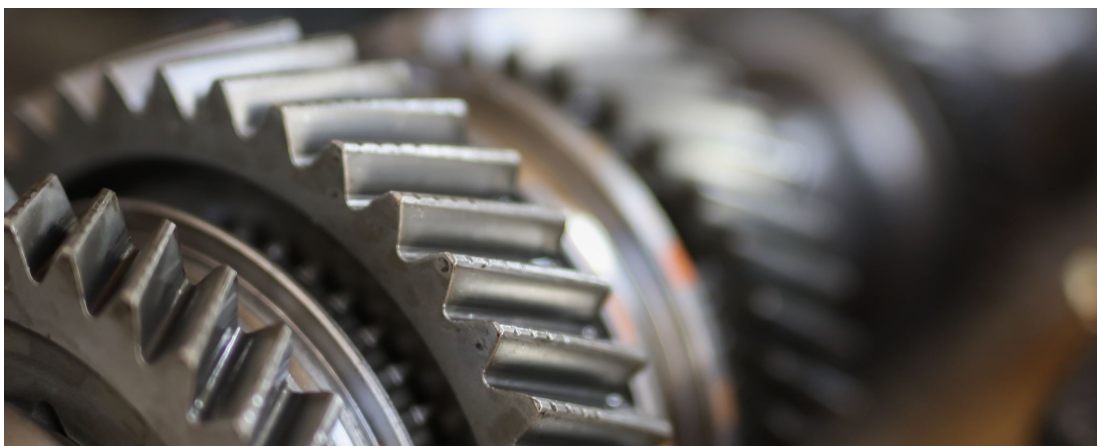
Limits the use of unmanned traffic cameras that are authorized within the designated distance of a marked school zone to those times when a warning flasher or flashers are in operation or during times when children are present.



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## Shifting Gears – Traffic School & Points



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## SB 2114 / HB 1891- Traffic School & Points

Allows a person who submits the fine and costs for a speeding ticket in lieu of appearing in court to also register for an approved driver education course online, of which successful completion can cause points for the speeding conviction to be removed from the person's record in accordance with current law.



## Quick history lesson for traffic school

For a **driver to avoid a conviction by attending traffic school**, a person typically must show up in court, and the judge award traffic school.

This avoids a conviction (if complete traffic school), and often just pays court costs and traffic school fee (if taught in-house).

Traffic school reported to Department of Safety, no points on license.

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## More history – TCA 55-8-207 eff. 2022.

TCA 55-8-207 was passed in 2022. Only deals with speeding.

Person convicted of speeding **after appearing in court**.

Speeding conviction reported to Safety.

Driver can attend a DOSHS approved traffic school to have up to five points removed.

Conviction remained, but points fell off.

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## New law = Guilty plea required, but not in person

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-207(f), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and adding the following as a new subdivision (2):

Only for  
Speeding

(2) In addition to the submission of the fine and costs in lieu of appearing in court, a person who is charged with speeding may register for a department-approved driver education course. Department-approved driver education courses must be made available online via the department's website. In accordance with § 55-8-207, if the person successfully completes the course within ninety (90) days of the conviction the person shall have the points charged to the person's driving record for the speeding conviction removed; provided, that five (5) points is the maximum number of points that may be removed from the person's driving record. A provider of a department-approved



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## Final thoughts on SB 2114

- Allows a person to plea guilty to speeding without being present in court.
- Person pays fines and costs.
- Person may complete DOSHS approved traffic school within 90 days of conviction.
- Traffic school submits list of completions directly to Safety within 30 days.
- Traffic school tells the person of the process for removal of points.



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## Final thoughts on SB 2114

Conviction still on record, just points fall off.

Ultimately, removes the requirement to be in person to receive benefits of TCA 55-8-207.

Driver or traffic school submits certificate to DOSHS, not the court.

## DOSHS website for points removal

<https://www.tn.gov/safety/driver-services/helpful-information/traffic-school.html>

Again, only for speeding convictions.

### How to remove points 4-hour traffic school

#### Remove Speeding Points

Tennessee drivers may be eligible to remove points for a speeding conviction from their driving record by taking an approved Driver Education Course. Only the points will be removed, the conviction will remain.

You may be eligible to remove up to **five (5) points** for a speeding conviction from your driving record by taking an approved Driver Education Course. The **4-hour course** must be completed within **ninety (90) days** from the date of your speeding conviction. Only the points will be removed, the conviction will remain. This may be **applied to only one (1) speeding conviction in a four-year period.**

## Drivers Submitting Certificates of Completion

### Submitting your Certificate of Completion

Upload on e-Services

**Mail To:**

Financial Responsibility Division  
P.O. Box 945  
Nashville, TN 37202-0945



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## And now Laura will talk to us about guns!



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# LIMITATIONS ON GUNS IN BUILDINGS WHERE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS ARE IN PROGRESS

Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306




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“No person shall intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly” carry a firearm “while inside any building in which judicial proceedings are in progress.”  
Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(a) .



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**VIOLATION  
=  
CLASS E FELONY**

Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(b)

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**ONLY FIVE EXCEPTIONS**

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## Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(c)(1)

1

If the person

(1) “[i]s in the actual discharge of official duties as a law enforcement officer”

(2) “is employed in the army, air force, coast guard or marine service of the United States or any member of Tennessee national guard in the line of duty and pursuant to military regulations”



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## Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(c)(1) (cont.)

If the person “[i]s in the actual discharge of official duties”

(3) as “a guard employed by a penal institution”

(4) as “a bailiff, marshal or other court officer who has responsibility for protecting persons or property or providing security”



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## Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(c)(2)

2

If the person

“[h]as been directed by a court to bring the firearm for purposes of providing evidence”



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## Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(c)(3)

3

If the person “[i]s in the actual discharge of official duties as a judge,” **and**

(1) “Is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351”

(2) “Keeps the handgun concealed at all times when in the discharge of such duties” **and**

(3) “Is vested with judicial powers under § 16-1-101”



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## Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(c)(4)

4

If the person “[i]s in the actual discharge of official duties as an elected official of any county or municipality,” **and**

(1) “Is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351” **and**

(2) “Is not in the room in which judicial proceedings are in progress”

## Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1306(c)(5)

5

If the person “[i]s in the actual discharge of official duties as the county attorney of any county in this state,” **and**


(1) “Is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351” **and**

(2) “Is not in the room in which judicial proceedings are in progress”

WRAPPING UP:

2 IMPORTANT RECENT CASES

- *City of Milan v. Agee*  
Who pays for the local D.A. in municipal courts that exercise concurrent general sessions court jurisdiction?
- *McNabb v. Harrison*  
Where must a person reside in order to be a candidate for an elected municipal judge position?



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Questions?



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## John Eskew – Municipal Court Specialist

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