



Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

# **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ACTS 2025**

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## **WARNING**

Users of this publication are cautioned that much judgement is involved in determining which Public Acts to summarize and how to summarize them. Before taking action or giving advice based upon any Public Act summarized here, one should consult the Act itself and not rely on the summary.

## **Alcohol:**

**P.C. 61 (SB320/HB823)** lowers the county population threshold, from in excess of 500,000 to in excess of 350,000, for a sports authority facility to be eligible to obtain a liquor-by-the-drink license; prohibits a facility located in Hamilton County from being issued a license after March 1, 2030, and requires the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over a facility located in Hamilton County to provide an annual report to the general assembly detailing any public safety issues related to the facility.

Effective March 25, 2025.

**P.C. 358 (Sb111/HB142)** authorizes a licensee that holds more than a 50 percent ownership interest in a manufacturer and a winery that are located on the same deeded property to offer product tastings and make retail sales for consumption on or off of such premises of its wine or spirits manufactured on such deeded property at a location on the overlapping premises other than on the bonded premises of the manufacturer or winery.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 477 (SB1072/HB160)** exempts the sale of wine for consumption on the premises of a winery or farm wine producer, including the premises of a satellite facility, including tastings and sealed bottles sold at retail for consumption on the premises, from the liquor-by-the-drink tax on alcoholic beverages. Such sales are still subject to sales tax.

Effective July 1, 2025.

## **Codes:**

**P.C. 149 (SB1194/HB801)** clarifies that, as of July 1, 2025, the roof solar reflectance and thermal emittance requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code for low-sloped roofs do not apply to the 2021 International

Code Council adoption; authorizes the state fire marshal to promulgate rules to that effect.

Effective April 3, 2025.

**P.C. 315 (SB346/HB453)** changes present law concerning the frequency of fire drills in educational occupancies to require that fire drills requiring full evacuation in educational occupancies where such occupancies constitute the major occupancy of a building must be conducted no more than once every 30 school days. The only time the legislation requires more than one drill requiring full evacuation to occur more than once in 30 days in the first 30 school days of a school year. This legislation maintains the present law requirement that four fire safety educational announcements must be conducted throughout the school year.

Effective May 2, 2025.

**P.C. 440 (SB773/HB735)** creates a vested property right upon the submission, rather than the approval, of a development plan or building permit; specifies that the vesting period applicable when it is based on the submission of a building permit is three years. Allows Boards of Zoning Appeals to delegate initial jurisdiction over special exemptions to administrative staff. This must be done by ordinance.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 465 (SB1313/HB1326)** creates a vested property right upon the submission, rather than the approval, of a development plan or building permit; specifies that the vesting period applicable when it is based on the submission of a building permit is three years. The legislation also adds that a vested property right is not established unless the plan or permit substantially complies with the requirements of local development ordinances and regulations. If the local government does not establish what is required for substantial compliance, then the property right automatically vests. The legislation also allows Boards of Zoning Appeals to delegate initial jurisdiction

over special exemptions to administrative staff. This must be done by ordinance.

Effective July 1, 2025.

### **Courts:**

**P.C. 459 (SB1089/HB748)** increases from \$1.00 to \$2.00 the amount of funds from the court costs collected in municipal court cases that must be forwarded by the municipal court clerk to the state treasurer for deposit and credited to the account for the administrative office of the courts for the sole purpose of defraying the administrative director's expenses in providing training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 481 (SB300/HB371)** requires a person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor in general sessions court to complete a cognitive behavioral training course unless the court deems such a requirement to be inappropriate. The legislation details what must be included in such a course.

Effective July 1, 2025

**P.C. 486 (SB409/HB487)** makes changes to the fee schedule for court clerks including General Sessions Courts.

Effective January 1, 2026.

**P.C.519 (SB963/HB1177)** extends the period for which a defendant who has been found incompetent must have their charges retired from 11 months and 29 days to 2 years. If the defendant is restored to competency within that time period, then the charges will not be retired. If a defendant whose charges have been retired is going to be released into the community the chief officer of the facility must notify the court of the discharge and provide the court and

sheriff with an outpatient treatment plan that accounts for the safety of the community.

Effective July 1, 2025.

### **Criminal Offenses:**

**P.C. 77 (SB215/HB72)** establishes mandatory minimum penalties of 48 hours in jail and a \$500 fine for a person convicted of knowingly selling or distributing a product containing a hemp-derived cannabinoid to a person who is under 21; prohibits a retailer from knowingly allowing an employee younger than 21 to access, handle, or sell any product containing a hemp-derived cannabinoid on the premises of the retail establishment.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 88 (SB492/HB191)** creates a Class B misdemeanor for knowingly activating and pointing a laser pointer or other device utilizing a laser beam at a person driving an automobile, boat, aircraft, or any other motor vehicle.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C.117 (SB704/HB786)** creates the Class B misdemeanor offenses of criminal impersonation of a transportation network company driver and criminal impersonation of a private passenger-for-hire vehicle driver. The penalty for criminal impersonation of a transportation network company driver can be increased to a Class E felony if that act occurs during the commission of a separate felony offense.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 128 (SB1290/HB113)** makes permanent the exclusion of narcotic testing equipment used to determine whether a controlled substance contains a synthetic opioid, unless the narcotic testing equipment is possessed for purposes of the commission of a drug offense, from the definition of drug paraphernalia; removes the July 1, 2025, repeal date for that exclusion.

Effective April 3, 2025.

**P.C. 158 (SB248/HB302)** creates the offense of an occupant of a vehicle parking, leaving standing, or stopping the vehicle on a street or highway and blocking or impeding the normal movement of traffic for the purpose of soliciting, negotiating, or consummating an employment transaction with a person standing on or in proximity to the street or highway. The offense is punishable by a Class C Misdemeanor, and if the stopped vehicle contributes to an accident it is punishable by a Class B Misdemeanor.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 231 (SB940/HB995)** expands the immunity from prosecution for certain crimes when seeking medical assistance for a person experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, an overdose to include alcohol-related offenses. Also clarifies that overdose includes both drugs and alcohol.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 257 (SB741/HB769)** creates a criminal offense of possessing, distributing, or producing technology, software, or digital tools designed for the purpose of creating material that includes a minor engaged in sexual activity or simulated sexual activity that is patently offensive. The legislation establishes relevant factors to be considered in determining whether artificial technology, software, or digital tools are used or possessed with intent to create material that includes a minor engaged in sexual activity or simulated sexual activity that is patently offensive. Examples of those factors include but are not limited to expert testimony, statements of the defendant, and instructions provided with the technology.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 288 (SB1086/HB749)** creates the Class B misdemeanor offense of operating a motor vehicle in this state with an invalid driver license; designates out-of-state driver licenses issued exclusively to illegal aliens as invalid driver licenses in this state.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 522 (SB1296/HB1314)** creates the criminal offenses of threatening to commit an act of mass violence and posting on a publicly accessible website the telephone number or home address of an individual with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the individual's family or household.

Effective July 1, 2025.

### **Education:**

**P.C. 95 (SB683/HB832)** authorizes a local education agency to implement the law enforcement against drugs and violence (L.E.A.D.) program in schools operated by the LEA; authorizes an LEA's implementation of the L.E.A.D. program to be in lieu of the DARE program.

Effective March 28, 2025.

**P.C. 103 (SB897/HB932)** requires local school boards and public charter school governing bodies to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that prohibits a student from using such devices during instructional time. The legislation allows a teacher to withhold a student's device for violations of the policy. There exceptions that must be included in the policy that include but are not limited to emergencies, the device being used for educational purposes, or if it is a part of a student's 504 or individual learning plan.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 156 (SB124/HB81)** requires local education agencies to transfer a student's record, including the student's disciplinary record, to the school to which the student is transferring within five days of the transfer date.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 163 (SB314/HB1150)** extends the current law provisions allowing for paid parental leave for adoptions for eligible education employees to include leave



during the legal process for adopting a newly placed minor child, specifically during that period of time beginning with the filing of a petition for adoption when a minor child is initially placed within the residence of a prospective adoptive parent pursuant to a court-ordered parental power of attorney or guardianship or custodial order until the issuance of a final order of adoption by the court.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 164 (SB319/HB368)** Adds the state's safe haven law to the required components of a family life curriculum. The state's safe haven law allows a new born mother to voluntarily surrender an unharmed infant without criminal liability. The bill requires the state board of education to guidelines to each LEA that services students grades 9-12 before the 2026-27 school year.

Effective April 11, 2025 but applies beginning the 2026-27 school year.

**P.C. 165 (SB344/HB506)** requires at least one full-time employee at each school under the jurisdiction of an LEA or public charter school to annually receive training in seizure safety and first aid. The LEA or employee are not liable for any personal injury that results from an act or omission of the employee who is trained unless the act or omission is not willful or wanton misconduct or gross negligence.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 172 (SB680/HB515)** requires an LEA and public charter school that provides parents or guardians of K-12 students with information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to include information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes published by the department of education. The legislation also directs the department, in cooperation with the department of health, to publish and make available to LEAs and public charter schools for free on its website certain information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 173 (SB69-/HB355)** requires a public school under the jurisdiction of an LEA that offers students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletic competitions to allow the LEA's virtual school students to participate in interscholastic athletics at the public school in the LEA for which they are zoned and that they are otherwise eligible to attend.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 192 (SB623/HB582)** requires the department to establish enrollment deadlines for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs so that at-risk students who will be four years old by August 15 must be enrolled by the beginning of the school year and students who are four-year-olds who do not have a disability or who meet the qualifications for enrollment at three years of age must be enrolled by August 30.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 195 (SB811/HB825)** enacts the "Teen Social Media and Internet Safety Act," which requires the department of education to develop social media and internet safety curricula, including instructional materials, for students enrolled in a school in an LEA or public charter school in grades 6-12. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, this bill requires each LEA and public charter school that enrolls students in any of the grades 6-12 to instruct such students using the curricula, including instructional materials. The department must publish the instructional materials developed onto the department's website.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 199 (SB1073/HB861)** requires LEAs to notify parents or guardians of a student at least 10 days before the student's individualized education program (IEP) meeting, and also requires LEAs to provide a copy of all evaluations and assessments of a student conducted for purposes of the student's IEP and, if created, a copy of a student's draft IEP, unless previously declined, to the student's parent or guardian at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled IEP team meeting.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 215 (SB946/HB1088)** requires an LEA that receives credible information regarding a threat of violence or significantly disruptive behavior directed toward, or occurring on the grounds of a public school in the LEA, and that reports the threat or disruptive behavior to a state or local law enforcement agency, to notify the parents and guardians of students enrolled in the public school of the same threat or disruptive behavior within 48 hours of the LEA making its report to law enforcement. This includes if a report is made to a School Resource Officer and that officer reports that to their law enforcement agency. Also requires school boards to report on the numbers of reports that have been made that fall under this legislation in that quarter at their meetings

Effective April 15, 2025.

**P.C. 244 (SB290/HB764)** specifies that certain physical searches of students and searches of lockers, vehicles, and other property must be conducted by a school resource officer. Requires the department of education to provide training to LEAs related to the rights of students related to these searches.

Effective April 24, 2025, for the creation of  
training and for all other purposes July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 256 (SB729/HB759)** authorizes LEAs to adopt and implement a merit based pay structure for educators to award additional compensation to high-performing educators and to incentivize educators to meet and exceed expectations. An LEA may decline to award merit pay in any school year for which the LEA does not receive increased or additional state funds, as compared to a prior year, in an amount sufficient to award merit pay. An LEA is not required to supplement its local expenditures for salaries and wages in any school year in order to continue any merit pay an educator received in a prior school year.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 270 (SB1112/HB1085)** prohibits a local board of education or public charter school governing body from removing a material from a library collection for the sole reason that the material is religious.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 296 (SB1410/HB1253)** requires each local board of education and public charter governing body to adopt a policy that requires the six work weeks of paid leave be used within 12 months of the birth or stillbirth of the employee's child or the employee's adoption of a newly placed minor child and be either: taken consecutively, except in extenuating circumstances, as determined and approved by the director of schools or the director of the public charter school, as applicable; or taken non-consecutively, but in increments of no less than one week. The legislation also increases the time a substitute teacher may substitute for a regular teacher on leave without having to possess a teaching license from 20 to 30 consecutive days.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 299 (SB408/HB534)** prohibits governmental entities or local boards of education from extending immunity granted to independent school bus contractors rather than independent school bus owners and operators for providing school-related transportation services. The legislation also requires liability insurance coverage in a contract or agreement between a local board of education and an independent school bus contractor for such services to be in an amount sufficient to satisfy applicable law.

Effective May 1, 2025.

**P.C. 306 (Sb158/HB85)** requires elementary students to receive a minimum of forty minutes of physical activity per day, and requires middle school students to receive ninety minutes per week. The legislation specifies that walking between classes cannot be considered physical activity and that a student may not be withheld from participating in physical activity as a form of punishment.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 314 (SB298/HB1197)** changes the approval process for nonreligious Bible courses. Under current law, a school may use a curriculum that has previously been approved by the department of education. Under this legislation, such a curriculum must be approved by the governing body of the LEA. Courses approved before July 1, 2025 are grandfathered in. The LEA must also post all Bible curricula to its website.

Effective July 1, 2025 and applies  
to the 25/26 school year.

**P.C. 359 (SB161/HB1199)** Requires each board of education for an LEA that has at least one high school to adopt a policy to allow a high school student to serve as a nonvoting member of the board. The board is also authorized to establish eligibility requirements for the student to serve in such a role. The legislation also states that a board is exempt from this requirement if the board had created an advisory group prior to July 1, 2025, that contains at least one student from each high school in the LEA.

For the purposes of adopting  
the policy the legislation is  
effective Ma 5, 2025. For all  
other purposes the legislation  
is effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 453 (SB937/HB1270)** specifies that certain individuals are not required to use another's preferred name or pronoun, if the preferred name or pronoun is not consistent with the individual's legal name or sex; insulates certain individuals from civil liability for using, or refusing to use, certain names or pronouns in reference to another; allows a civil action to be filed against certain employers and public schools that implement certain preferred pronoun policies or that allow certain names or pronouns to be used in reference to an unemancipated minor without first obtaining parental consent.

Effective May 9, 2025.

**P.C. 476 (SB134/HB476)** require, beginning August 1, 2027, each LEA and public charter school to prohibit food or beverage items that contain Red 40, to be sold, offered for sale, or provided to students on school property through the school nutrition program provided by the LEA, public charter school, or a third party expressly authorized by the LEA or public charter school.

Effective May 21, 2025.

**P.C. 484 (SB517/HB485)** authorizes local education agencies and public charter schools to provide up to four days of the required 180 days of classroom instruction via hybrid learning in the event of dangerous or extreme weather conditions, or an emergency, as determined by the director of schools or the director of public charter schools.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 518 (SB1020/HB1162)** permits a public charter school authorized in the county LEA for a county in which only one city school system operates to use available buildings or facilities located within the geographic boundaries of the city school system located in the same county under certain conditions. The use of the of the facilities of the city school system does not expand the jurisdiction or authority of the county school system.

Effective May 21, 2025.

### **Elections:**

**P.C. 187 (SB179/HB23)** defines "district," for purposes of municipal elections, to mean a district, region, precinct, sector, territory, ward, or other geographical area prescribed for the purposes of nominating and electing candidates.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 259 (SB799/HB855)** generally requires statewide political parties to nominate their candidates in primary elections for all offices for which partisan elections are held at the regular August or regular November election. The legislation also authorizes, in a county in which a statewide political party nominated a candidate by a method other than a primary election in 2022 or 2024, the statewide political party in such county to continue to use such method with certain exceptions.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 434 (SB621/HB456)** revises present law to designate as a political campaign committee for purposes of reporting expenditures pursuant to campaign finance laws to include a corporation that uses corporate funds, moneys, or credits for communications expressly supporting or opposing the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or elected official, and such funds, moneys, or credits are not used with the cooperation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the request of, or suggestion of, a candidate or elected official or any agent or authorized committee of the candidate or elected official.

Effective May 9, 2025.

### **Finance:**

**P.C. 2 (SB6003/HB6003)** creates two funds within the state treasury to be known as the Hurricane Helene interest payment fund and the governor's response and recovery fund. The legislation authorizes moneys in each fund to be used to assist with the response to and the recovery from certain declared emergencies.

Effective February 12, 2025.

**P.C. 17 (SB114/HB136)** broadens certain disclosure obligations of state and local governmental entities by requiring their disclosure of covenant violations

and credit rating downgrades to the comptroller of the treasury or the comptroller's designee.

Effective March 12, 2025.

**P.C. 18 (SB115/HB57)** specifies municipalities with two or more outstanding late audits are subject to the loss of up to 15% of the municipality's sales tax revenue. The funds shall be returned once the municipality is in compliance with state law. The comptroller may waive the penalty.

Effective July, 2025.

**P.C. 44 (SB109/HB185)** authorizes a certified municipal finance officer who is contracted with a municipality to provide financial oversight on behalf of the municipality to devote fewer than 16 hours per month to such duties, if the municipality seeks and receives written approval from the comptroller of the treasury.

Effective March 20, 2025.

**P.C. 218 (SB191/HB1338)** for purposes of balloon indebtedness, present law authorizes a local government to account for the amortization of principal and the payment of debt service on a fiscal year basis, a calendar year basis, or an annual basis commencing on the date upon which debt is issued. Prior to the adoption by the local government or local government instrumentality of any action authorizing the issuance of balloon indebtedness, the local government or local government instrumentality must submit a plan of balloon indebtedness to the comptroller of the treasury or the comptroller's designee for approval. This legislation adds a water, wastewater, or energy authority to the definition of local government as it relates the above provisions. Also makes other changes to the laws governing debt.

Effective July 1, 2025.



**P.C. 355 (SB1315/HB1329)** reduces from 1.125 percent to 0.75 percent the administrative fee percentage the department takes from the proceeds of the business tax, short-term rental unit occupancy tax, local tax surcharge, coal severance tax, and local option sales tax to assist in defraying the expenses of administration and collection, before remitting proceeds to the appropriate county, city, or town. The legislation is expected to increase local revenue by 18 million dollars.

Effective July 1, 2025.

### **General Government:**

**P.C. 1 (SB6002/HB6001)** creates within the department of safety the centralized immigration enforcement division, to be administered by the chief immigration enforcement officer. The legislation also establishes a grant program to promote the enforcement of federal immigration laws and creates criminal penalties for officials who adopt sanctuary policies and subsequently requires their removal from office upon conviction. Requires the department of safety to issue lawful permanent residents a temporary driver license, instead of a standard license, to aid in determining voter eligibility. Local law enforcement agencies are authorized to negotiate terms of an agreement between the agency and the federal government concerning the enforcement of federal immigration laws without the approval of the governing body of the local government.

For the purposes of the grant program and the creation of the new office the legislation is effective February 12, 2025, and for other purposes the bill is effective on July 1, 2025. The provisions related to drivers licenses are effective January 1, 2026.

**P.C. 98 (SB509/HB546)** authorizes a local government to execute a cooperative purchasing agreement with other local, state, and federal governmental entities for purposes of purchasing materials, labor, and

services used for maintenance, operations, component replacement, or repairs of existing facilities and grounds owned or operated by a local education agency or by a local government agency.

Effective March 28, 2025.

**P.C. 114 (SB480/HB444)** deletes the definition of "blighted area" and defines "blighted property" for purposes of condemnation by housing authorities; clarifies that housing authorities may acquire real property without using eminent domain; authorizes housing authorities to pay more than fair market value for properties that are not blighted but that are in a blighted area; makes other related changes.

Effective April 3, 2025.

**P.C.140 (SB988/HB375)** requires each department, agency, or official of a local government who assesses and collects a fee of more than \$250 to document the justification and cost basis of the fee. The legislation also makes such documentation a public record and subjects such documentation to an annual audit by the comptroller of the treasury. Development is defined as the construction, building, erection, or improvement to land or any infrastructure contributing to the ability to provide a new building or structure. This requirement only requires the documentation to be created one time for each fee or change in fee amounts. It is not required to create a new justification each time the fee is assessed.

Effective July 1, 2026.

**P.C. 151 (SB1074/HB1096)** prohibits an employer seeking to receive an economic development incentive from the state from entering into a community benefits agreement or similar legal contract if the agreement or contract imposes obligations or conditions on the employer regarding employment practices, benefits, or operations that are not directly related to the performance of the employer's duties under the economic development incentive.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 159 (SB251/HB313)** addresses the requirements for a TCRS retiree to accept temporary reemployment without the loss or suspension of retirement benefits. This bill requires that the retiree have a “bona fide separation of service,” which means that 1. there is no prearranged agreement prior to the member’s retirement between the member and the participating employer for that member to return to work, and 2. There must be a complete separation of service for at least 60 days between the date of retirement and the first day of work for the employer. The chapter also makes changes to the requirements for the hiring of retirees as teachers and for difficult to fill positions.

The new requirements are effective  
July 1 2025, the removal of the old  
requirements are effective January  
1, 2026.

**P.C.249 (SB525/HB913)** requires a three-judge panel to hear any civil action in which it is alleged that a proposed charter amendment ordinance that is to be submitted to qualified voters at an election is in violation of the Constitution or state law. The legislation also prohibits an amendment to the charter of a home rule municipality from being placed on any ballot if the amendment is in violation of the Constitution or state law.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 260 (SB842/HB763)** Under present law, a governmental entity may purchase insurance to cover tort liability without public bidding if it is purchased through a plan authorized and approved by an organization of governmental entities representing cities and counties. The legislation revises this provision to require authorization and approval by an organization of cities, counties, or other governmental entities.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 279 (SB495/HB65)** authorizes a city incorporated under a city manager-commission charter to contract with a private entity for the development, construction, management, or operation of an indoor or outdoor sports

facility under terms acceptable to the city if the city must have a bond rating of AAA.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 280 (SB425/HB66)** expands public records exception to include residential information of local government employees.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 324 (SB763/HB968)** makes multiple changes to the laws related to vapor products. The legislation requires that a seller must demand identification from a purchaser regardless of their apparent age, and retailers are prevented from advertising to individuals younger than 21 years old. The legislation levies a tax on vapor products, which the legislation generally defines as a noncombustible product containing consumable material, whether natural or synthetic, that employs a mechanical heating element, battery, electronic circuit or other mechanism, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce or emit a visible or non-visible vapor. The tax is set at 10% of the wholesale cost price. The legislation requires that 12.5% of the revenue collected be earmarked to the ABC to fund enforcement of the regulations. The legislation also requires that by August 1, 2025, each manufacturer of a vapor product sold in the state shall submit a form to the department of revenue stating that they have received a marketing granted order for the product under the FDA, that they have submitted an application for a such an order to the FDA, or that they do not have to have such an order because the consumable material did not come from a foreign adversarial country. By January 1, 2026, the department will maintain a directory of all vapor products with have been certified by the department. The legislation creates penalties for selling products that have not been certified.

For all purposes other than the creation of the directory the bill is effective May 2, 2025. For rule making related to the directory the bill is

effective July 1, 2025, and the rest is effective  
August 1, 2025.

**P.C. 348 (SB1138/HB863)** revise the provision requiring all multi-family facilities, buildings, and structures constructed under a voluntary attainable housing incentive program to be deed-restricted to ensure that the attainable housing continues for at least 30 years, instead of in perpetuity.

Effective May 2, 2025.

**P.C. 353 (SB1271/1306)** clarifies that certain definitions concerning housing facilities and developments with regard to industrial development corporations include affordable and workforce housing. The legislation also authorizes a municipality or county to approve amendments to an economic impact plan when approving the plan.

Effective May 2, 2025.

**P.C. 357 (SB26/HB636)** Expands municipal authority to create Infrastructure Development Districts to include commercial districts. Previous law only allowed this process for residential districts. This allows cities to either pay for or borrow money to construct infrastructure in new developments. Municipalities can recoup those costs with a special assessment.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**PC.363 (SB365/HB317)** adds property rights and constitutional rights to the list of subjects for the required training for Board of Zoning Appeals members. The legislation also removes the ability to opt out of this training. The bill also requires BZAs to adopt rules of organization and procedure. Those rules must include (i) maintenance of a record of the board's proceedings, including resolutions, transactions, motions, and actions, which are public records; (ii) election from its membership of a chair and other officers as the board deems necessary; and (iii) the presentation of relevant proof by parties to the proceedings. The board must also notify a party in writing of a their right to appeal a denied permit.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 373 (SB655/HB1010)** authorizes a district attorney general, with the consent of the district attorney general of any other judicial district, to specially appoint another district attorney general, or an assistant to that district attorney general, to conduct specific proceedings under title 8, chapter 47, regarding removal of officers, which the district attorney general is authorized by law to conduct in that district.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 379 (SB758/HB672)** redefines "remediation site" to include a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity whose main purpose is to promote industrial development and new nuclear development upon dissolution of the existing nonprofit entity.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 413 (SB160/HB83)** require TACIR to study: (1) The economic impact on counties that are required to provide ambulance services, which counties provide services directly or franchise those services, which municipalities provide ambulance services, and whether policy changes may benefit the overall health and delivery of ambulance services in this state; and (2) Emergency and non-emergency transport reimbursement including from commercial payors, Medicare, Medicaid, and the way counties and municipalities fund the deficit at which these services operate. Upon completion of the study, the legislation requires TACIR to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature.

Effective May 9, 2025.

**P.C. 422 (SB288/HB482)** adds prostate cancer, breast cancer, and pancreatic cancer to the list of cancers for which a presumption is created that certain conditions or impairments of full-time firefighters caused by prostate cancer, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, or other listed cancers arose out of employment unless the contrary is shown by competent medical evidence.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 457 (SB1068/HB972)** makes multiple changes to the Motion Act including authorizing local governments to adopt regulations to provide for the licensure of booting operators and licensed parking enforcement, provided the regulations meet certain requirements.

Effective May 9, 2025.

**P.C. 458 (SB1084/HB923)** prohibits state or local governments from using a discriminatory preference in an effort to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion or establish or maintain an office for such purposes. All mandates, policies, programs, or guidance in existence prior to this prohibition are void. A discriminatory preference is defined as a policy, practice, or requirement that grants or withholds benefits, opportunities, advantages or disadvantages to an individual group based on race, ethnicity, sex, age, or any other demographic characteristic. This prohibition does not apply if the local government can prove to the comptroller that compliance would result in the loss of federal funds

Effective May 9, 2025.

**P.C. 475 (SB396/HB132)** authorizes the general assembly to terminate a state of emergency that was issued or extended by the governor.

Effective May 21, 2025.

**P.C. 494 (SB1083/HB622)** prohibits local governments and public institutions of higher education from basing hiring decisions on any metrics that consider an applicant's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or hiring a particular candidate in order to achieve any goals to increase diversity, equity, or inclusion in the workplace. This does not apply to veteran preferences or other lawful eligibility criteria. Under this law, an employment decision is defined as any action or determination relating to the hiring, firing, retention, promotion, demotion, discipline, evaluation, compensation, training, reassignment, or any other term, condition, or privilege of employment. The comptroller may waive these requirements if the local

government can show that compliance would cause the loss of federal funds. That exemption must be renewed every year.

Effective May 21, 2025.

**P.C. 501 (SB875/HB780)** requires the department of economic and community development to revise and certify the population of each county and municipality, and the aggregate population of the state, prior to July 1 each year during the interim between the regular decennial federal census to ensure equitable allocation and distribution of the local share of revenue; requires the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee, through the Tennessee state data center, to generate annual population estimates for each county and municipality and provide the estimates to the department of economic and community development for review and certification.

Effective January 1, 2026.

**P.C. 503 (SB1381/HB783)** authorizes local governments in Hamilton County to regulate sober living homes for recovery from alcohol, drug, and substance abuse to the extent such regulation complies with the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, including prescribing a distance requirement for such homes from primary schools, preschools, and daycares, regulating the location and operation of such homes.

Effective May 21, 2025.

**P.C. 514 (SB845/HB1097)** authorizes the attorney general and reporter to investigate an ordinance, regulation, order, or other official action adopted or taken by the chief executive officer or governing body of a local government or any written policy, written rule, or written regulation adopted by any agency, department, or other entity of the local government to see if such action violates state law or the Constitution of Tennessee. If the Attorney General finds a violation, then they shall provide notice to the local government. The local government can either repeal the action or appeal to a three judge panel.



If the local government does neither of these two things within 60 days, then the Attorney General will file an action for review by the three judge panel. The three judge panel may order that state funding, including state share taxes, be withheld from the local government until the violation is corrected. The withheld funds must be held by the state and returned once the violation is corrected.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 521 (SB646/HB1278)** authorizes the Hurricane Helene interest payment fund to pay local government's loan charges. Those are defined as charges, fees, and other costs associated with loan processing and services that are imposed by a lender. Previous law only authorized the fund to pay interest costs for up to three years on money borrowed to pay eligible disaster recovery costs.

Effective May 21, 2025.

**P.C. 526 (SB1413/HB1376)** provides new regulations related to the sale, manufacturing and distribution of hemp-derived cannabinoid products. The legislation also establishes taxes for such products and civil and criminal penalties for violations of the new regulations. The new regulations include but are not limited to requiring a license to engage in the business manufacturing, distribution or selling such products, a seller must first obtain proof of age, a purchaser must be over 21 years old, and restricting the types of retail locations to those that limit entry to those that are 21 and up or that hold a valid liquor license. The Alcoholic Beverage Commission will take over from the Department of Agriculture the enforcement of these regulations.

Effective May 21, 2025, for the purpose of  
promulgating rules and January 1, 2026,  
for all other purposes.

**Law Enforcement:**

**P.C. 55 (SB296/HB300)** authorizes a law enforcement officer to seize or impound a motor vehicle that is found with an installed license plate flipper; requires that the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, if present, be provided the opportunity to promptly remove the license plate flipper if it can be removed safely. The owner is liable for any towing and impounding fees and reasonable costs to remove the license plate flipper.

Effective March 26, 2025.

**P.C. 118 (SB707/HB821)** specifies that a prospective purchaser of tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor products, or smokeless nicotine products must produce proof of age prior to the sale being made; increases from 30 to 50 years the apparent age above which a seller is not required to demand presentation of proof of age.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 157 (SB228/HB537)** enacts the "Law Enforcement's Safer Tennessee Electronic Registration (LESTER) Act," which clarifies that law enforcement is required to accept a digital copy of vehicle registration as proof of registration. An officer is not required to accept the digital copy if the image is not clear enough to read or if the officer believes the information is fraudulent or inaccurate. An officer may require more information to verify the digital copy. Allowing the officer to view the digital copy is not consent for the officer to search the contents of the device.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 160 (SB280/HB1020)** specifies that a law enforcement officer who causes property damage to or inflicts personal injury upon a person during the course of the law enforcement officer's official duties is immune from civil liability if at the time the damage or injury occurred, the person suffering the injury or damage was engaged in conduct that resulted in the person being convicted of the offense of resisting a stop, frisk, halt, arrest, or search of the person. This immunity would not apply if the officer's actions were grossly

negligent or willful misconduct. The immunity also would not apply to the property damage or injury of a bystander.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C. 255 (SB728/HB810)** authorizes utility terrain vehicles to operate on county roads and state highways throughout the state, subject to certain restrictions. UTVs cannot be driven on a roadway having a speed limit above 45 MPH, that is a control access highway or a part of the interstate or national defense highway system. A county or municipality may prohibit the use of UTVs in their jurisdiction by passage of a resolution or ordinance and the submission of the resolution or ordinance to the department of safety.

Effective April 23, 2025.

**P.C. 327 (SB1166/HB1274)** requires the TBI to submit a report annually to the Speakers of the house and senate detailing the instances in the in the year which complete data is available that a person was arrested for driving under the influence but where no alcohol or other intoxicants are detected in the person's blood or breath. The report is required to detail the arresting agency. The legislation sunsets in 2029.

Effective May 2, 2025.

**P.C.369 (SB547/HB547)** requires the clerk of every court having jurisdiction of criminal offenses to include a \$12.50 charge in every cost bill and to be remitted to the county government to provide support services for the purpose of promoting public safety at the sole discretion of the district attorney general. The new fee only takes effect upon two-thirds vote of the county legislative body, and requires a district attorney general receiving funding to submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 391 (SB1090/HB1164)** authorizes uniformed law enforcement officers to wear decorations, medals, service medals, and badges awarded to the officers by the armed forces of the United States, the Tennessee national

guard, or the state guard during the week prior to Veterans Day and Memorial Day, the day of Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and the day immediately following Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 480 (SB289/HB310)** creates a presumption that the diagnosis of a law enforcement officer or emergency medical responder with post-traumatic stress disorder as the result of responding to certain incidents was incurred in the line of duty for purposes of workers' compensation coverage.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 520 (SB324/HB1200)** creates within the TBI a registry of persistent domestic violence offenders. This registry will be for public view on the internet. The TBI will gather the necessary information from court clerks and local law enforcement agencies. An individual may be placed on this registry if the person is convicted or an offense against a domestic abuse victim and has at least 1 prior conviction against a domestic abuse victim. Anyone ordered to be placed on the registry will have to pay a \$150 registration fee. An individual can be removed from the registry if certain time requirements are met.

Effective January 1, 2026.

### **Open Meetings/Records:**

**P.C. 360 (SB212/HB885)** expands the current requirements for local legislative bodies to post an agenda 48 hours prior to their regular meetings to include the legislative body of a city, town, metro government, or county; regional or municipal planning commissions; boards zoning appeals; public utility boards, industrial development corporation boards of directors, housing authorities, regional or municipal airport authorities; election commissions; and the budget committee of a local legislative body. The legislation also requires that each of these bodies that maintains a website

shall make an agenda available to the public through the website. The website is considered a place accessible to the public for the purpose of compliance with the posting requirement.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 392 (SB1114/HB1293)** deletes the automatic repeal on July 1, 2025, of a provision that authorizes records custodians to seek an injunction against a person who makes requests to view or copy public records with the intent to disrupt government operations.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C. 411 (SB136/HB152)** authorizes a member of a local government's legislative body to participate in a scheduled meeting by electronic means if the member is dealing with a family or medical emergency, has been called into military service, or is unable to attend in person due to inclement weather. The member must be able to be visually identified by the chair. Each member can only meet virtually twice a year. Municipalities must adopt this through ordinance by a 2/3s vote. The member meeting virtually does not count towards a quorum. Also, no more than 3 members or 20% of the total membership of the board may meet electronically at one time. This authorization repeals in 2028.

Effective May 9, 2025.

#### **Taxes:**

**P.C. 120 (SB734/HB824)** extends by six years the period in which Davidson County may charge an additional \$0.50 privilege tax on the occupancy of a hotel room and in which such county may allocate the tax revenue for the purposes of direct promotion of tourism; extends by six years the terms of the committee members that oversee the fund in which the additional tax is deposited.

Effective April 3, 2025.

**P.C. 138 (SB247/HB297)** provides that if property is qualified as agricultural, forest, or open space land, owned by two individuals, and held under the titles of tenancy by the entireties or of joint tenancy with right of survivorship, then such land is deemed to have unchanged ownership upon the death of an owner if the property is retained by the other owner through a right of survivorship or upon the divorce of the owners if the property is retained by either owner through division and distribution of property in the divorce proceeding.

Effective April 4, 2025

**P.C. 364 (SB384/HB405)** requires a hotel operator to remit the hotel tax to the municipality when a person has maintained occupancy for 30 continuous days and to cease collecting the tax from the person for the remainder of their stay in the operator's hotel.

Effective July 1, 2025. Applies to rental  
agreements entered into or amended  
after that day.

**P.C. (SB629/HB627)** creates a new cap on Hotel/Motel Taxes at a total of 8% between the city and the county. Cities currently with higher taxes are grandfathered in. The bill also makes changes to the definitions of how the revenue may be used. The date of the report that was created last years was pushed back to 90 days from the end of the fiscal year. The report must now be submitted to the Commissioner of Tourism.

Effective May 5, 2025.

**P.C 493 (SB659/HB594)** adds a bona fide religious institution to the same category as a volunteer fire department, authorizing such institutions to hold temporary sales that are exempt from sales tax up to four times a year, as opposed to the current limit of twice a year.

Effective May 21, 2025.

## **Utilities:**

**P.C.78 (SB772/HB100)** authorizes the members of the board of directors of energy authorities formed under the Municipal Energy Authority Act to receive certain additional compensation for attendance at meetings for each additional utility system over which the board has jurisdiction and health insurance coverage.

Effective March 28, 2025.

**P.C. 166 (SB380/HB421)** creates a process for a utility district commissioner who has become ineligible to serve because of failing to meet the training and education requirements to petition for reinstatement. That petition would go before the board of utility regulations who must at least require the petitioner to obtain 12 hours of training within one year of the date of the order. The board may include other conditions for reinstatement. The legislation also lowers the number of training hours required in each continuing education period following the initial 12 hours period from 12 to 6.

Effective April 11, 2025.

**P.C.170 (SB518/HB561)** authorizes certain utility systems to borrow money in anticipation of revenue collections and to issue negotiable notes to evidence such borrowing to provide emergency cash flow for such systems, with oversight of such actions by the comptroller of the treasury; establishes deadline for the payment of such notes.

Effective April 30, 2025.

**P.C. 205 (SB884/HB1143)** current law states that a political subdivision that imposes requirements or expectations related to the type of clean or green, or renewable, energy used by a public utility in an ordinance, resolution, or other regulation must include certain sources of energy as permissible sources of clean or green, or renewable, energy. This legislation adds biomass and

renewable natural gas to the list of clean or renewable sources. The legislation also adds that these requirements apply regardless of whether the political subdivision classifies the requirements or expectations as relating to clean or green, or renewable, energy.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 283 (SB970/HB660)** generally authorizes the board of directors of a municipal energy authority to, as part of the transfer of a water and wastewater system, adopt and assume all or any portion of such regulatory powers, authority, duties, obligations, and oversight over the water and wastewater operations as were applicable to the municipal water and wastewater system pursuant to ordinances, resolutions, or other rules or policies that were in effect immediately prior to the transfer of such system to the authority. The legislation also authorizes later amendment to such rules, regulations, and requirements if such amendments are just and reasonable.

Effective April 24, 2025.

**P.C. 316 (SB357/HB335)** states that utility commissioners in a county with a population between 158,100 and 158,200 (Sullivan) shall serve without compensation. The legislation does allow that by resolution adopted by the board of commissioners, each commissioner may receive per diem for not more than 12 meetings of the board at a rate not greater than \$500 per meeting.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**P.C. 461 (SB1138/5643)** requires a city or utility district that has operated a sewerage system outside of the corporate boundaries of the city or town for 25 years or more to continue operating the sewerage system outside of its corporate boundaries so long as the sewerage system maintains sufficient capacity to continue to provide sewerage service outside of its corporate boundaries, as determined by a study, report, or other information and evidence presented to the Tennessee board of utility regulation in a hearing. The legislation also requires that if a utility system provides wastewater



service shall provide a connection to the owner of real property for wastewater service when the utility system: (1) Has an existing gravity sewer line located on the owner's property; and (2) The owner requests such connection and service. If the utility system refuses to provide wastewater service to the owner, the owner may submit a complaint to the Tennessee board of utility regulation for a review and hearing on the refusal to provide wastewater service; provided, the owner shall first appeal or make a complaint to the utility system's governing board on the utility's refusal to provide wastewater service.

Effective May 9, 2025.

**P.C. 490 (SB1139/HB542)** requires a utility to allow a customer of the utility or person submitting a plan of development to the utility the option to use an approved contractor or approved contractors of the customer's choosing for the installation of such utility infrastructure. Utilities must produce a publicly available list of approved contractors and the process for becoming an approved contractor. If a utility does not respond within 10 business days to a customer's application then the contractor is deemed to be approved. Requires the utility to perform inspections of the installation and construction of the utility infrastructure installed by the approved contractor, and authorizes the utility to also inspect materials and test the utility infrastructure as part of such inspections. The approved contractor is responsible for correcting any deficiencies associated with its installation or construction, and the utility is not required to accept or commission the utility infrastructure until it determines that the installation and construction complies with all applicable requirements under this amendment. The utility may charge a reasonable fee for such inspections and testing in accordance with a schedule of fees or charges adopted by the utility and made publicly available.

The legislation also requires that if a utility requires a customer to submit plans for utility infrastructure in development, and the utility does not complete the review of the plans in 60 days then the customer may hire a third

party examiner to review the plans. If the utility does not complete the review of the work of the third party examiner within 10 business days, then the plans are deemed to be approved and the utility must return the assessed fee.

Effective July 1, 2025, and  
applicable to plans submitted after that date.

## **Retirement**

**P.C. 341 (SB8/HB550)** requires an employer participating in TCRS to allow the dissemination of information and educational materials developed by a private entity regarding the entity's alternative retirement plans to its employees on the employer's premises, but outside an employee's official duty hours, through direct contact with the private entity's representatives. This bill requires such an alternative retirement plan offered by the private entity to be the functional equivalent of a qualified retirement plan, including, but not limited to, a plan qualified under Section 401(a), 401(k), 403(a), 403(b), 408(k), 408(p), or 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Effective May 2, 2025.

**P.C. 383 (SB953/HB977)** authorizes, after July 1, 2025, a political subdivision to adopt a supplemental bridge benefit for members who are in positions covered by mandatory retirement provisions. This supplemental bridge benefit must apply to those members retiring on or after the effective date of the resolution adopted by the political subdivision's chief governing body, and who have reached 55, but less than 62. Members retiring between 55 and 60 must be paid the supplemental bridge benefit for a period not to exceed seven years after the member's effective date of retirement. Members retiring after reaching 60, but no

later than 62 must be paid the supplemental bridge benefit until the member reaches 67. The legislation also authorizes political subdivisions that have previously adopted a supplemental bridge benefit prior to July 1, 2025, to adopt, through a resolution passed by the political subdivision's chief governing body, the supplemental bridge benefit described above. The political subdivision's change to the supplemental bridge benefit must be irrevocable, and the political subdivision must not be permitted to elect the previously adopted supplemental bridge benefit at a later date.

Effective Mat 5, 2025.