

THE TENNESSEE CONSERVATIVE'S
RINO Report & Freedom Caucus Awards

RINO REPORT 2024

A Conservative's Best Guide
for Finding Political Truth in
Tennessee

Brought to you by:



Establishment RINOs Are Elected Year-After-Year Because the Liberal Media Won't Report the Truth to Republican Primary Voters... But We Do Every Day!
SHARE This Report with ANY Conservatives You Know in the State of Tennessee!

Fellow Conservatives,

Even heading into an election year, RINOs could not care less about what GOP Primary Voters want in Tennessee.

Instead, true to form, they continue to do the bidding of left-leaning corporations, lobbyists and establishment leadership – even when it's in direct conflict with their "heartfelt campaign promises" or the desires of their constituents.

Meanwhile, a small group of "freedom fighters" continue to cling tenaciously to Conservative moorings while leadership does everything in their power to relegate them to political obscurity in the General Assembly.

Where's the Tennessee media in all this? Silent and/or complicit. Even though the vast majority of Tennesseans are Republican and Conservative, the liberal state media runs cover for the RINOs.

They bury stories on illegal immigration or refuse to cover them altogether. As the government schools continue to fail, they excuse their failings. When large corporations are given billions in taxpayer dollars even though voters disapprove of it, the media applauds it (because the same corporations fund their operations.) And the list goes on...

In essence, we do not have a Grand-Ole-Party in Tennessee. Instead, we have a Corporately-Owned-Party. We do not have a free press any longer, we only have corporate propaganda mills staffed by democrats masquerading as journalists.

It is in that environment, outnumbered and under-funded, where the Tennessee Conservative steps into the gap. Contrary to public belief, our annual RINO Report does not write itself. In fact, it takes thousands of hours of reporting and hundreds of hours of compilation.

That labor is not free – nor is the overhead that supports it. **The #1 reason we can tell the truth when other media outlets can't is this: We are 100% grassroots funded... not corporately controlled.**

However, that means if you read this report, yet fail to contribute to support its creation, we are in danger of losing that freedom as Tennessee's largest and only Conservative news alternative. It is for that reason I urge you to support our work with a financial contribution, now.

PLEASE GIVE NOW!

<https://tennesseeconservativenews.com/support/>

Your gifts guarantee that we can continue the work that is so sorely needed for Republicans in Tennessee who are "in the know" and care about the condition of their government at the state level. Without you, it's not possible to continue.

Thank you for standing in the gap with us.



Your Friend in Freedom,

Brandon Lewis

**Brandon Lewis Founder,
The Tennessee Conservative**



A Conservative's Definitive Guide For Finding The Truth – Not Spin!

In the following pages, you will find the personal opinions of the Tennessee Conservative editorial staff based upon votes taken and policies administered by the legislative and executive branches of Tennessee's government during the most recent 2024 legislative session and calendar year. This is Constitutionally protected free speech. As a for-profit business and news publication, we offer this report to our subscribers as a service.

If you find any value in this report, please consider contributing by visiting www.TennesseeConservativeNews.com/support. Compiling this report is labor-intensive and we cannot do it without the continued financial support of Conservatives like you.

This report specifically focuses on elected legislators in the Republican party. Since Republicans are the super-majority and Conservatives depend on them to live out their campaign promises, we understand that when policies fail, it's not the fault of Democrats.

The Issues We Focus Upon

While there are many issues we could track here at the Tennessee Conservative, this report focuses upon the following areas of concern:

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Above all else, our national and state constitution guarantees the rights of the individual above those of the government or business entities.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

If taxpayer dollars go toward it, it should be publicly known, easily accessible and produce an excellent return on investment for Tennesseans.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

If an individual, private organization or business can do it, the government should stay out of it.

2ND AMENDMENT

The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

REAL SCHOOL CHOICE

Tennessee government schools are failing students and parents at historic levels and we need non-government alternatives to break the decades-long cycle of disaster.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

We believe in turning off the magnets that make our state a welcome haven for illegal immigrants.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The First Amendment is the bedrock upon which Conservatives make their case for individual liberty.

MEDICAL FREEDOM

When government takes away your liberties over personal health decisions, it has overstepped its bounds and presents a real threat to the future freedom of all Tennesseans.

CORPORATE WELFARE

It is unethical and morally wrong to discriminate against taxpayers and small businesses for corporate millionaires and billionaires in the name of Economic Development.

SMALL BUSINESS

We believe government should limit the paperwork, taxes and restrictions that keep small businesses from reaching their full potential.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

Thou shall not kill. It's that simple.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The Constitution expressly prohibits a state-run and sponsored religion, not religious expression in life, government, business or school.

SAFETY

Individual liberties and property rights must be protected by law enforcement and from government overreach or abuses.

STATE SOVEREIGNTY

As the federal government increasingly moves away from the founders' vision of federalism as outlined in the Constitution, states must reassert their rights and fight against overreach.

MODERN-DAY RACISM

Racism should be rooted out in all its forms, not repackaged and used on various groups to meet political or cultural objectives.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

We need strong, verifiable paper-trails to safeguard our elections in Tennessee.

CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our nation and state were founded on Christian values and they are necessary to preserve our national and state Constitution.

WELFARE REFORM

Generational welfare is holding down an entire class of Tennesseans who would be better served by the dignity of work and self-reliance.



R.I.N.O.S

Republicans In Name Only

These are Republicans who actively worked with left-leaning corporations and interest groups to kill Conservative legislation for their own political benefit, voting with and governing like Democrats when it mattered most in the last legislative session.

They are beholden to special interest money, which puts them at odds with the political will of Republican primary voters they claim to represent. These lawmakers and public servants may occasionally vote with Conservatives, but on the whole, they display a pattern of behavior that is contrary to the will of Conservative primary voters.



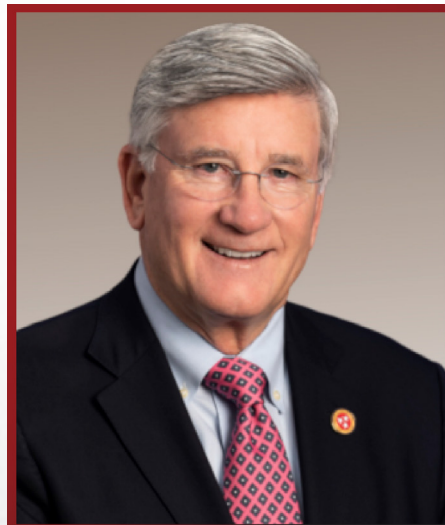
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RINO Legislators of the Year

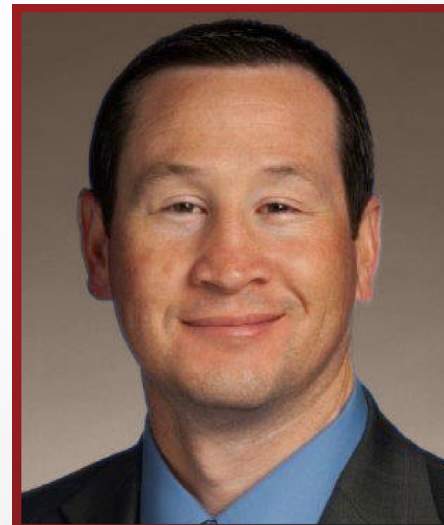
**DON'T FEED
THE RINOS!**



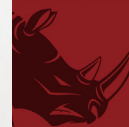
Donate to TTC Today to
Join the Fight!



Sen. Todd Gardenhire
Top Senate RINO of the Year



Rep. Gary Hicks
Top House RINO of the Year



Tennessee Senate RINOS



TOP 5 

Tennessee Senate RINOS 2024



JON LUNDBERG



BECKY MASSEY



RICHARD BRIGGS



SHANE REEVES




KERRY ROBERTS

Jon Lundberg, Becky Massey, Richard Briggs, Shane Reeves, & Kerry Roberts

Tennessee House RINOS



TOP 5 

Tennessee House RINOS 2024



PATSY HAZLEWOOD



JOHN GILLESPIE



IRIS RUDDER



REBECCA ALEXANDER



JASON ZACHARY

Patsy Hazlewood, John Gillespie, Iris Rudder, Rebecca Alexander, & Jason Zachary

Executive Branch RINOs



Gov. Bill Lee

Governor Lee, who has won our Executive Branch RINO award now for the third time, [continues to push for less transparency in state government, for corporate welfare,](#) not make the #1 concern of Republican primary voters ([illegal immigration](#)) a priority, and during the summer of 2023 he had closed door meetings with Republican and Democrat state lawmakers to discuss a new [“gun control framework” prior to a special session he called to push gun control legislation.](#)



Stuart C. McWhorter

Commissioner of Tennessee’s Department of Economic and Community Development which makes decisions on how Tennessee taxpayer dollars are spent to bankroll multitudes of projects that most conservative Republican voters would not agree with. In effect, McWhorter is the head of the branch of Tennessee government that picks “winners and losers.”

Conservative Legislators

Tough Tusk Awards

These are Republicans with deep, principled moorings in Conservatism who do not shy away from difficult legislative fights – even if it means losing establishment patronage or left-leaning, corporate campaign contributions. They have lived out their campaign promises in the recent legislative session.

No legislator is perfect and we may not agree with each and every vote they take. However, during this session, these individuals took bold steps to solve problems that Conservative primary voters really care about.

Tough Tusk Award Winners



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Sen. Joey Hensley
**TOP Conservative Legislator
of the Year Senate**



Rep. Monty Fritts
**TOP Conservative Legislator
of the Year House**



Tennessee Senate Conservatives



TOP 5 

Tennessee Senate Conservatives 2024



JANICE BOWLING



MARK PODY



FRANK NICELEY



BRENT TAYLOR



RUSTY CROWE

Janice Bowling, Mark Pody, Frank Niceley, Brent Taylor, Rusty Crowe

Tennessee House Conservatives



TOP 5 

Tennessee House Conservatives 2024



BRYAN RICHEY



GINO BULSO



BUD HULSEY



TODD WARNER



JODY BARRETT

Bryan Richey, Gino Bulso, Bud Hulsey, Todd Warner, Jody Barrett



The Tennessee Conservative

Flame Awards 2024



These are individuals who have fought for Conservative policy through their efforts as grassroots organizational leaders, often taking the initiative to solve tough problems that our leadership in the Republican party has either ignored or caused.

Conservative government requires an engaged citizenry and these individuals have worked hard to keep our state free.

Flame Award Winners:



Deborah Fisher

Executive Director of
Tennessee Coalition For
Open Government



Gail Greene

Conservative
Citizen Lobbyist



David Seal

Conservative Citizen Lobbyist
& Chairman of the Jefferson
County Republican Party

How to read the RINO Report

The legislative process in Tennessee's General Assembly is hard to follow. The left-leaning corporate media in Tennessee doesn't want Conservative primary voters to know the truth. As a result, they do not report upon how lawmakers vote on Conservative legislation where it matters – in the committee and subcommittee structures.

While bills can be killed through actual votes in these committees, they can also be killed when a bill does not receive a "2nd" or a motion to be discussed. Further, the House uses deceptive "voice votes" that do not record the individual votes of state representatives so they can keep constituents in the dark. When "voice votes" are used, the committee chair essentially makes the decision himself – regardless of the official vote count.

In addition, both chambers continue to use "caption bills" with a bill summary and title that bears little to no resemblance to the actual legislation filed later by amendments only.

Conservatives may argue over specific pieces of legislation as to whether they are or are not truly Conservative in their view. At our publication, we have tried to identify legislation we know our subscribers, on the whole, support.



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Simple Terms

KILLED BY RINOS

Denotes Conservative legislation that was killed by RINOs.

CONSERVATIVE WIN

This is Conservative legislation that passed.

RINO WIN

This is RINO or Democrat-like legislation that passed.

RINOS VOTING AGAINST

These are votes taken in a subcommittee or committee to kill Conservative legislation. Also applies to instances when subcommittee or committee chair uses the power of that position to kill Conservative legislation using deceptive “voice votes.”

RINO’S WOULD NOT 2ND BILL FOR DISCUSSION

This means no one on a particular committee would second the motion to actually consider the bill. When this happens, the bill is not discussed or voted upon and it is often synonymous with voting against legislation or taking action to kill it.

RINO BILL POSTPONED

This is a RINO bill that was postponed during this session, but may appear again in the future.



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Legislation Enhances Criminal Penalties For Violent Illegal Aliens

HB1872 / SB2770, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-D32) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tulahoma-D16), authorizes the enhancement of criminal penalties up to life in prison without parole upon conviction of violent crimes by illegal aliens; conviction of possession of a firearm or deadly weapon by an illegal alien; or conviction of a violent crime on the property of a school by any person.

Legislation Status: **HB1872** and **SB2770** passed in the House and Senate respectively with only Democrats voting against in both chambers. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the legislation into law on May 28, 2024.

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Monty Fritts



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling





CONSERVATIVE WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Legislation Mandates Law Enforcement Must Report Illegal Aliens

HB2124 / SB2576, sponsored by *Rep. Rusty Grills* (R-Newbern-District 77) and *Sen. Brent Taylor* (R-Memphis-District 31), makes the requirement that law enforcement officials must report illegal immigrants in their custody to the federal government.

Legislation Status: **HB2124** passed the House with a vote of 74 Ayes and 22 Nays with only Democrats voting against. **SB2576** passed the Senate with a vote of 26 Ayes and 7 Nays. *Sen. Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-D10) voted against the legislation with the Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the legislation into law on April 11, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Rusty Grills



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Brent Taylor



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



RINO WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

KILLED: Legislation To Help Block Transportation Of Illegal Aliens Into Tennessee

HB2078 / SB2802, sponsored by *Rep. Bryan Richey* (R-Maryville-D20) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), sought to prohibit any person from transporting an illegal alien into the state by increasing fines for the transportation of illegal aliens into Tennessee from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and removing the exemptions from fines in current state law for commercial carriers.

Legislation Status: SB2802 was voted down by three Republicans in the Senate Judiciary Committee along with two Democrats. Republican *Sens. Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-D10), *Jon Lundberg* (R-Bristol-District 4) and *Kerry Roberts* (R-Springfield-District 23) voted against the bill's progression. **HB2078** had progressed to its final committee assignment in the House but was taken off notice after the legislation's failure in the Senate. However, in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee Republican Reps *John Gillespie* (R-Memphis-District 97) and *Dan Howell* (R-Cleveland-District 22) voted against the bill's progression.

Conservative Fighters

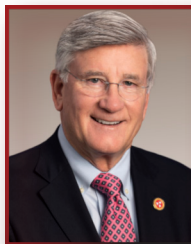


Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Bryan Richey



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley

RINOS for Illegal Immigration



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



Sen. Jon Lundberg



Sen. Kerry Roberts



Rep. John Gillespie



Rep. Dan Howell



RINO WIN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

KILLED: Legislation To Help Block Transportation Of Illegal Aliens Into TN For Commercial Advantage

HB2432 / SB2034, sponsored by *Rep. Andrew Farmer* (R-Sevierville-D17) and *Sen. Frank Niceley* (R-Strawberry Plains-D8), sought to increase the fines for transporting illegal aliens into the state for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Legislation Status: **SB2034** was taken off notice by *Sen. Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-D10), the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, before *Niceley* could present the bill. **SB2034** was subsequently "general-subbed," meaning the bill would not have the opportunity to be heard in the 2024 session. Due to the failure of the bill in the Senate Committee, **HB2432** never progressed past its first subcommittee assignment, where it was never heard.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Andrew Farmer



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Frank Niceley



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



RINO WIN KEEPING FOREIGN INFLUENCE OUT OF TENNESSEE

KILLED: Legislation To Prevent Local & State TN Government From Doing Business With Foreign Adversaries

HB1841 / SB2859, sponsored by *Rep. John Ragan* (R-Oak Ridge-D33) and *Sen. Kerry Roberts* (R-Springfield-D23), sought to prohibit Tennessee state and local governments from doing business with foreign adversaries of the United States.

Legislation Status: **HB1841** failed by a voice vote led by the chair of the House Public Service Subcommittee, *Rep. Iris Rudder* (R-Winchester-District 39). Since *Rudder* chose to use a voice vote to hide the voting records of subcommittee members from public scrutiny, we can only assume that she opposed the bill and is responsible for its failing. As chair of the subcommittee, *Rudder* could have used a transparent roll call vote but opted for a voice vote to shield subcommittee members and herself from accountability. With the failure of **HB1841** in the House, **SB2859** did not progress in the Senate.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. John Ragan



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Kerry Roberts



Rep. Iris Rudder

Called For Deceptive Voice Vote



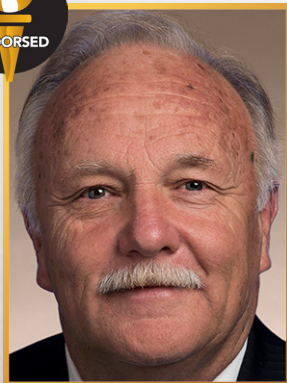
RINO WIN

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

KILLED: Legislation To Allow State Legislators To Impose Nullification In Cases Of Unconstitutional Federal Overreach

HB2795 / SB2775, sponsored by *Rep. Bud Husley* (R-Kingsport-D2) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tullahoma-D16), aimed to create a process by which Tennessee could practice its right to question any imposed federal law or regulation found to be unconstitutional and effectively nullify it if deemed necessary.

Legislation Status: For the 3rd year in a row, this legislation was scuttled. In the Senate State and Local Government Committee, Republican *Sens. Richard Briggs* (R-Knoxville-D7), *Ed Jackson* (R-Jackson-D25), *Adam Lowe* (R-Calhoun-D1) and *John Stevens* (R-Huntingdon-D24) voted to send **SB2775** to "Summer Study" effectively halting the bill's progression this session. Sources told us that had the bill gone to an actual vote, there would have been enough votes from the committee to push the bill forward, and one step closer to a floor vote. *Sen. Bowling* has vowed to revive the bill again next session for a 4th year in a row.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Bud Husley



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling

RINOs For Federal Government Overreach



Sen. Richard Briggs



Sen. Ed Jackson



Sen. Adam Lowe



Sen. John Stevens



RINO WIN

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

KILLED: Legislation To Block State-Level Executive Order Enforcements As Class A Misdemeanors

HB1615 / SB1999, sponsored by *Rep. Bryan Richey* (R-Maryville-D20) and *Sen. Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-D17), provided that the violation of an executive order, proclamation or rule issued by the Governor cannot be enforced as a Class A misdemeanor unless approved by a majority vote in both chambers of the Tennessee legislature.

Legislation Status: **HB1615** failed in the House Public Service Subcommittee, led by chair *Rep. Iris Rudder* (R-Winchester-District 39), when no one in the subcommittee offered a second for the bill to be heard. **SB1999** was subsequently 'general-subbed' in the Senate State & Local Government, officially halting the bill's progress in either chamber.

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Bryan Richey



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Mark Pody

Republicans For Executive Branch Overreach



**Rep. Iris
Rudder**



**Rep. Rebecca
Alexander**



**Rep. Rick
Eldridge**



**Rep. Curtis
Johnson**



**Rep. Kelly
Keisling**



**Rep. Dennis
Powers**



RINO WIN

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

KILLED: Legislation To Protect Tennesseans From Intelligence Investigations By Biden's DOJ

HB2912 / SB2804, sponsored by *Rep. Todd Warner* (R-Chapel Hill-D92) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), would have prohibited the use of taxpayer-funded local and state law enforcement for intelligence gathering operations with Tennesseans as the focus.

Legislation Status: **SB2804** failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee when no one on the committee offered a second for the bill to be heard. **HB2912** was subsequently taken off notice in the House after being repeatedly deferred.

Republicans For Weaponization Of Federal Law Enforcement Against Tennesseans

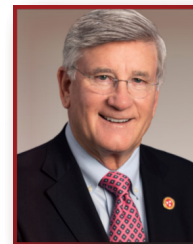
Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Todd Warner



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



Sen. Dawn White



Sen. Paul Rose



Sen. Jon Lundberg



Sen. John Stevens



Sen. Kerry Roberts



Sen. Brent Taylor



CONSERVATIVE WIN

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

RINO BILL POSTPONED: Legislation To Allow Dept. Of Agriculture To Acquire Real Estate Interests

HB1890 / SB2099, sponsored by *Rep. William Lamberth* (R-Portland-D44), *Sen. Jack Johnson* (R-Franklin-D27) and ordained directly from *Governor Bill Lee*, sought to establish a program to allow the Department of Agriculture to acquire and administer real estate interests in the state, including the administration of grants for the purpose of preserving farm and forestry land; create the Farmland Preservation Fund to be used for the program; and specify provisions that must be included in an agricultural easement acquired through the program.

Legislation Status: **SB2099** was 'general subbed' in the Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee by *Johnson*. Our sources say that this was done because the bill lacked support, and would have been killed all together otherwise. Following, *Lamberth* withdrew **HB1890** in the House.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. William Lamberth



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Jack Johnson



Governor Bill Lee



CONSERVATIVE WIN

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Legislation Ensures No Illegal Aliens Are Registered To Vote

HB0835 / SB0137, sponsored by *Rep. Bryan Richey* (R-Maryville-D20) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), requires election coordinators to compare the statewide voter registration database with the Department of Safety database to ensure that there are no illegal aliens registered to vote.

Legislation Status: With only Democrats voting against the legislation, **HB0835 / SB0137** passed in both chambers of the General Assembly. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 3, 2024.

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Bryan Richey



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

SCHOOL SAFETY

Legislation Allowing Approved Teachers To Be Armed At School To Protect Students

HB1202 / SB1325 sponsored by *Rep. Ryan Williams* (R-Cookeville-D42) and *Sen. Paul Bailey* (R-Sparta-D15), authorizes school faculty and staff members to carry concealed weapons “subject to certain conditions, including obtaining an enhanced handgun carry permit and completing annual training.”

Legislation Status: **HB1202** passed the House with a vote of 68 Ayes, 28 Nays, and 2 Present Not Voting. *Reps. Kevin D. Raper* (R-Cleveland-D24) and *Sam Whitson* (R-Franklin-D65) voted No along with the Democrats. *Reps. Clay Doggett* (R-Pulaski-D70) and *Kirk Haston* (R-Lobeville-D72) were present but did not vote. While voting in the affirmative to pass the bill, *Rep. Patsy Hazlewood* (R-Signal Mountain-D27) previously voted in favor of a Democrat amendment that would have limited the application of the law. **SB1325** passed the Senate with a vote of 26 Ayes, 5 Nays, and 1 Present Not Voting. *Sen. Art Swann* (R-Maryville-D2) chose to skip the vote. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on March 26, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Ryan Williams



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Paul Bailey



Rep. Kevin D. Raper



Rep. Sam Whitson



Voted for Bad
Democrat Amendment
Rep. Patsy Hazlewood



CONSERVATIVE WIN

SCHOOL SAFETY

Legislation Mandates Age Appropriate Firearms Safety Courses For TN Schools

HB2882 / SB2923, sponsored by *Rep. Chris Todd* (R-Madison County-D73) and *Sen. Paul Bailey* (R-Sparta-D15), requires “beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, each local education agency and public charter school to provide students with age-appropriate and grade-appropriate instruction on firearm safety.”

Legislation Status: **HB2882** passed the House with a vote of 79 Ayes and 12 Nays. *Rep. Patsy Hazlewood* (R-Signal Mountain-D27) voted No along with the Democrats. **SB2923** passed the Senate with a vote of 24 Ayes and 3 Nays. All Senate Republicans voted in favor of the bill. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 23, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Chris Todd



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Paul Bailey



Rep. Patsy Hazlewood



CONSERVATIVE WIN

SCHOOL SAFETY

Legislation Allows Local Law Enforcement To Assign SROs To Schools That Fail To Request One

HB1664 / SB1715, sponsored by *Rep. Todd Warner* (R-Chapel Hill-D92) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), enables law enforcement agencies to assign resource officers to schools who had not previously requested one. The legislation also includes language that authorizes the appointed SRO to carry a weapon.

Legislation Status: **HB1664** passed the House with a vote of 86 Ayes and 10 Nays. House down votes came only from Democrats. **SB1715** passed the Senate with a vote of 24 Ayes and 5 Nays. All Senate Republicans present for the floor vote supported the bill. However, *Sen. Jon Lundberg* (R-Bristol-D4) previously voted against the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 19, 2024.

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Todd Warner



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



Voted No in Committee
Sen. Jon Lundberg



CONSERVATIVE WIN

SCHOOL SAFETY

Legislation Allows Private Schools To Adopt Their Own Handgun Carry Policies

HB1631 / SB1708, sponsored by *Rep. Gino Bulso* (R-Brentwood-District 61) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), clarifies that “a private school serving students in any of the grades pre-K through 12 is authorized to adopt a handgun carry policy for the private school’s property.”

Legislation Status: **HB1631** passed the House with a vote of 74 Ayes and 23 Nays. **SB1708** passed the Senate with a vote of 26 Ayes and 5 Nays. Down votes in both chambers came only from Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill on April 19, 2024.

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Gino Bulso



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

SCHOOL SAFETY

Legislation Allows Non-Lethal Weapon Carry On College Campuses

HB1909 / SB1868, sponsored by *Rep. Gino Bulso* (R-Brentwood-D61) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), removes the criminal offense for carrying a non-lethal self-defense weapon like pepper spray on college campuses. Also known as the “Laken Riley Act of 2024,” the bill is named in honor of Ms. Riley, who was murdered by an illegal alien on her college campus in Athens, Georgia.

Legislation Status: **HB1909** passed the House with a vote of 88 Ayes and 4 Nays. **SB1868** passed the Senate with a vote of 26 Ayes, 2 Nays and 2 Present but not voting. Down votes in both chambers came only from Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill on April 23, 2024.

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Gino Bulso



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Joey Hensley



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RINO WIN

PUSHBACK AGAINST SCHOOL INDOCTRINATION

KILLED: Legislation To Help Protect Kids From School Indoctrination

HB1605 / SB1722, sponsored by *Rep. Gino Bulso* (R-Brentwood-D61) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), sought to ban Pride Flags and other flags ideological or political in nature from Tennessee public classrooms.

Legislation Status: **HB1605** passed the House with a vote of 70 Ayes, 24 Nays and 1 Present but not voting. *Rep. John Gillespie* (R-Memphis-D97) voted No while *Rep. Mark White* (R-Memphis-D83) chose not to vote. **SB1722** failed in the Senate when the vote failed to gain a Constitutional majority. *Lt. Gov. Randy McNally* (R-Oak Ridge-District 5) was the lone Republican voting against the bill. Three Republicans were Present but refused to vote - *Sens. Richard Briggs* (R-Knoxville-D7), *Todd Gardenhire* (R-Chattanooga-D10) and *Ken Yager* (R-Kingston-D12). Eight other Republicans "took a walk to skip the vote" - *Sens. Paul Bailey* (R-Sparta-D15), *Ferrell Haile* (R-Gallatin-D18), *Becky Massey* (R-Knoxville-D6), *Bill Powers* (R-Clarksville-D22), *Shane Reeves* (R-Bedford, Cannon, Moore and Rutherford Counties-D14), *Page Walley* (R-Savannah-D26) & *Bo Watson* (R-Hixson-D11).

RINOs for School Indoctrination

Conservative Fighters



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Lt. Gov.
Randy McNally



Sen. Richard Briggs



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Sen. Ken Yager



Sen. Paul Bailey



Sen. Ferrell Haile



Sen. Becky Massey



Sen. Bill Powers



Sen. Shane Reeves



Sen. Page Walley



Sen. Bo Watson



Rep. John Gillespie



Rep. Mark White



CONSERVATIVE WIN *SCHOOL INDOCTRINATION PUSHBACK*

Legislation Mandates Process For Reporting Divisive Concepts In Higher Education

HB2784 / SB2501, sponsored by *Rep. John Ragan* (R-Oak Ridge-D33) and *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28), strengthens existing law by requiring institutions to report results of investigations regarding complaints of divisive concepts to the comptroller within 10 days. Additionally, they would be required to give a status update on pending investigations every 30 days.

Legislation Status: **HB2784** passed the House with a vote of 65 Ayes and 23 Nays. **SB2501** passed the Senate with a vote of 26 Ayes and 5 Nays. Down votes in both chambers came only from Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill on April 29, 2024.

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CONSERVATIVE WIN *PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM*

Legislation Criminalizes Abortion Trafficking Of Minors

HB1895 / SB1971, sponsored by *Rep. Jason Zachary* (R-Knoxville-D14) and *Sen. Paul Rose* (R-Lauderdale, Shelby and Tipton Counties-D32), creates the criminal offense of abortion trafficking of a minor; provides for a civil action against a person committing the offense of abortion trafficking of a minor for the wrongful death of an unborn child that was aborted.

Legislation Status: **HB1895** passed the House with a vote of 74 Ayes and 24 Nays. *Rep. Sam Whitson* (R-Franklin-D65) joined the Democrats in voting against the bill. **SB1971** passed the Senate with a vote of 25 Ayes and 4 Nays. All Senate Republicans voted in favor. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 28, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Paul Rose



Rep. Sam Whitson



CONSERVATIVE WIN *PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM*

Legislation Allows Civil Suits For Gender Surgery Trafficking Of Minors

HB2310 / SB2782, sponsored by *Rep. Bryan Richey* (R-Maryville-D20) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tulahoma-D16), will allow those who traffic minors across state lines for the purposes of intentionally assisting in sex reassignment procedures to face civil penalties by the minor's parents.

Legislation Status: The legislation passed the Senate and House with all Republicans voting in favor. However, prior to the bill's passage in the House, *Rep. Patsy Hazlewood* (R-Signal Mountain-District 27) proposed an amendment that diverged from the original bill language stating that **HB2310** does not apply to: Parents or legal guardians, other adults who have permission from parents or legal guardians and that it does not apply to common carriers. The amendment was adopted and the legislation that was passed in both chambers reflected this change. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 28, 2024.

Conservative Fighters



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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Janice Bowling



Rep. Patsy Hazlewood
Proposed amendment which was adopted that weakened the bill before passage.



CONSERVATIVE WIN *PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM*

Legislation Increases Penalties for Indirectly Causing Abuse, Imminent Harm To Children

HB1817 / SB2662, sponsored by *Rep. Mary Littleton* (R-Dickson-D78) and *Sen. Dawn White* (R-Murfreesboro-D13), raises the penalty for child endangerment by a parent or custodian of a child eight years of age or younger from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony if the parent or guardian knowingly exposes the child to abuse or neglect resulting in physical injury or imminent danger. Additionally, it increases the penalty from a Class D felony to a Class B felony for individuals who negligently engage in conduct placing a child eight years of age or younger in imminent danger of death or bodily harm.

Legislation Status: **HB1817** passed the House with a vote of 86 Ayes, 2 Nays and 4 Present but not voting. *Rep. Mike Sparks* (R-Smyrna-D49) joined three Democrats in abstaining from the vote. **SB2662** passed the Senate with a vote of 30 Ayes and 1 Present but not voting. All Senate Republicans voted in favor. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 1, 2024.



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Legislation Protects Religious Rights Of Foster And Adoptive Parents

HB2169 / SB1738, sponsored by *Rep. Mary Littleton* (R-Dickson-D78) and *Sen. Paul Rose* (R-Lauderdale, Shelby and Tipton Counties-D32), also known as the “Tennessee Foster and Adoptive Parent Act,” prohibits the Department of Children’s Services from requiring potential foster and adoptive parents to support policies concerning sexual orientation or gender identity that may conflict with their beliefs.

Legislation Status: **HB2169** passed the House with a vote of 73 Ayes and 20 Nays. **SB1738** passed the Senate with a vote of 24 Ayes and 6 Nays. All Republicans in both chambers voted in favor. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 11, 2024.



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

PATIENT AND FAMILY RIGHTS

Legislation Prohibits Hospitals From Restricting In-Person Visitation

HB1883 / SB1641, sponsored by *Rep. Kip Capley* (R-Summertown-D71) and *Sen. Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-District 17), guarantees that someone with medical Power of Attorney has the right to visit a hospital patient at least once a day for at least an hour per visit for the entirety of the patient's stay. This right must not be terminated, suspended, waived, or otherwise limited upon if a declaration of a disaster or emergency is issued by the State.

Legislation Status: **HB1883** passed the House with a vote of 75 Ayes, 16 Nays, and 1 Present but not voting. *Rep. Bud Hulse* (R-Kingsport-D2) chose to abstain from the final vote. **SB1641** passed the Senate with a vote of 27 Ayes and 3 Nays. Down votes in both chambers came only from Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 23, 2024.

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RINO WIN

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Legislation Expediting Parental Rights Termination For "Substantial Non-Compliance"

HB1808 / SB2660, sponsored by *Rep. Ed Butler* (R-Rickman-D41) and *Sen. Dawn White* (R-Murfreesboro-D13), requires the Department of Children’s Services to file a petition for the termination of parental rights within 90 days if parents are not compliant with terms outlined in a permanency plan. Critics have expressed concern over the subjective language of the bill, with no clear statutory definition of “substantial non-compliance.” The new law will reduce the amount of time that parents have to make progress in their case from almost two years down to six months. Opponents argue that this will “accelerate taking kids” instead of working to return them to their parents, leaving more kids in the foster care system long-term. This could prove detrimental in cases where parents have been falsely accused or assessed by DCS, especially after last year’s legislation signed by *Governor Bill Lee*, increasing parents’ chances of being criminalized by DCS based on anonymous allegations.

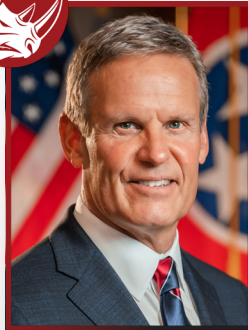
Legislation Status: **HB1808** passed the House with a vote of 66 Ayes, 22 Nays and 5 Present but not voting. **SB2660** passed the Senate with 22 Nays & 6 Nays. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 4, 2024.



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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Dawn White



Signed Bill into Law
Gov. Bill Lee

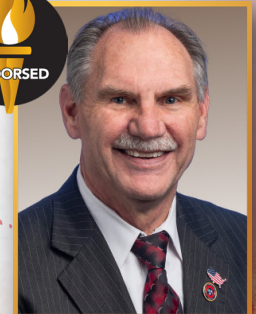
Conservatives for Preserving Parental Rights



Rep. Bryan Richey



Sen. Janice Bowling



Sen. Mark Pody



CONSERVATIVE WIN

PROTECTING CHILDREN

Legislation Allows The Death Penalty To Be Prescribed For Child Rape

HB1663 / SB1834, sponsored by *Rep. William Lamberth (R-Portland-D44)* and *Sen. Jack Johnson (R-Franklin-D27)*, authorizes the death penalty as punishment for rape of a child, aggravated rape of a child, or especially aggravated rape of a child.

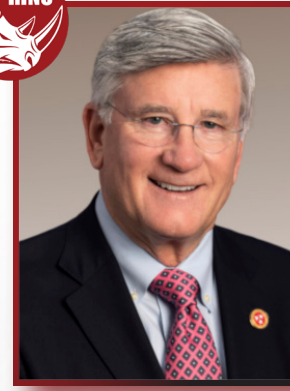
Legislation Status: **SB1834** passed the Senate on a vote of 23 to 8, with *Sen. Todd Gardenhire (R-Chattanooga-D10)* voting with the Democrats against the bill. Previously, in the Senate Judiciary Committee, *Gardenhire* voted against the bill along with *Sen. Kerry Roberts (R-Springfield-D23)*. *Roberts*, however was not present for the Senate floor vote. **HB1663** passed the House on a vote of 77 Ayes, 19 Nays, and 1 present but not voting. All House Republicans voted in favor of the bill. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 9, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Jack Johnson



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



Sen. Kerry Roberts



RINO WIN

PROTECTING KIDS FROM SCHOOL INDOCTRINATION

KILLED: Legislation To Ensure Compliance With Age Appropriate Materials Act

HB1632 / SB1858, sponsored by *Rep. Gino Bulso* (R-Brentwood-D61) & *Sen. Ferrell Haile* (R-Gallatin-D18), sought to allow parents to file civil suits in order to ensure compliance with the Age-Appropriate Materials Act of 2022.

Legislation Status: **SB1858** passed in the Senate by 26 to 5 with only Democrats voting against. After passing through the majority of the committee process, **HB1632** was placed behind the budget by House Finance, Ways & Means Subcommittee chair *Rep. Gary Hicks* (R-Rogersville-D9). Toward the end of the session, **HB1632** was back on the docket for *Hicks'* subcommittee but was taken off notice, along with all the remaining bills that were still 'behind the budget.'



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Gino Bulso



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Ferrell Haile



Rep. Gary Hicks



RINO WIN

TRANSPARENCY

Legislation Could Enable Violent Offenders Who Murder Kids To Escape Accountability

HB1695 / SB2020, sponsored by *Rep. Rebecca Alexander* (R-Jonesborough-D7) and *Sen. Shane Reeves* (R-Bedford, Cannon, Moore & Rutherford Counties-D14), "specifies that reports of county medical examiners and autopsy reports of victims of violent crime who are minors are not public documents; allows a parent or legal guardian of a minor victim of a violent crime to consent to the release of the report of the county medical examiner or autopsy report of the minor victim if the parent or legal guardian is not a suspect in the circumstances of the minor's death."

How could this law be a bad thing? This bill assumes that police and prosecutors always get it right. Every couple of years, a story emerges in which a local journalist has used an autopsy — often working with a frustrated extended family member and not necessarily the parent — to shine light on both mistakes and attempted cover ups.

Legislation Status: **HB1695** passed the House with a vote of 86 Ayes and 1 Nay. The one Nay vote came from *Rep. Bud Hulse* (R-Kingsport-D2). **SB2020** passed the Senate with a vote of 28 Ayes and 2 Nays. *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tullahoma-D16), *Sen. Joey Hensley* (R-Hohenwald-D28) and *Sen. Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-D17) voted Nay. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 3, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
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Conservatives Voting Against Bad Legislation



Rep. Bud Hulse



Sen. Janice Bowling



Sen. Mark Pody



Sen. Joey Hensley



RINO WIN

TRANSPARENCY

Legislation Obscures Deals Made Through The Department of Tourist Development

HB1692 / SB2093, sponsored by *Rep. William Lamberth* (R-Portland-D44) and *Sen. Jack Johnson* (R-Franklin-D27), allows Department of Tourism records to be hidden from public view if the tourism commissioner is in agreement with the Attorney General that information "is of such a sensitive nature that its disclosure or release would seriously harm the ability of this state to negotiate events, contracts, agreements, or administer grant programs."

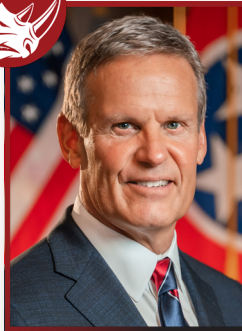
Legislation Status: **HB1692** passed the House with a vote of 73 Ayes and 17 Nays. **SB2093** passed the Senate with 23 Nays, 6 Nays and 2 Present but not voting. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 22, 2024.



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Republicans for Transparency



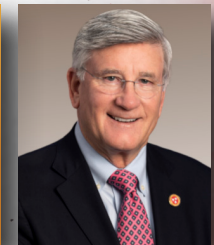
Rep. Jody Barrett



Rep. Bryan Richey



Sen. Joey Hensley



Sen. Todd Gardenhire



RINO WIN

TRANSPARENCY

KILLED: Rule Change To Provide More Transparency In Government Operations

Rep. Bryan Richey (R-Maryville-D20) proposed a rule change that would require all votes in House Subcommittee and Committee hearings to be a roll call vote, instead of the current voice vote that doesn't keep a record of how Representatives voted.

In the House Select Committee on Rules, *Chair William Lamberth* promised to use a roll call vote for the proposed rule change, but reneged and instead called for a voice vote where no member of the committee voted in favor.

Republicans That Want To Keep Their Voting Records Secret

Conservative Fighter



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Rep. William Lamberth



Rep. Sam Whitson



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Rep. Gary Hicks



Rep. Curtis Johnson



Rep. Tandy Darby



Rep. Rusty Grills



CONSERVATIVE WIN

SECOND AMENDMENT

Legislation Prevents Local Governments From Establishing, Enforcing Red Flag Gun Laws

HB2035 / SB2763, sponsored by *Rep. Jody Barrett* (R-Dickson-D69) and *Sen. Janice Bowling* (R-Tulahoma-D16), preempts “the entire field of legislation regarding extreme risk protection orders [ERPOs] to the exclusion of all county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government law, ordinances, resolutions, enactments, or regulation.”

Legislation Status: **SB2763** passed the Senate on a vote of 22 to 6. Republican *Sens. Art Swann* (R-Maryville-D2) and *Page Walley* (R-Savannah-D26) joined Democrats in voting against the bill. **HB2035** passed the House on a vote of 73 to 24. Republican *Rep. Sam Whitson* (R-Franklin-D65) was the only Republican who voted against. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on May 28, 2024.

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Rep. Sam Whitson



Sen. Art Swann



Sen. Page Walley



CONSERVATIVE WIN

SECOND AMENDMENT

Legislation Prevents Banks From Separately Marking, Denying Firearms Purchases

HB2762 / SB2223, sponsored by *Rep. Rusty Grills* (R-Newbern-D77) and *Sen. Jack Johnson* (R-Franklin-D27), states that credit card companies and banks cannot require firearms retailers to be identified by a separate code nor can they deny a legal firearms purchase based on that code.

Legislation Status: **HB2762** passed the House with a vote of 75 Ayes, 17 Nays, and 2 Present but not voting. **SB2223** passed the Senate with a vote of 27 Ayes and 3 Nays. Down votes in both chambers came only from Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 23, 2024.



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RINO WIN **SECOND AMENDMENT ADJACENT**

Legislation Closely Resembling "Red Flag" Gun Law

HB1625 / SB1673, sponsored by *Rep. Jason Zachary* (R-Knoxville-D14) and *Sen. Becky Massey* (R-Knoxville-D6), expands mandatory reporting laws for mental health professionals to report the possibility of potentially violent acts by their patients. Critics of this legislation have voiced concerns about privacy laws, where reported info will be stored and how it will be used. The legislation also provides mental health professionals with civil, criminal and regulatory immunity. The legislation is troubling given the subjective way in which a mental health professional could perceive something as a threat.

Legislation Status: **HB1625** passed the House with a vote of 76 Ayes, 12 Nays and 5 present but not voting. **SB1673** passed the Senate unanimously. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 23, 2024.



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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Becky Massey



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CONSERVATIVE WIN

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Legislation Removes Vaccine Requirements For Foster And Adoptive Families

HB1726 / SB2359, sponsored by *Rep. Ron Gant* (R-Piperton-D94) and *Sen. Bo Watson* (R-Hixson-D11), prohibits the Department of Children's Services from requiring immunizations in order to place children in foster and adoptive homes. The law expands the pool of eligible families who are able to foster and adopt while protecting religious exemption requests.

Legislation Status: **HB1726** passed the House with a vote of 70 Ayes and 24 Nays. *Rep. Sam Whitson* (R-Franklin-D65) voted No along with the Democrats. **SB2359** passed the Senate with a vote of 24 Ayes, 2 Nays, and 1 Present Not Voting. All Senate Republicans voted in favor of the bill. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 11, 2024.



Prime House Sponsor
Rep. Ron Gant



Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Bo Watson



Voted No
Rep. Sam Whitson



CONSERVATIVE WIN

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Ensuring Religious Freedom For Tennessee Clergy

HB0878 / SB0596, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-D32) and *Sen. Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-D17), states that "a person is not required to solemnize a marriage if the person has an objection to solemnizing the marriage based on the person's conscience or religious beliefs."

Legislation Status: **HB0878** passed the House in March 2023 with a vote of 74 Ayes and 22 Nays. **SB0596** passed the Senate in February 2024 with a vote of 27 Ayes and 5 Nays. In both chambers, the down votes came from only the Democrats. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on February 21, 2024.

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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Mark Pody





RINO WIN

PROTECTING TENNESSEANS

KILLED: Legislation To Extend The Amount Of Time Sex Offenders Remain On Registry

HB1617 / SB2630, sponsored by *Rep. Bryan Richey* (R-Maryville-D20) and *Sen. Mark Pody* (R-Lebanon-D17), sought to extend the amount of time that a perpetrator remains on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry from 10 to 15 years.

Legislation Status: **SB2630** passed in the Senate by unanimous vote. After passing through the majority of the committee process, **HB1617** was placed behind the budget by House Finance, Ways and Means by Subcommittee chair *Gary Hicks* (R-Rogersville-D9). Toward the end of the session, **HB1617** was back on the docket for *Hicks'* subcommittee but was taken off notice, along with all the remaining bills that were still 'behind the budget.'

Conservative Fighters



Prime House Sponsor
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Prime Senate Sponsor
Sen. Mark Pody



Rep. Gary Hicks



CONSERVATIVE WIN

PROTECTING TENNESSEANS

Legislation Bans Attempts At Chemical Weather Modification And Geoengineering

HB2063 / SB2691, sponsored by *Rep. Monty Fritts* (R-Kingston-D32) and *Sen. Steve Southerland* (R-Morristown-D9), prohibits the intentional injection, release, or dispersion, by any means, of chemicals, chemical compounds, substances, or apparatus within the borders of this state into the atmosphere with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of the sunlight.

Legislation Status: **HB2063** passed the House with a vote of 70 Ayes, 22 Nays, and 1 Present but not voting. *Rep. Sam Whitson* (R-Franklin-D65) voted No along with the Democrats. *Rep. John Ragan* (R-Oak Ridge-D33) chose not to vote. **SB2691** passed the Senate with a vote of 25 Ayes and 6 Nays. All Senate Republicans voted in favor of the bill. *Governor Bill Lee* signed the bill into law on April 11, 2024.



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