



**A GUIDE TO THE**

# **TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

[capitol.tn.gov](http://capitol.tn.gov)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

2

[Navigating the TGA Website](#)

3

[Finding your Legislators](#)

4

[Contacting your Legislators](#)

5

[Finding Bills of Interest](#)

6

[Understanding the Bill Page](#)

7

[Bill History and Amendments](#)

8

[Fiscal and Bill Summaries](#)

9

[Committee and Floor Votes](#)

10

[Understanding Caption Bills](#)

11

[Schedules and Calendars](#)

12

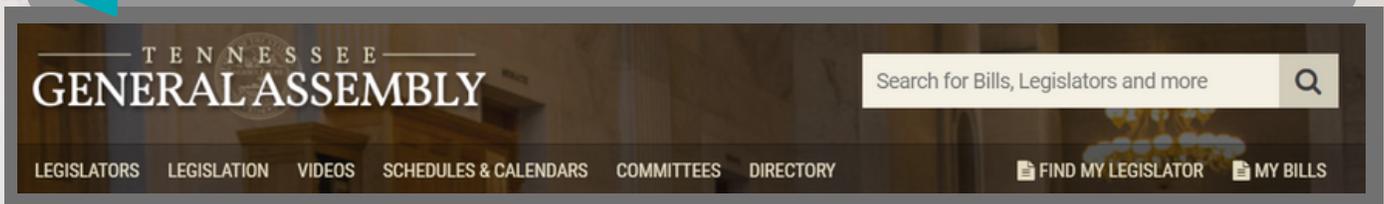
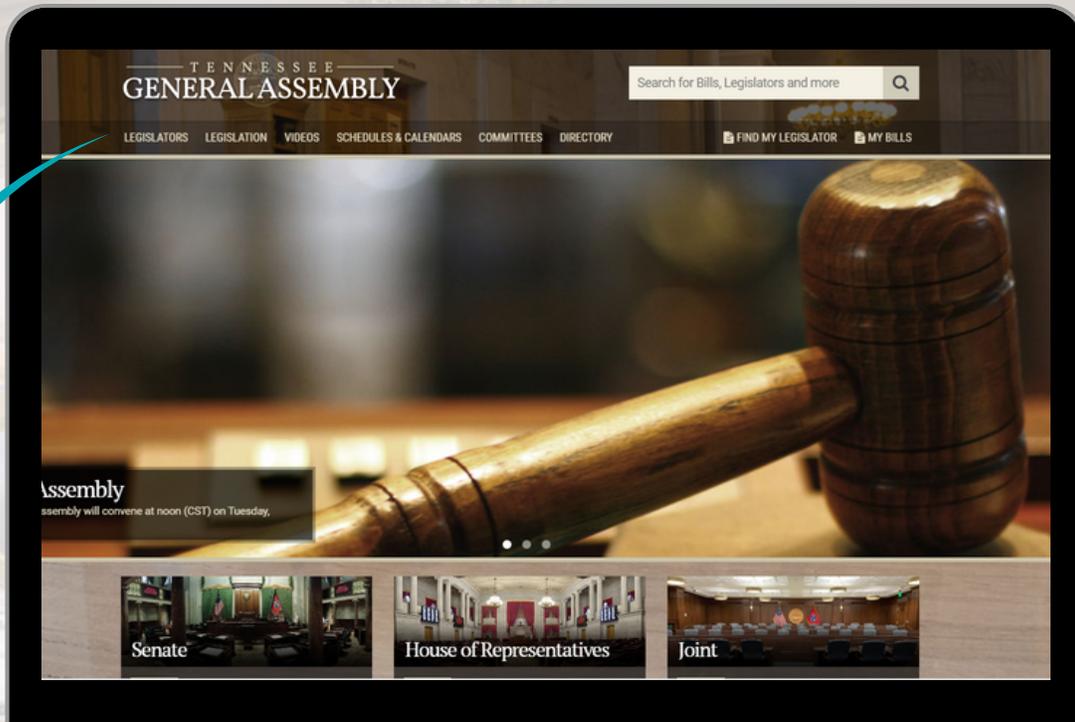
[Committees and Subcommittees](#)

13

[Understanding Committees](#)

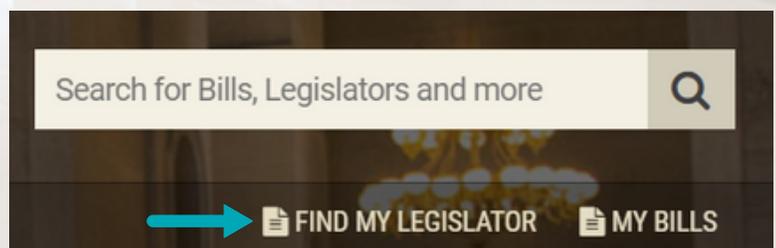
# NAVIGATING THE TGA WEBSITE

In your web browser, type **www.capitol.tn.gov**. This will bring you to the homepage of the Tennessee General Assembly's website.



From here, you can look up everything from profiles on all 132 legislators, bills filed in the current and past (archived) legislative sessions, recorded videos of hearings, weekly schedules and calendars, committee assignments and responsibilities, and locating which district you reside in.

The first step in effective legislative advocacy is knowing who your elected officials are. You can easily access this information by clicking **Find My Legislator** located under the search bar.

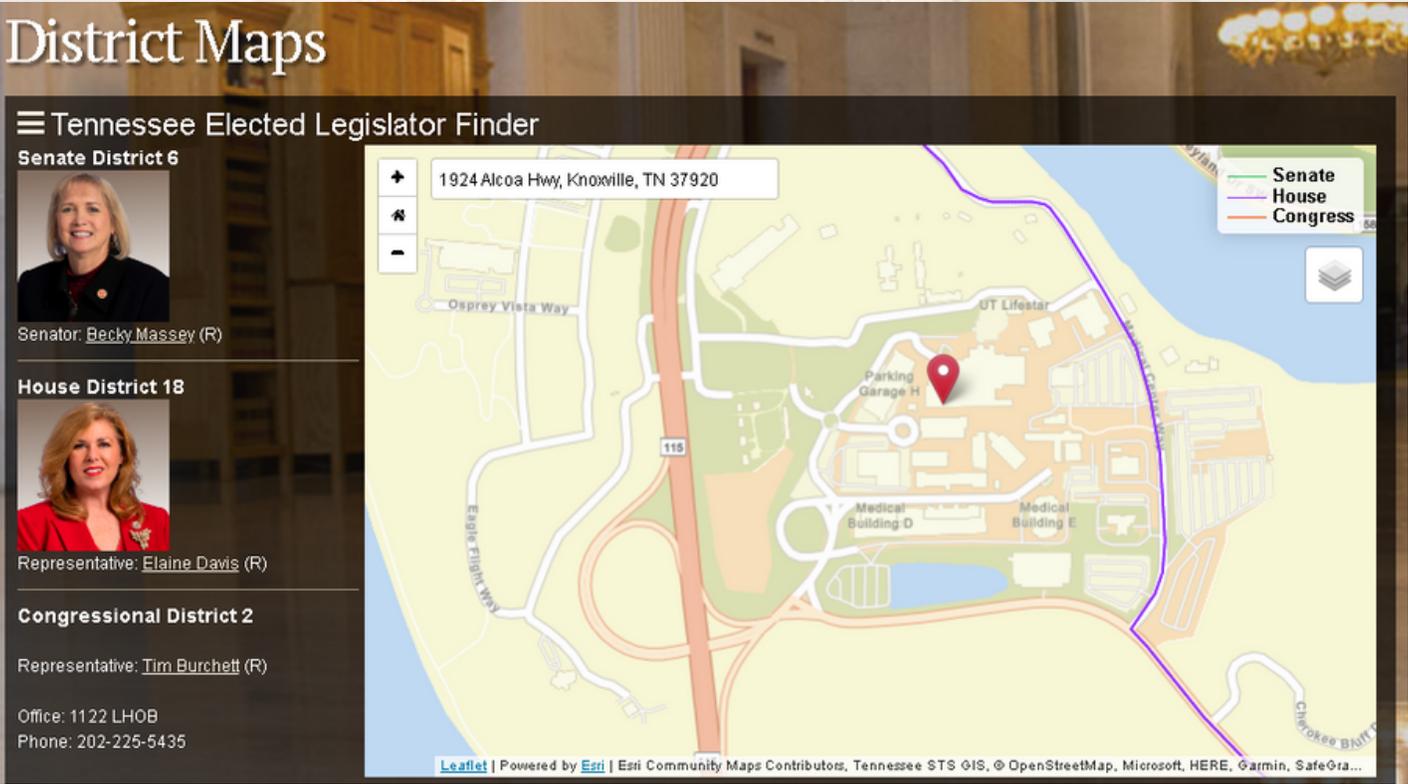


# FINDING YOUR LEGISLATORS



When you land on the **Find My Legislator** webpage, you'll see a map with district lines designated by different colors. On that map you'll enter your address into this search bar.

Once entered, you'll immediately be redirected to a page like below that will show which district you live in, your state senator, house representative, and congressman/woman.



The link below the legislator's photo will take you directly to their webpage where you can find information about their district address, committee assignments, and community involvement.



# CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS

Each member of the Tennessee General Assembly has their own webpage that includes their Cordell Hull building office suite number, phone and fax number, district address, and staff contact(s). From this page you can also see on which committees the legislator serves and what bills they have sponsored and co-sponsored that legislative session.

The image shows two screenshots of Senator Shane Reeves' webpage. The top screenshot is a full view of the page. It features a header with the senator's name, party affiliation (Republican), and district (District 14). Below this are tabs for Personal Info, Committees, and Community Involvement. A 'Bills' link is circled in blue. The bottom screenshot is a zoomed-in view of the 'Staff Contacts' section, with a blue arrow pointing to the email address [sen.shane.reeves@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:sen.shane.reeves@capitol.tn.gov).

Email your elected official directly by clicking this link.

To ensure your legislator receives the message, it's always best to copy the staff contact(s) on all communications.

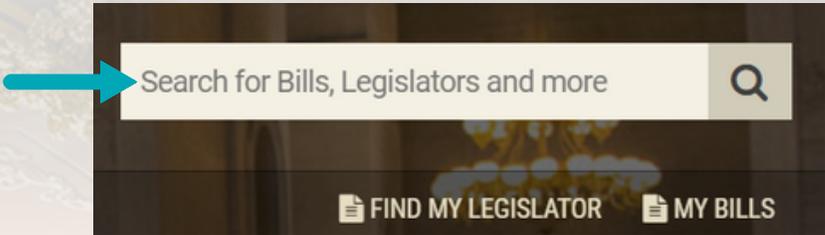
## Staff Contacts

[Hannah Halkias, Executive Secretary](#)

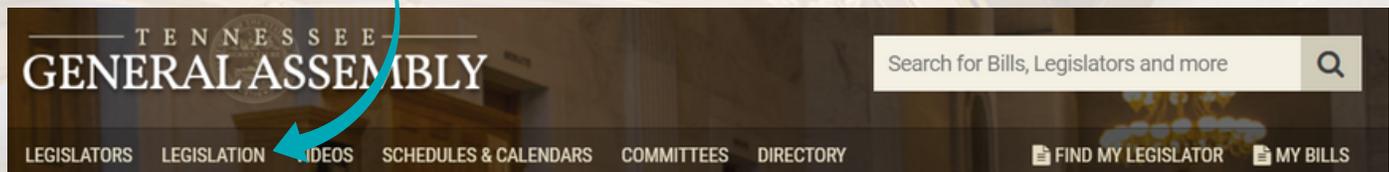
# FINDING BILLS OF INTEREST

There are two ways to search for bills on the Tennessee General Assembly website.

If you know the bill number (ex. SB123), you can type it in this search bar and it will automatically redirect you to the bill's webpage.



If you don't know the bill number, there are a few options to locate your bill of interest. Start by clicking the **Legislation** tab on the main webpage header.



From here you can look up bills by keyword or subject, as well as legislation that has already become Public Chapter. You can also click **Browse Bills By Subject** to view all bills filed that session alphabetized by subject matter.

**Legislation**

Search Legislation and Track Bills

**Keyword and Bill Number Search**  
Search by keyword or number for bills, resolutions or amendments.

**Browse Bills by Index**  
Browse by bill number index.

**Browse Bills by Subject**  
Browse bills by their subject and see related terms.

**Chaptered Bills**  
Public and Private Acts and Resolutions filed with the Tennessee Department of State.

**In This Section**  
Search Bills  
Browse Bills by Index  
Browse Bills by Subject

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U

Subject	Cross Reference
<a href="#">Abortion</a>	
<a href="#">Abuse</a>	<a href="#">Child Abuse</a> <a href="#">Domestic Violence</a> <a href="#">Human Services, Dept. of Children's Services, Dept. of Animal Cruelty and Abuse</a> <a href="#">Elder Abuse</a> <a href="#">Financial Abuse</a>

# UNDERSTANDING THE BILL PAGE

**SB 1345** by \*Watson

Show Co-Prime Sponsors

**(HB 1503)** by \*Vaughan

Show Co-Prime Sponsors

Show Caption Text

Insurance Companies, Agents, Brokers, Policies - As introduced, enacts the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act"; makes changes to law regarding network adequacy of managed health insurance issuers. - Amends TCA Title 8; Title 56; Title 63 and Title 68.

SB1345 ACTIONS	DATE
Placed on Senate Commerce and Labor Committee calendar for 3/20/2023	03/14/2023
Action deferred in Senate Commerce and Labor Committee to 3/21/2023	03/14/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	03/09/2023
Placed on Senate Commerce and Labor Committee calendar for 3/14/2023	03/07/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	03/02/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	02/28/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	02/09/2023
Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Commerce and Labor Committee	02/06/2023
Introduced, Passed on First Consideration	02/02/2023

HB1503 ACTIONS	DATE
Placed on cal. Government Operations Committee for 3/20/2023	03/15/2023
Rec. for pass. if am., ref. to Government Operations Committee	03/14/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	03/09/2023
Placed on cal. Insurance Committee for 3/14/2023	03/08/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	03/07/2023
Rec for pass if am by s/c ref. to Insurance Committee	03/07/2023
Placed on s/c cal Insurance Subcommittee for 3/7/2023	03/01/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.	03/01/2023
Action Def. in s/c Insurance Subcommittee to 3/7/2023	02/28/2023

A bill's main webpage can be very instructive for understanding what a piece of legislation does and its posture in the legislative process.

Insurance Companies, Agents, Brokers, Policies - As introduced, enacts the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act"; makes changes to law regarding network adequacy of managed health insurance issuers. - Amends TCA Title 8; Title 56; Title 63 and Title 68.

The description under the bill number includes its subject(s) matter, a brief summary of what it does, and which Titles of the Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) it opens.

All legislation filed by members of the General Assembly must have a companion filed in the alternate chamber. Thus, all bills will contain a Senate bill number (SB) and a House bill number (HB).

**You can search for the same bill using either bill number.**

Along with the bill's primary sponsors, you can also see other members who have signed onto the bill by clicking the **Show Co-Prime Sponsors** button.

**SB 1345** by \*Watson

Show Co-Prime Sponsors

**(HB 1503)** by \*Vaughan

Show Co-Prime Sponsors

**SB 1345** by \*Watson, Hensley, Briggs, McNally, Reeves, Crowe, Lowe, Jackson

Hide Co-Prime Sponsors

**(HB 1503)** by \*Vaughan, RUDDER, SEXTON, HAWK, GARRETT, DAVIS, TERRY, LAMBERT H, ALEXANDER, HELTON-HAYNES, WHITE

Hide Co-Prime Sponsors

# BILL HISTORY AND AMENDMENTS

SB1345 ACTIONS		DATE	HB1503 ACTIONS		DATE
Placed on Senate Commerce and Labor Committee calendar for 3/20/2023		03/14/2023	Placed on cal. Government Operations Committee for 3/20/2023		03/15/2023
Action deferred in Senate Commerce and Labor Committee to 3/21/2023		03/14/2023	Rec. for pass. if am., ref. to Government Operations Committee		03/14/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.		03/09/2023	Sponsor(s) Added.		03/09/2023
Placed on Senate Commerce and Labor Committee calendar for 3/14/2023		03/07/2023	Placed on cal. Insurance Committee for 3/14/2023		03/08/2023
Sponsor(s) Added.		03/02/2023	Sponsor(s) Added.		03/07/2023

The **Bill History** tab will show all action (or inaction) taken on a specific bill in both the Senate and House and the date it was taken. This includes when sponsors are added or removed, or when a bill is deferred to the next standing committee calendar.

Bill History | Amendments | Video | Summary | Fiscal Note | Votes

No amendments for SB1345.

AMENDMENTS	FISCAL MEMOS
<b>HA0129</b> Amendment 1-1 to HB1503	

NOTE: Each fiscal memorandum applies only to the amendment(s) identified in the memorandum. The fiscal memorandum must be matched to any amendments that have been adopted.

As a bill moves through the legislative process, it is often amended by parties with a vested interest. These changes can be found under the **Amendments** tab on the bill page. Note that amendments can only be accessed online after they have been adopted onto the bill by the appropriate standing committee.

If the proposed amendment has a monetary cost to the state, it will include a **Fiscal Memo**.

# FISCAL AND BILL SUMMARIES

**SB 0459**  
by \*Watson

Show Co-Prime Sponsors

**(HB 0416)**  
by \*Hemmer

Show Co-Prime Sponsors

Show Caption Text

TennCare - As introduced, directs the bureau to establish, by January 1, 2024, a statewide program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) to provide comprehensive, integrated acute and long-term care services for qualifying frail, elderly individuals who require nursing facility levels of care; sets minimum program enrollment limits; authorizes the director to seek any federal waiver the director deems necessary to establish the program. - Amends TCA Title 71.

Bill History Amendments Video Summary Fiscal Note Votes

### FISCAL SUMMARY

Increase State Expenditures - Net Impact - \$4,013,900/FY23-24 \$8,027,700/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years Increase Federal Expenditures - Net Impact - \$7,615,500/FY23-24 \$15,230,900/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years

### BILL SUMMARY

This bill requires the bureau of TennCare to establish a statewide program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) that provides comprehensive, integrated acute and long-term care services for frail, elderly individuals who require the level of care provided in a nursing facility and who meet eligibility criteria established by the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.

This bill also requires the PACE program to have capacity to accommodate and seek to enroll, at a minimum, 2,000 enrollees by January 1, 2024; 3,000 enrollees by January 1, 2025; and 5,000 enrollees by January 1, 2026 and subsequent calendar years.

This bill authorizes the director of TennCare to seek and obtain any federal waiver that the director deems necessary to establish the program.

In addition to the bill's description, Legal Services will outline what the proposed legislation does in detail on the **Summary** tab, including an overview of the present law as it relates to what is being amended in the Tennessee Code Annotated. If relevant, this page will also include a brief fiscal summary like the above example.

Bill History Amendments Video Summary Fiscal Note Votes

FiscalNote for SB0459/HB0416 filed under [HB0416](#)

To review a bill's fiscal impact in more detail, click the **Fiscal Note** tab to locate the linked attachment(s).

# COMMITTEE AND FLOOR VOTES

**SB 0523**  
by \*Jackson

**(HB 0495)**  
by \*Martin B

**HOUSE**  
Floor and Committee Votes

House moved to substitute and conform to SB0523

SB0523 by Jackson - FLOOR VOTE: REGULAR CALENDAR AS AMENDED PASSAGE ON THIRD CONSIDERATION 3/16/2023

Passed

Ayes.....89  
Noes.....0

Representatives voting aye were: Alexander, Barrett, Baum, Beck, Boyd, Bricken, Burkhart, Butler, Camper, Capley, Carr, Carringer, Cepicky, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Crawford, Darby, Davis, Dixie, Doggett, Eldridge, Faison, Freeman, Fritts, Gant, Garrett, Glynn, Grills, Hakeem, Hale, Hardaway, Harris, Hawk, Helton-Haynes, Hemmer, Hicks G, Hicks T, Holsclaw, Howell, Hulsey, Hurt, Jernigan, Johnson C, Johnson G, Jones, Kumar, Lafferty, Lamberth, Leatherwood, Littleton, Love, Lynn, Marsh, Martin B, Martin G, McCalmon, McKenzie, Miller, Mitchell, Moody, Moon, Parkinson, Powers, Ragan, Raper, Reedy, Richey, Rudder, Russell, Shaw, Sherrell, Slater, Sparks, Stevens, Terry, Thompson, Todd, Towns, Travis, Vaughan, Vital, Warner, White, Whitson, Williams, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Sexton – 89.

**SENATE**  
Floor and Committee Votes

SB0523 by Jackson - FLOOR VOTE: as Amended Third Consideration 2/27/2023

Passed

Ayes.....32  
Noes.....0

Senators voting aye were: Bailey, Bowling, Briggs, Campbell, Crowe, Gardenhire, Haile, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kyle, Lamar, Lowe, Lundberg, Massey, Niceley, Oliver, Pody, Powers, Reeves, Roberts, Rose, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Taylor, Walley, Watson, White, Yager, Yarbro, Mr. Speaker McNally – 32.

SB0523 by Jackson - SENATE HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE:

Recommended for passage with amendment/s, refer to Senate Calendar Committee Ayes 9, Nays 0 PNV 0 2/22/2023

Passed

Ayes.....9  
Noes.....0

Senators voting aye were: Crowe, Haile, Hensley, Jackson, Massey, Reeves, Swann, Watson, Yarbro – 9.

HB0495 by Martin B - HOUSE CALENDAR & RULES COMMITTEE:  
H. Placed on Regular Calendar for 3/16/2023 3/9/2023  
Voice Vote - Ayes Prevail

HB0495 by Martin B - HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE:  
Rec. for pass. if am., ref. to Calendar & Rules Committee 3/1/2023  
Voice Vote - Ayes Prevail

HB0495 by Martin B - HOUSE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE:  
Rec for pass if am by s/c ref. to Health Committee 2/21/2023  
Voice Vote - Ayes Prevail

Finally, the **Votes** tab will show all committee and floor votes taken on a specific bill as it moves through the legislative process.

House committees will often pass or defeat bills by a **voice vote** (ayes/nays prevail), whereas the Senate committees always perform a **roll call vote** where each member's vote is publicly recorded.

Sometimes you may see a representative request to be recorded as a "no" vote when an affirmative voice vote advances a bill.

**HOUSE**  
Floor and Committee Votes

HB1051 by Vaughan - HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE:  
Rec. for pass. if am., ref. to Calendar & Rules Committee 3/15/2023  
Voice Vote - Ayes Prevail Rep(s). Jernigan requested to be recorded as voting No

HB1051 by Vaughan - HOUSE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE:  
Rec for pass if am by s/c ref. to Health Committee 2/28/2023  
Voice Vote - Ayes Prevail Rep(s). Jernigan, Mitchell requested to be recorded as voting No

Other times you may see a lawmaker request not to be recorded voting at all.

**SENATE**  
Floor and Committee Votes

SB0360 by Massey - SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:  
Recommended for passage, refer to Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee 3/7/2023

Passed

Ayes.....7  
Noes.....0  
Present and not voting.....1

Senators voting aye were: Gardenhire, Kyle, Lundberg, Roberts, Rose, Taylor, White – 7.  
Senators present and not voting were: Stevens – 1.

This is called **present not voting** (PNV).

# UNDERSTANDING CAPTION BILLS

SB 0222  
by \*Crowe

(HB 0568)  
by \*Carringer

Hide Caption Text

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37; Title 39; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to maternal health.

Health Care - As introduced, requires the annual report by each nurse home visitor program to be submitted to the department of health, in addition to the health care and services facility administering the program and the community in which the program is administered. - Amends TCA Title 37; Title 39; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71.

Mental Illness - As introduced, changes references for mental defect, mental defective, and mentally defective to mental health condition throughout the code. - Amends TCA Title 16; Title 33; Title 37; Title 38; Title 39; Title 41; Title 57; Title 62 and Title 71.

Remember, just because a bill is broadly captioned does **NOT** mean it is a caption bill.

A **caption bill** is a placeholder bill which opens up part of Tennessee Code Annotated but does not indicate legislative intent.

Hide Caption Text

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37; Title 39; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to maternal health.

Caption bills are typically broad enough to cover any number of legislative topics. In this example, the bill is relative to maternal health and opens up several Titles, including the criminal code (39), insurance code (56), and health professions code (63). With such a broad caption, there's no way to know exactly what this bill does as filed.

A good way to identify whether a bill is a caption or not is if it references filing a report or changing a time frame, such as this example.

TennCare - As introduced, reduces from 30 days to 15 days the time within which an enrollee or applicant is responsible for mailing documentation of any material change affecting any information given to the bureau or in the enrollee's or applicant's application. - Amends TCA Title 68 and Title 71.

Abortion - As introduced, requires the department of health to publish on its website information on the possibility of reversing the effects of a chemical abortion in any language that is the primary language spoken by 1 percent or more of this state's population, rather than 2 percent or more. - Amends TCA Title 39; Title 63 and Title 68.



**WARNING**

*Beware deceiving caption bills that appear to do something they do not!*



# COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

The **Committees** page is another helpful resource to utilize when tracking bills of interest. It is important to know which committees a lawmaker serves on prior to discussing an issue with him or her. Because legislators have more influence over bills assigned to their respective committees, they tend to focus their efforts on that subject matter.

## Legislative Committees

Senate	House	Joint
Calendar	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Council on Pensions
Commerce and Labor	Calendar and Rules	Fiscal Review
Education	Civil Justice	Government Operations - Rule Review
Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources	Commerce	TACIR
Ethics	Criminal Justice	
Finance, Ways and Means	Education	
Government Operations	Higher Education	
Health and Welfare	Insurance	
	Local Government	
	State Government	
	Video	

## House Committees

### Committees & Subcommittees

Committee	Subcommittee
Agriculture & Natural Resources	> Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee
Calendar & Rules	
Civil Justice	> Civil Justice Subcommittee > Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee
Commerce	> Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee > Business & Utilities Subcommittee
Criminal Justice	> Criminal Justice Subcommittee
Education Administration	> Higher Education Subcommittee > K-12 Subcommittee
Government Operations	
Health	> Population Health Subcommittee > Health Subcommittee
Insurance	> Insurance Subcommittee
Local Government	> Cities & Counties Subcommittee > Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee > Property & Planning Subcommittee
State Government	> Corrections Subcommittee > Departments & Agencies Subcommittee > Public Service Subcommittee

The Senate has 12 standing committees and the House has 16. The House also has **subcommittees** which are where bills typically begin the legislative process. Since thousands of bills are filed each session there needs to be subgroups to divide the amount of labor required to adequately address all issues.

# UNDERSTANDING COMMITTEES

Each standing committee is appointed a chair and vice chair (in the Senate, a 2nd vice-chair is appointed). The chair is responsible for conducting the meeting and guiding committee members through the agenda items. The vice-chair temporarily assumes this responsibility when the chair is absent or presenting his or her own bill to the committee.

Shown below committee officers are the **committee members**. These are the legislators who are tasked with reviewing proposed bills, providing recommendations, and ultimately approving or rejecting legislation via vote.

Each committee has its own research analyst who is responsible for compiling the agenda and assisting committee officers with following parliamentary procedure. Their contact information is also listed on the committee page.

The screenshot shows a committee page with the following sections:

- Committee Membership** and **Committee Reports** (top navigation)
- Committee Officers**:
  - Rusty Crowe, Chair
  - Ferrell Haile, Vice-Chair
  - Shane Reeves, 2nd Vice-Chair
- Committee Members**:
  - Joey Hensley, Ed Jackson, Becky Duncan Massey, Art Swann (top row)
  - Bo Watson, Jeff Yarbro (bottom row)
- Navigation/Tools**:
  - Current Committee Calendar
  - Current Weekly Schedule
  - Video
- Contact Information**:
  - Jenny Ritchey, Research Analyst
  - Phone: (615) 741-1100 ext. 44672

Blue arrows point from the text on the right to the corresponding elements in the screenshot: from the first paragraph to the officers, from the second paragraph to the members, and from the third paragraph to the contact information.

At the top left of the standing committee page you can find calendars, schedules, and videos. These are updated weekly during the legislative session.

**TMA**<sup>TM</sup>  
Tennessee Medical Association



*This resource was created by the Tennessee Medical Association for exclusive use by TMA members.*