



Weekly Legislative Update

2.3.23

Dear {{FirstName or 'Supporter'}},

Education committees were finally in full swing this week, with panels in the House and Senate holding meetings as the business of the General Assembly ramps up. Notably, both the House and Senate bill filing deadlines passed this week, with legislators, staffers, and advocates scrambling to coordinate bill language before the House deadline Tuesday and the Senate deadline yesterday. However, caption bills are still largely at play, with broadly-worded bill language still floating with the possibility of introducing legislation with major implications for education.

Third-grade retention continues to be top of mind in P-12 education conversations around the state capitol. It was announced on the House floor Monday evening that on Tuesday, February 14th, both the House Education Instruction Subcommittee and House K-12 Education Subcommittee will hold special calendars to review legislation related to this significant issue. The two House education committee chairs, [Rep. Mark White \(R-Memphis\)](#) and [Rep. Debra Moody \(R-Covington\)](#), both requested that representatives holding caption bills related to retention should notify the committees in order to include them under review. The Education Trust in Tennessee continues to remain engaged on this issue, and we encourage you to review our regularly-updated [retention legislation tracker](#), the [Cost of Retention memo](#), and register for our upcoming [Legislative Watch Party on 3rd Grade Retention](#) scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd, when the House Education Administration Committee plans to consider key bills in this subject area.

Next week, Governor Lee is scheduled to deliver his fifth State of the State Address, the first of his second gubernatorial term, on Monday at 6:00pm CT in the House chamber of the Tennessee State Capitol. The address is an opportunity for the executive branch to lay out its policy and fiscal priorities for the upcoming year, with many political onlookers expecting Monday's speech to largely emphasize more robust [infrastructure investments](#). Our team at Ed Trust TN will also be keeping a close lookout for any education-related items discussed in the governor's address, noting that the State of the State is the precursor to the release of the executive branch's proposed budget. You can watch the 2023 State of the State Address live on Governor Lee's [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) channel on Monday night.

To see all of the education-related legislation Ed Trust is actively tracking and other key information, please be sure to check out the "On Our Radar" section, our updated bill tracker, and the committee calendars each linked below.

In partnership,



Reggie Nash
External Relations Manager for Tennessee



On Our Radar

[HB0902/SB0461](#)

Rep. Hurt / Sen. Watson

Establishes the future of work commission to govern the activities of the Tennessee education and workforce data center established in the department of finance and administration's office of evidence and impact to collect, conduct research using, respond to public records requests for, and publish reports regarding certain education and workforce data to create a web-based platform to provide an overview of progress from education into the workforce.

[HB0358/SB0578](#)

Rep. Carringer/ Sen. Pody

Removes the requirement that the state board establish guidelines to suspend, deny, or revoke the license of a teacher who is delinquent or in default on a repayment or service obligation under a guaranteed student loan; deletes a provision that authorized the state board to exercise discretion with regard to certain licensure actions if the teacher's default or delinquency is the result of a medical hardship.

[HB1202/SB1325](#)

Rep. Williams / Sen. Bailey

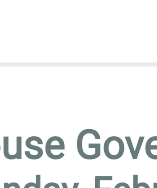
Authorizes a faculty or staff member of a school to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds subject to certain conditions, including obtaining an enhanced handgun carry permit and completing annual training.

[HB1246/SB1150](#)

Rep. Powers / Sen. Niceley

Removes exemptions from prosecution of the offense of transporting illegal aliens for common carriers and those transporting individuals for religious purposes.

[Review Our Bill Tracker](#)



What's Happening

House Government Operations Committee

Monday, February 6th, 1:30pm CT
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Higher Education Subcommittee

Monday, February 6th, 3:00pm CT
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session

Monday, February 6th, 5:00pm CT
Senate Chamber

House Floor Session

Monday, February 6th, 5:00pm CT
House Chamber

Joint Convention - State of the State

Monday, February 6th, 6:00pm CT
House Chamber

House Education Instruction Committee

Tuesday, February 7th, 9:00am CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Judiciary Committee

Tuesday, February 7th, 3:00pm CT
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Instruction Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 7th, 3:00pm CT
House Hearing Room III | [Committee Homepage](#)

House K-12 Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 7th, 4:30pm CT
House Hearing Room II | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Education Administration Committee

Wednesday, February 8th, 1:30pm CT
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, February 8th, 3:00pm CT
Senate Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

House Health Committee

Wednesday, February 8th, 3:30pm CT
House Hearing Room I | [Committee Homepage](#)

Senate Floor Session

Thursday, February 9th, 8:30am CT
Senate Chamber

House Floor Session

Thursday, February 9th, 9:00am CT
House Chamber

[House Committee Calendars](#)

[Senate Committee Calendars](#)



Noteworthy

[Event: Understanding Tennessee's Education Budget with the Sycamore Institute](#)

Join The Education Trust in Tennessee and Mandy Spears Pellegrin, Deputy Director of The Sycamore Institute, on February 27th at 1:00 pm CT to reflect on Governor Lee's budget and the important education implications it has for our students and schools communities.

[Event: TN NAACP 3rd Grade Retention Town Hall in Nashville](#)

Register to attend to the [Tennessee NAACP's town hall](#) on 3rd grade retention at Lee Chapel AME Church in Nashville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, February 7th, 6:00 CT. The event will be hosted in collaboration with My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Nashville and The Urban League of Middle Tennessee. Reserve your spot before attending the event!

[Article: Chalkbeat TN, Promising Futures Child Care Scholarship Legislation](#)

Check out [this article](#) from Chalkbeat TN on the new legislation that proposes a scholarship program to address barriers to accessing child care. It outlines context for the [Promising Futures bill](#), including a feature of [Tennesseans for Quality Early Education \(TQEE\)](#) for their [2022 child care study](#).

[Event: 3rd Grade Retention: Legislative Watch Party](#)

Join The Education Trust in Tennessee for an informative [Legislative Watch Party](#) on February 22nd at 1:00pm CT. Attendees will hear from legislative and subject matter experts prior to the kickoff of the committee hearing, and then live stream the hearing while we post comments, links and pertinent articles during the deliberation.

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Check Out Our Policy Agenda](#)



The Education Trust

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