
TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

111th General Assembly Convenes

The first legislative session of the 111th General Assembly of the Tennessee Legislature commenced on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. In the first few days of the legislative session, formalities and trainings were completed and now the General Assembly is ready to conduct business. On January 9th, a Joint Convention was held to re-elect the Tennessee State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson and State Treasurer David H. Lillard Jr. On January 10th, both Houses adjourned until January 18th and 19th for the Inauguration of the 50th Governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee. Before adjourning on January 10th the House and Senate passed the necessary rules that each chamber will follow during session and the very important committee assignments were made public.

Senate

On the first day of the 111th General Assembly, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally was re-elected as the Speaker of the Senate for a second term. The Lt. Governor appointed Senator Ferrell Haile (Gallatin) as Speaker Pro Tempore and Senator Janice Bowling (Tullahoma) as Deputy Speaker. The Senate Republican and Democrat Caucuses also elected new leadership with Senator Jack Johnson (Franklin) as the Majority Leader and Senator Jeff Yarbrow (Nashville) as the Minority Leader. The Committee Chairmen and all of committee assignments were announced and there were many noteworthy changes made from the previous General Assembly. There are four new Senators that have been sworn in for the 111th General Assembly and two vacant seats that will be filled after special elections.

Committees

Senate Finance
Senate Commerce
Senate Judiciary
Senate State & Local Committee
Senate Health
Senate Education
Senate Transportation
Senate Energy
Senate Government Operations
Senate Rules
Senate Ethics
Senate Calendar & Rules

Chairmen

Sen. Bo Watson
Sen. Paul Bailey
Sen. Mike Bell
Sen. Steve Dickerson
Sen. Rusty Crowe
Sen. Dolores Gresham
Sen. Becky Massey
Sen. Steve Southerland
Sen. Kerry Roberts
Sen. Bo Watson
Sen. Richard Briggs
Sen. Ed Jackson

House

During the 110th General Assembly, Speaker Beth Harwell announced she would make a bid for Governor of Tennessee and that announcement sparked the first competitive race for Speaker of the House since Beth Harwell was elected speaker in 2011. As expected, the House of Representatives confirmed the Republican Caucus election and elected Representative Glen Casada as the new Speaker of

the House on January 8th. Rep. Bill Dunn was elected as the Speaker Pro Tempore by the House. Further, both the Republican and Democratic Caucuses made significant changes to their leaderships. Representative William Lamberth (Cottontown) was chosen to be the new Majority Leader and Representative Cameron Sexton (Crossville) is now the new Republican Caucus Chair. Democratic leadership has also changed electing its first ever African-American Minority Leader in the House, Representative Karen Camper (Memphis), while Representative Mike Stewart (Nashville) will continue as the Democratic Caucus Chairman. There are 27 new House members that have been sworn in for the 111th General Assembly, the most Tennessee has seen since Reconstruction.

One of Speaker Casada's first orders of business was to make the all-important committee assignments, which were announced on January 10th. The committee structure saw significant changes in the number of subcommittees and in the posts of chairmen.

Committees

House Commerce
House Agriculture & Natural Resources
House Local Government
House Judiciary Committee
House State Government
House Transportation
House Education
House Government Operations
House Consumer & Human Resources
House Finance
House Insurance
House Health
Naming, Designating, & Private Acts

Chairmen

Rep. Timothy Hill
Rep. Curtis Halford
Rep. Jim Crawford
Rep. Michael Curcio
Rep. Kelly Keisling
Rep. Dan Howell
Rep. Mark White
Rep. Martin Daniel
Rep. Clark Boyd
Rep. Susan Lynn
Rep. Ron Travis
Rep. Bryan Terry
Rep. John Windle

Joint Fiscal Review Committee

Rep. Ron Travis, Rep. Pat Marsh, Rep. Bill Sanderson, Rep. Daniel Martin Daniels, Rep. Mark White, Rep. Bill Beck, Rep. Darren Jernigan, Rep. Larry Miller, Rep. Michael Curcio, Sen. Paul Bailey, Sen. Todd Gardenhire, Sen. Steve Southerland, Sen. Brenda Gilmore

Upcoming Schedule

During the first week of Session in the Tennessee General Assembly, important dates for first half of the 111th General Assembly were announced. At the end of the first week, both Houses have adjourned until the Inauguration of the Governor-Elect Bill Lee on January 19th. Following the Inauguration, the Senate will adjourn once more and reconvene on January 28th. The House of Representatives will reconvene on January 23rd to take up a regular schedule. The bill filing deadline for both Houses has been set for February 7th. Governor-Elect Bill Lee will deliver his State of the State on March 4th. Following the State of the State, the Senate will then have six weeks of budget hearings which will then be followed by the closing down of committees. The aim of the two chambers is to close hopefully by the first week of May. However, with the State having a new administration combined with a larger number of new legislators that the state has seen in some time, many can expect for the first half of the 111th General Assembly to go into mid to late May.

Only a few bills have been filed to date, but the Butler Snow team has begun reviewing them. We will likely have our first report containing legislation January 25, 2019. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Butler Snow Government Relations Team.