

**Legislation Impacting the  
Tennessee Board of Regents and Member Institutions  
*Public Acts of 2020***

<b>Section/Description</b>	<b>Public Chapter</b>
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<b>I. ACADEMICS AND WORKFORCE TRAINING</b>
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<p>As enacted, authorizes a local education agency (LEA) to: provide career-based experiences to the LEA's high school students; allow the students to participate in any available career-based experiences; and establish partnerships with industry and local businesses to provide career-based experiences to such students.</p>	
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[Public Chapter 527](#)

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law; March 6, 2020.*

<p>As enacted, permits a student whose IEP or section 504 plan allows for testing accommodations to use the same testing accommodations while taking an assessment under the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) or an end-of-course assessment, as long as the accommodation does not invalidate the assessment.</p>	
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[Public Chapter 601](#)

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law; March 20, 2020.*

<p>As enacted, permits the commissioner to grant an LEA a waiver of average class size limits to assist the LEA with funding a grow your own program.</p>	
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[Public Chapter 587](#)

*This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.*

<p>As enacted, revises a provision relating to the level and intended recipients of occupational training and technical education provided by state colleges of applied technology; deletes provisions relating to the creation of certain staff positions for vocational-technical education.</p>	
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[Public Chapter 691](#)

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 11, 2020.*

<b>II. APPROPRIATIONS</b>
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<p>As enacted, makes appropriations for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020.</p>	
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[Public Chapter 651](#)

*This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.*

<p>As enacted, clarifies that fees paid by a defendant requesting pretrial diversion are to be deposited in the general fund; specifies the remittance and allowed uses of certain fees under the sexual offender registry provisions; makes other statutory revisions necessary to implementation of the annual appropriations act.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law; April 2, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 668</a></p>
<p>As enacted, authorizes the index of appropriations from state tax revenues for 2019-2020 fiscal year to exceed the index of estimated growth in the state's economy by \$629 million or 3.6 percent.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law; April 2, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 650</a></p>
<p>As enacted, authorizes the state of Tennessee, acting by resolution of its funding board, to issue and sell general obligations bonds of the state in amounts not to exceed \$124 million.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law; April 2, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 649</a></p>
<p>As enacted, makes appropriations for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect July 1, 2020; provided, however, that any provision of this act which authorizes prior or immediate expenditures and any section or item which specifies an immediate effective date shall take effect upon becoming law, June 30, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 760</a></p>
<p>As enacted, makes revisions to general law necessary to implement the annual appropriations act; requires dealers with physical presence in this state to register with department of revenue to collect and remit sales tax.</p> <p><i>Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on October 1, 2020. All other sections of this act shall take effect upon becoming law; June 30, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 759</a></p>
<p>As enacted, authorizes the state, acting by resolution of its funding board, to issue and sell its interest-bearing bonds and bond anticipation notes for certain purposes.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law; June 30, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 758</a></p>
<p><b>III. BUSINESS, HUMAN RESOURCES, &amp; FACILITIES</b></p>	
<p>As enacted, clarifies that certain provisions related to the confidentiality of private records held by public utilities only apply to those records and not to all confidential records.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law; March 25, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 624</a></p>

<p>As enacted, makes a person ineligible for a political subdivision's former retirement plan in the TCRS if the person is hired after the political subdivision changes to any other plan offered by the retirement system; requires that any person wishing to establish service credit in the retirement system must establish such service under the terms of the retirement system plan that existed at the time the service was established and not at the time the service was rendered.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 11, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 686</a></p>
<p>As enacted, makes changes to the law concerning governmental entities, supported in whole or in part by the general assembly, purchasing services or commodities from the central nonprofit agency that works to provide individuals with severe disabilities competitive integrated employment opportunities.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, July 15, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 782</a></p>
<p>As enacted, excludes construction services providers performing work in this state from certain provisions of the workers' compensation law, requires construction services providers to maintain workers' compensation insurance coverage while working in this state, and imposes liability on a successor in interest of a penalized construction services provider.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 15, 2020, and applies to penalties assessed on or after the effective date of this act.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 682</a></p>
<p>As enacted, extends the deadline for an injured employee to file a claim for increased benefits with the bureau of workers' compensation; lengthens the period of time following an injury an employee has to provide notice to the bureau of workers' compensation of an injury and the failure of an employer to secure payment of compensation.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 22, 2020, and applies to injuries occurring on or after the effective date of this act.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 731</a></p>
<p>As enacted, enacts the "Tennessee Pregnant Workers Fairness Act."</p> <p><i>For the purpose of rule promulgation, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 22, 2020. Section 1 of this act shall take effect October 1, 2020. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect upon becoming law. Sections 2 and 3 of this act are repealed on January 1, 2021.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 745</a></p>
<p>As enacted, revises various provisions governing contractors.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, and applies to actions occurring and contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after that date.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 749</a></p>

<p>As enacted, permits the state, through the attorney general, to seek an injunction against a person who commits harassment against a state employee.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 11, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 694</a></p>
<p>Proposes adding a provision establishing right to work regardless of status of affiliation with any labor union or employee organization.</p>	<p><a href="#">Senate Joint Resolution 648</a></p>
<p><b>IV. HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b></p>	
<p>As enacted, allows the governing board of a public institution of higher education to employ a law enforcement officer in the same manner as a public institution of higher education governed by the board.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, March 20, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 630</a></p>
<p>As enacted, clarifies that the current prohibition against traffic offense citation quotas is applicable to public officials or public employees; creates a Class B misdemeanor offense, subject to fine only, for officials and employees violating that prohibition.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect on October 1, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 801</a></p>
<p><b>V. LEGAL/GOVERNANCE</b></p>	
<p>As enacted, authorizes the state board of education to promulgate emergency rules as necessary to address any issues created by school closures due to the outbreak of COVID-10 during the 2019-2020 school year; requires the commissioner of education to waive certain requirements; establishes other related requirements.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law; April 2, 2020. Some sections will be automatically repealed on March 1, 2021.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 652</a></p>
<p>As enacted, continues permanent rules filed with the secretary of state after January 1, 2019; schedules rules filed by the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities regarding public records and the board for professional counselors, marital and family therapists, and clinical pastoral therapists regarding continuing education and professional ethics to expire on the effective date of the act.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, April 2, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 653</a></p>
<p>As enacted, revises various provisions regarding public records.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 15, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 676</a></p>

<p>As enacted, creates a nine-member Tennessee commission on education recovery and innovation to examine the short and long-term systemic effects that the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters of 2020 have had on the state's educational systems.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, July 15, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 792</a></p>
<p>As enacted, allows, under certain conditions, the advisory boards of the University of Tennessee institutions and state university boards to meet electronically or by other means of communication without a physical quorum present at the location of the meeting given in the meeting notice; changes from April 15 to May 31 the date by which the faculty member and the student member must be appointed to a University of Tennessee institution advisory board.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 11, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 692</a></p>
<p>As enacted, prohibits a governmental entity from authorizing the destruction of public records subject to disclosure if the governmental entity knows the records are subject to a pending public record request submitted to the governmental entity.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 22, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 738</a></p>
<p>As enacted, authorizes qualified nonprofit organizations to file an application to operate an annual event in the July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, fiscal year.</p> <p><i>This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 15, 2020.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Chapter 673</a></p>
<p>RESOLUTION to confirm the appointment of Mark Gill of Nashville to the Tennessee board of regents.</p> <p><i>This resolution took effect on February 3, 2020 and expires June 30, 2024.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Senate Resolution 0088</a></p>
<p>RESOLUTION to confirm the appointment of Weston Wamp of Chattanooga to the Tennessee board of regents.</p> <p><i>This resolution took effect on February 3, 2020 and expires June 30, 2023.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Senate Resolution 0089</a></p>
<p>RESOLUTION to confirm the appointment of Danni B. Varian of Knoxville to the Tennessee board of regents.</p> <p><i>This resolution took effect on February 3, 2020 and expires June 30, 2025.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Senate Resolution 0090</a></p>
<p>RESOLUTION to confirm the appointment of Miles Burdine of Kingsport to the Tennessee board of regents.</p> <p><i>This resolution took effect on February 3, 2020 and expires June 30, 2025.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Senate Resolution 0091</a></p>

## VI. SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

As enacted, authorizes the executive director of the student assistance corporation to temporarily suspend, modify, or waive deadlines or other non-academic eligibility requirements for student financial aid programs, if the governor has declared a state of emergency.

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law; March 25, 2020. It is automatically repealed on June 30, 2021.*

[Public Chapter 632](#)

As enacted, requires TSAC to promulgate rules designating pregnancy as an approved medical leave of absence for purposes of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law; March 19, 2020.*

[Public Chapter 533](#)

As enacted, enacts the "Financial Aid Simplification for Tennesseans (FAST) Act."

*Sections 13, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, 30, 35, 36, 38, 42, and 50 of this act take effect on July 1, 2021. All remaining sections of this act take effect on August 1, 2020.*

[Public Chapter 794](#)

As enacted, requires public institutions of higher education to provide each student with a detailed and completed current-year federal college financing plan; imposes other requirements for such institutions to provide certain information when a student is finalizing acceptance of a financial aid package.

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law, June 22, 2020.*

[Public Chapter 744](#)

## VII. STUDENT SERVICES

As enacted, prohibits a public institution of higher education from requiring a student to submit a high school transcript or GED certificate as part of the institution's admission process if the student has completed an associate degree at a regionally accredited institution.

*This act shall take effect upon becoming law; March 6, 2020.*

[Public Chapter 523](#)

As enacted, creates a procedure for school teachers, school officials, and other school personnel to follow in regard to reporting suspected child abuse or child sexual abuse.

*This act shall take effect August 1, 2020.*

[Public Chapter 708](#)