



Tennessee Weekly Legislative Update, 4/10 – 4/14, 2023

Governor Lee Calls for Gun Legislation

This week saw several developments in the legislative and executive branches. Notably, **Governor Lee** in a Tuesday press conference called for further action from the legislature to pass legislation to restrict people who pose a threat to themselves or others from having access to guns. Governor Lee mentioned he would like for such a measure to pass this session, however, the Governor has not filed a bill at this time. Governor Lee did sign an executive order strengthening background checks performed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Pearson and Jones Reinstated

Following the expulsion of **Justin Jones (D-Nashville)** and **Justin Pearson (D-Memphis)** from the House of Representatives during session on Thursday, April 6th, both members were unanimously reappointed by the Metro Nashville Council and Shelby County Commission, respectively. Rep. Jones was sworn in Monday evening; missing only thirty minutes of House Session. Rep. Pearson was sworn in Thursday morning prior to the commencement of House Session. There will be a special election held to fill both seats following the expulsions.

Adjournment is Now Really, Really Close

The Senate announced an intended adjournment by the end of next week, with floor sessions scheduled daily Monday through Friday, and potentially Saturday. The House announced that flow motion will begin next week. “Flow Motion” means certain rules are suspended to allow for the expedited movement of bills through committees and onto the floor. Remaining bills will rapidly move from Finance Ways and Means Committee to Calendar and Rules and being presented on the floor within the same day.

Can’t Adjourn Without a Budget...

The Legislature’s only constitutional requirement is to pass a balanced budget. The budget bills will be presented in finance committees on Tuesday and move forward for votes by the full

chambers. All other bills with significant fiscal notes will be placed behind the budget and their fate will depend on whether they were funded within the budget.