



RAMSEY FARRAR RUSSELL & SMITH
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Tennessee Weekly Legislative Update, 3/11 – 3/15, 2024

One Judicial Official In

On Monday in a joint session at the House chamber, members of the General Assembly confirmed the appointment of Mary L. Wagner to the esteemed Tennessee Supreme Court. Wagner, currently serving as the circuit court judge for the 30th Judicial District encompassing Shelby County, brings a wealth of experience to her new role. With a background as an associate at a renowned Memphis-based law firm and as an adjunct professor at The University of Memphis School of Law, she is well-equipped to serve on the highest court in the state. Following the retirement of Justice Roger A. Page, effective August 31, Wagner will step into her new position on September 1.

Another Judicial Official Out?

The Tennessee General Assembly's Joint Ad Hoc committee voted unanimously on Thursday to remove Shelby County Judge A. Melissa Boyd from her position. The Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct called for her removal almost a year ago. Boyd admitted to using drugs while on duty last year, according to the Board of Judicial Conduct. Additionally, she was charged with coercing and harassing her campaign manager.

These events led her to suspension from work in May 2023, and received two public reprimands. Before the removal process begins, the speakers will schedule a joint convention of the House and Senate with at least 10 days' public notice. During this meeting, members will hear arguments for and against Boyd's removal before a final vote is cast.

Adjournment is In Sight

Several committees have adjourned subject to the call of the chair for this legislative session including Senate Transportation Committee and Senate Energy and Agriculture Committee. The Senate Commerce and Labor, Senate Health and Welfare and Senate State and Local Government Committees are on final calendars.

Additionally, budget hearings conducted by standing committees on state departments and agencies have concluded in the Senate and several House subcommittees have closed for this legislative session.

Money, Money, Money

It's almost time for all eyes to be focused on the budget. The deadline for filing appropriation amendments in the House is this Monday, March 18th in the House for any appropriation items not attached to legislation; the filing deadline in the Senate is Thursday, March 28 at 2:00pm. Notably, both chambers have been very vocal about the lack of funds available this year for ancillary items.

St. Patrick's Day

Hope everyone has a great St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day was originally celebrated in Ireland with religious services and feasts in honor of St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints. When Irish immigrants brought St. Patrick's Day traditions to the United States, the day evolved into a secular celebration of Irish culture.