



RAMSEY FARRAR RUSSELL & SMITH
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Tennessee Weekly Legislative Update, 3/25 – 3/29, 2024

Covenant Remembered

One year has passed since the tragic Covenant School shooting in Nashville on March 27th, 2023 and our hearts continue to be with everyone affected by this tragedy.

Governor's Budget Unveiled

This week in the House and Senate Finance Committees, Commissioner Jim Bryson and Budget Director David Thurman unveiled the administration's appropriations amendment. Governor Lee's revised budget proposal includes over \$350 million more than initially suggested for retroactive franchise tax refunds. Originally, Lee proposed around \$1.5 billion for the refund plan, but analysts warned that if all eligible businesses claimed refunds, it could cost up to \$1.9 billion.

Commissioner Bryson emphasized the proposal's alignment with the administration's stance on key legislation, including the governor's voucher bill. However, the amendment does not allocate funds for public school benefits as proposed in the House's current version of the statewide school choice program.

April Showers Bring May Flowers

The presentation of the administration's appropriations amendment typically signals the beginning of the end for the legislature. The appropriations subcommittees will start meeting next week in both chambers to consider non-legislative budget items filed by members of the General Assembly. With money raining down, other items are wrapping up. This week, the Senate Commerce and Senate State and Local Government Committees concluded their business for the year.



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Removal of Judge Melissa Boyd

Earlier this session, an ad hoc legislative committee recommended the removal of Shelby Criminal Court Judge, Melissa Boyd. A joint convention of the state House and Senate will vote on the removal of Judge Boyd Thursday, April 4th at 9:00 am. In a recent development, Judge Boyd was sent to jail on Wednesday, March 27th after her bond was revoked for testing positive for cocaine while she was out of custody pending a trial on charge of coercion and witness harassment.

Happy Easter

State offices will be closed today, March 29th for Good Friday; we wish you all a Happy Easter!