



Tennessee Weekly Legislative Update, 1/21 – 1/24, 2025

Calm Before the Storm

The 114th Tennessee General Assembly was in organizational recess this week to accommodate new members as well as new assignments throughout the Assembly. All eyes will now shift to the Special Session called by Governor Lee that is set to begin on Monday, January 27th.

Next Week's Special Session

Gov. Lee issued a proclamation last Friday officially calling for a special session on January 27th to address his private-school voucher plan, disaster relief for Hurricane Helene, and the creation of a centralized immigration enforcement agency.

To date, five bills have been filed by the majority leaders at the request of the administration for consideration during special session. **SB6001/HB6004** enacts the "Education Freedom Act of 2025." **SB6002/HB6001** creates within the department of safety the centralized immigration enforcement division; establishes a grant program for purposes of promoting the enforcement of federal immigration laws; creates criminal penalties for officials who adopt sanctuary policies and subsequently requires their removal from office upon conviction; requires department of safety to issue lawful permanent residents a temporary driver license, instead of a standard license, to aid in determining voter eligibility for someone who presents a Tennessee driver license as identification. **SB6003/HB6003** creates two funds within the state treasury to be known as the Hurricane Helene interest payment fund and the governor's response and recovery fund; authorizes moneys in each fund to be used to assist with the response to and the recovery from certain declared emergencies. **SB6004/HB6002** authorizes TEMA to assist a political subdivision or local emergency management agency with recovery from disasters and emergencies on public property at the request of the political subdivision or agency; suspends certain eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits for persons in the area of a declared emergency. **SB6005/HB6005** makes appropriations sufficient for the payment of any lawful expenses of the first extraordinary session of the 114th General Assembly; makes other appropriations related to such extraordinary session.

Other members will also have the opportunity to file legislation that fits within the Governor's call.

Bill Update

Currently, there have been 337 bills filed with the House and 227 bills filed in the Senate. The deadline for filing bills in both the House and Senate is set for February 6th, by the close of business.