



INSIDE POLITICS

GNHA Hospitality Political News-February 17, 2024

Caption Bills

This session is moving at lightening speed. Bill filing deadline was 2 weeks ago and we are just now starting to see legislation pop up through caption bills. These caption bills open up a broad scope of the law by which legislation can be created. The topic of these bills will not be known until the bill has been amended. I will send out weekly updates on bills that we are watching but will also send out alerts when the need arises.

Budget hearings began February 7th and will go through March 11th.



Cold Beer:

The Intent of [HB 2845/SB 2636](#) or, "The Tennessee Prevention of Drunk Driving Act," was to prohibit a beer permittee from selling at retail refrigerated alcoholic beverages or cold beer in an attempt to discourage consumers from drunken driving.

Gant said Friday that the final version of the bill is still being drafted but the new version "will not include any language that prevents the sale of cold beer in Tennessee."

Lodging Tax:

This bill was brought up last year by Rep. Caleb Hemmer. While this association supports affordable house, utilizing the funds that bring tourists to this city significantly harms our ability to keep Nashville as a world destination. We will continue to keep this bill out of committee.

COLD BEER Legislation

We have been working with the sponsor of this bill along with several other groups including Grocer's Association and the Retailer's Association to remove the harmful language in this bill. The sponsor of this bill was in a tragic accident with a drunk driver and is looking for ways to curb those incidents. The bill in its current form is **dead**. The language below has been tabled for now. I will keep you updated if it starts moving again.

SB2636/HB2845

Ban on cold alcoholic drinks

The first part of the bill would ban the sale of cold alcoholic drinks at convenience stores.

Cap drinks at restaurants and bars

The second part of the bill would allow customers to only have a certain number of drinks at a bar or restaurant, unless they have a designated driver with them.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission helps investigators

The third part of the legislation would require law enforcement to work with the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) when they investigate a drunk driving crash.

Historic Commission Legislation

We are working on legislation around the Historic Commission rules. Currently using a caption bill, there will be more to come on this.

Live Music Venues Legislation

SB2508/HB2712

As introduced, this legislation defines live music venues. The intent of this legislation is to create a legal definition for the purposes of future legislation and support.

E-Verify

We are watching SB2249. This legislation could impact the number of employees required before a business must use e-verify.

Allowing Handguns in buildings that restrict firearms

SB2912/HB2032

As introduced, removes the offense of possessing a weapon in a building that prohibits or restricts weapons; allows a person with an enhanced handgun carry permit to carry a handgun into a business that prohibits or restricts weapons; removes penalties for violations of certain firearms provisions.

Good Server Program

SB2355/HB2658

Alcoholic Beverage Commission - As introduced, requires the commission to levy certain fines and suspend the server permit of a person for certain violations, including the sale of alcohol or beer to a person who is under 21 years of age. - Amends TCA Section 57-4-203

Extending Hours to serve LBD on Sundays to match the rest of the week

HB1672/SB1800

Alcoholic Beverages - As introduced, authorizes certain legislative bodies, by a two-thirds majority vote, to expand the hours for the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises and beer on Sundays consistent with the hours for sale on weekdays.

Server Permit Training Date Rape Drug

HB1671

Alcoholic Beverage Commission - As introduced, requires a person applying for a server permit issued by the commission to be trained to recognize signs indicating that an individual may have had their alcoholic beverage adulterated with a date rape drug or that an individual may be the victim of sex trafficking.

Using Lodging tax to fund affordable housing

This bill was brought up last year by Rep. Caleb Hemmer. While this association supports affordable house, utilizing the funds that bring tourists to this city significantly harms our ability to keep Nashville as a world destination. We will continue to keep this bill out of committee.

HB0468/SB1050 Hemmer/Yarbro

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (006680): Authorizes counties with a metropolitan form of government to deposit all or a portion of certain privilege tax proceeds

into an account created pursuant to an ordinance and to use such proceeds exclusively for promoting affordable housing. Remaining proceeds are to be used as otherwise provided by law. Establishes a process by which previously allocated privilege tax proceeds may be reallocated for the purposes of the act.

Beer Board Fines

HB594/SB1327

DRAFT NEW HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR HB594

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-5-108, is amended by deleting subsection (n), (o), and (p) and substituting instead the following subsection.

(n)

(1) The beer board or committee of a local government shall not impose a fine or other penalty on a permittee based solely on a report issued by another local governmental agency of the local government, other than a law enforcement agency, as a predicate to enter the premises of a permittee or cite the permittee.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (n)(1), the beer board may only issue a citation to a permittee for a violation of this chapter after its own independent investigation by the board.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-5-108(c), is amended by deleting subsection (c) and by substituting instead the following subsection.

(c) The board in considering the suspension or revocation of a license shall consider repeated violations of any local ordinance or state law involving prohibited sexual contact on the premises of an adult oriented establishment.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-4-202, is amended by deleting subsections (b)-(d).

SECTION 4. This act take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Bills of Interest

SB 1676 Briggs

Taxes, Hotel Motel - As introduced, requires a municipality levying the hotel-motel tax under general law to submit a report annually detailing how the revenue earned from the tax is used by the municipality; requires the comptroller of the treasury to audit the reports of the municipality; requires a municipality found to have used the funds improperly to appropriate general funds in the same amount for promotion of tourism and tourism development; prohibits a municipality, on and after July 1, 2025, from levying or increasing the hotel-motel tax if the aggregate total tax would exceed 8 percent. - Amends TCA Title 7, Chapter 4 and Title 67, Chapter 4.

Latest Actions for Bills in Group: GNHA

As of Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 10:11 AM

Bill Number	Composite Abstract	Last Major Action
SB2898 by Bailey (HB2642 by Lamberth)	As introduced, adds a fire engine converted to a for-hire passenger vehicle as a type of entertainment transportation that may be regulated by a governmental entity.	Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate State and Local Government Committee <i>(Last action on companion, P2C, caption bill, held on desk - pending amdt. 2/5/2024 11:59:36 AM: HB2642)</i>

<p>SB2912 by Bailey (HB2032 by Barrett)</p>	<p>As introduced, removes the offense of possessing a weapon in a building that prohibits or restricts weapons; allows a person with an enhanced handgun carry permit to carry a handgun into a business that prohibits or restricts weapons; removes penalties for violations of certain firearms provisions.</p>	<p>Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Judiciary Committee <i>(Last action on companion, Placed on s/cal Civil Justice Subcommittee for 2/20/2024 2/14/2024 3:48:46 PM: HB2032)</i></p>
<p>SB2249</p>	<p>As introduced, prohibits persons authorized under federal law to work in the United States as verified by the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) from being eligible to apply for a professional or commercial license.</p>	<p>Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate State and Local Government Committee</p>

<p>SB1945 by Crowe (HB2174 by Alexander)</p>	<p>As introduced, redefines "food service establishment" to exclude an establishment whose primary business is other than food service, that incidentally makes casual, occasional food sales for two days or less while an organized temporary event is being conducted less than one-quarter mile from the establishment, for the purposes of exempting such establishments from regulation by the department of health and local governments.</p>	<p>Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Health and Welfare Committee <i>(Last action on companion, Placed on s/c cal Health Subcommittee for 2/20/2024 2/14/2024 5:02:54 PM: HB2174)</i></p>
<p>SB1866 by Hensley (HB1907 by Bulso)</p>	<p>As introduced, clarifies that in determining whether a person is an illegal alien for employment purposes, the person's status is considered with respect to the employment of the person at a particular time.</p>	<p>Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Commerce and Labor Committee <i>(Last action on companion, Assigned to s/c Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee 1/30/2024 1:29:53 PM: HB1907)</i></p>

<p>SB1780 by Swann (HB1857 by Moon)</p>	<p>As introduced, requires the department of revenue to post on its website the rate information it receives from local governments regarding local tax collected on the occupancy of short-term rental units.</p>	<p>Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate State and Local Government Committee <i>(Last action on companion, P2C, caption bill, held on desk - pending amdt.</i> <i>1/25/2024</i> <i>1:31:49 PM:</i> <i>HB1857)</i></p>
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