

# Farris Mathews Bobango PLC

Nashville - Memphis



Legislative Report  
Tennessee Principals Association  
May 14, 2010

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# Tennessee Principals Association (TPA)

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Friday, May 14, 2010*

Below is a legislative update which includes legislation of interest to public education and TPA. Hyperlinks to the full text of each bill were added for your convenience. To utilize this feature, hold down the “control” key while clicking on the link with your mouse.

### *Highlights for the Week of May 10, 2010*

#### **Budget update: Senate plan reduces Governor’s revenue tax proposal, cuts Career Ladder and bonus for teachers**

One piece of the overall budget plan, put together by Senate Republicans, was approved Thursday by the Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee. The “Technical Corrections” bill, as amended, cuts revenue measures proposed by Governor Bredesen, including a plan to lift the sales tax cap on certain big-ticket items and one to eliminate the tax exemption on the first \$15 of cable bills.

To pay for the lost revenue, the proposal moving forward in the Senate will eliminate the three percent bonus for teachers and state employees. In addition, the Career Ladder Program will be funded with nonrecurring dollars for the next two budget years, meaning it will be set for elimination the following year.

It’s important to understand that things can change very quickly in these last couple of weeks of the legislative session. Although the Senate appears to be moving forward with the items mentioned above, several House leaders have already declared their opposition to the proposed cuts. Many prefer to use Rainy-Day funds to fill the gaps.

Certainly, the loss of Career Ladder funds is significant for teachers and principals as it effectively results in a pay cut. If you wish you to share your concerns with your legislators, such communication should occur immediately.

All contact information for committee members and other legislators may be found on the General Assembly website – [www.capitol.tn.gov](http://www.capitol.tn.gov). You can also watch committee hearings and floor session live through video streaming.

# *Calendars of Interest*

## *Week of May 17, 2010*

*Numbers in the left column indicate placement of bill on calendar. Note that all calendars are subject to change.*

### **Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee -- Monday at 11:30 am -- LP 12**

Please check for emails from the TLS Staff with updates on this committee's agenda. MEMBERS: Chair McNally (R), Vice Chair Henry (D), Secretary Burchett (R), Black (R), J. Haynes (D), Herron (D), Kyle (D), Norris (R), Overbey (R), B. Watson (R), Woodson (R).

### **Senate Finance Budget Appropriations Subcommittee -- Monday at 11:45 am -- LP 12-- Immediately Following Full Committee**

MEMBERS: Chair Burchett (R), Kyle (D), Norris (R).

### **Senate Finance Tax Subcommittee -- Monday at 11:45 am -- LP 12--Immediately Following Full Committee**

MEMBERS: Chair Henry (D), Black (R), Haynes (D).

### **House Floor -- Monday at 4:00 pm -- House Chamber**

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR.

3. HB [3794](#) **EDUCATION: LEA textbook requirements - broad caption.** Changes the date by which Winningham the director of schools and the chair of the board of each LEA must certify to the commissioner that all children enrolled in that LEA have been furnished all required textbooks. Requires the "parent" instead of the "mother" of a child enrolled within a model teen learning center to participate in the center's program of child care and instruction. Broadly captioned. AMENDMENT: Senate Education amendment 1 deletes all language after the enacting clause of the original bill. Prohibits persons who have been adjudicated as a mental defective, been judicially committed to or hospitalized in a mental institution, has had a court appoint a conservator for reasons of mental illness, developmental disability, or other mental defect, or has within seven years of the application date, been found by a court to pose a immediate substantial likelihood of serious harm because of mental illness from receiving a teaching license or entering an approved teacher training program. House Education amendment 1 rewrites the bill. Requires the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines and training for all public school administrators and human resource personnel on the prevention of workplace violence. Requires the guidelines and training to include outlines and materials to use during teacher in-service training and training for other personnel. Requires such training and materials to include ways to recognize and respond to employee alcohol and substance abuse. Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to direct a maximum of five percent of the funds appropriated for the Safe Schools Act of 1998 to the Tennessee school safety center for the development and delivery of such materials. (SENATE: SB 3875, Stewart E.; Re-referred to Senate Calendar Committee 04/29/2010.) FISCAL NOTE: Dated: February 19, 2010 Increase state expenditures - not significant. Increase local expenditures - not significant.

## **Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee -- Tuesday at 9:00 am -- LP 12**

MEMBERS: Chair McNally (R), Vice Chair Henry (D), Secretary Burchett (R), Black (R), J. Haynes (D), Herron (D), Kyle (D), Norris (R), Overbey (R), B. Watson (R), Woodson (R).

## **Senate Finance Budget Appropriations Subcommittee -- Tuesday at 9:30 am -- LP 12-- Immediately Following Full Committee**

MEMBERS: Chair Burchett (R), Kyle (D), Norris (R).

## **Senate Finance Tax Subcommittee -- Tuesday at 9:30 am -- LP 12--Immediately Following Full Committee**

MEMBERS: Chair Henry (D), Black (R), Haynes (D).

## **House Finance, Ways & Means Committee -- Tuesday at 1:30 pm -- LP 16 - TIME TBA**

MEMBERS: Chair Fitzhugh (D), Vice Chair Sargent (R), Secretary Shaw (D), Armstrong (D), Bone (D), H. Brooks (R), K. Brooks (R), Brown (D), Casada (R), Coleman (D), L. DeBerry (D), Dunn (R), Eldridge (R), Harrison (R), C. Johnson (R), Maddox (D), Maggart (R), McDaniel (R), McManus (R), L. Miller (D), Montgomery (R), Mumpower (R), Naifeh (D), Odom (D), Roach (R), Rowland (R), Sontany (D), Tindell (D), M. Turner (D), Winningham (D).

10. HB [3200](#) **EDUCATION: Extracurricular students: random drug testing.** Establishes that students participating in extracurricular activities may randomly be tested for illegal drugs without individualized reasonable suspicion as long as previous legal requirements are followed. Requires LEAs testing students for drugs to create policies and procedures for assisting and counseling students testing positive for illegal drug use. AMENDMENT: House Education amendment 1, Senate Education amendment 1 specifies that the student testing positive must receive an assessment to determine the severity of the problem, instead of merely counseling. Requires LEAs to provide notice of random testing to all parents or guardians of students involved in extracurricular activities, provide parents or guardians notice of when a student is selected, and receive a parent's or guardian's written consent to randomly test a student. Senate Finance amendment 1, House Budget Subcommittee amendment 1 specifies that any records concerning a student who tested positive for drug use must be confidential student records. Clarifies that no student will be suspended or expelled solely due to the positive test. Requires the principal or school counselor of the school to provide certain referral information to the student and to the student's parents or guardian. (SENATE: SB 2621, Tracy; Senate Finance, Ways & Means 05/11/2010 recommended with amendment 1, which specifies that any records concerning a student who tested positive for drug use must be confidential student records. Clarifies that no student will be suspended or expelled solely due to the positive test. Requires the principal or school counselor of the school to provide certain referral information to the student and to the student's parents or guardian.) FISCAL NOTE: Dated: February 9, 2010 Increase local expenditures - \$355,200/permissive.

**Senate Finance Budget Appropriations Subcommittee -- Tuesday at 2:00 pm -- LP 12--  
Immediately Following Full Committee**

MEMBERS: Chair Burchett (R), Kyle (D), Norris (R).

**Senate Finance Tax Subcommittee -- Tuesday at 2:00 pm -- LP 12--Immediately Following  
Full Committee**

MEMBERS: Chair Henry (D), Black (R), Haynes (D).

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