



# FOLLOW THE BILLS FACT IS TRACKING IN THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY!

Follow key legislative bills affecting marriage, family, life, and religious liberty. Each bill is listed by category and then by its Senate Bill (SB) number and corresponding House Bill (HB) number. SJR means Senate Joint Resolution. For more about these bills, please visit [FACTn.org/legislation/bill-tracking/](http://FACTn.org/legislation/bill-tracking/).



## SB 244/HB 108

Also known as the Fetal Heartbeat Bill, this bill bans abortion if a fetal heartbeat is detected. It is questionable whether this would survive a constitutional challenge under existing Supreme Court precedent, as states can ban abortion after “viability” which, legally, is considered to occur at 24 weeks. Passage of the bill could result in a lawsuit that would reach the U.S. Supreme Court and provide a context in which *Roe v. Wade* could be overturned.

## SB 743/HB 895

This bill declares that life begins at conception and all the rights of personhood attach at that point.

## SB 766/HB 101

This bill prohibits abortion after 20 weeks with exceptions for the life and health of the mother. Sixteen states currently ban abortion after 20 weeks. It is questionable whether this would survive a constitutional challenge under existing U.S. Supreme Court precedent, as states can ban abortion after “viability” which, legally, is considered to occur at 24 weeks. Passage of the bill could result in a lawsuit that would reach the U.S. Supreme Court and provide a context in which *Roe v. Wade* could be overturned.

## SB 1180/HB 1189

Similar to SB 766, this bill prohibits abortion of a viable fetus and requires testing to determine viability if a woman is at least 20 weeks pregnant. Requiring a determination of viability is an attempt

to improve the odds that the law would not be held unconstitutional under current U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

## SB 1378/HB 1394

Also known as the Assisted Suicide Bill, this bill allows for an adult suffering from a terminal disease to make a written request for life-ending medication. It raises a whole host of spiritual, legal, and ethical issues. If passed, this bill could have enormous impact as to Tennessee’s policy on the intrinsic value of life.



## SB 30/HB 33

This is a definitions bill that clarifies that the words “husband,” “wife,” “father,” and “mother,” when used in a statute, are to be given their ordinary meaning based on the biological distinctions between men and women. It provides additional guidance for courts as they review statutory language and consider legislative intent when dealing with parties asking them to redefine “husband” or “wife” or substitute the gender-neutral term “spouse” or to define “father” or “mother” as “parent” —effectively removing biology and procreation as inherent and integral to the family and family law for legal purposes.

## SJR 35

This resolution declares pornography a public health crisis. As a matter of policy, it is good to identify factors that contribute to the breakdown of the family and the need to address it on a community and societal level.

## SB 752/HB 892

Also known as the Natural Marriage Defense Act, this bill declares that Tennessee will only recognize and give effect to marriages between one man and one woman and will not recognize any court decision that purports to strike down natural marriage. The bill is an improvement on last year’s bill in that this version would make the state liable to civil rights lawsuits for the non-issuance of same-sex marriage licenses instead of county clerks.

## SB 1085/HB 1111

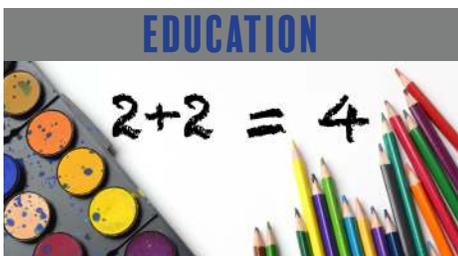
This definitions bill requires that undefined words in the Tennessee Code be given their natural and ordinary meaning, except when a contrary intention is clearly manifest. This is a broad definitions bill that could have a similar effect as SB 30 but would apply to any number of words that private litigants might want courts to redefine.

## SB 1142/HB 721

This bill requires that every group health insurance policy, to the extent not preempted by federal law, has coverage for all contraceptive drugs and devices approved by the FDA. This is very similar to the Obamacare mandate on contraception, which resulted in a lawsuit from the Little Sisters of the Poor. The bill does offer a mild religious liberty exception but requires an organization to file for a religious exemption (subject to approval) and offer written notice to prospective enrollees.

## SB 1153/HB 1406

Also known as the Insemination Statute Repeal, this bill repeals the statute that deems a child born to a married woman as a result of artificial insemination, with the consent of the married woman’s husband, to be the legitimate child of the husband and wife.



**SB 4/HB 357**

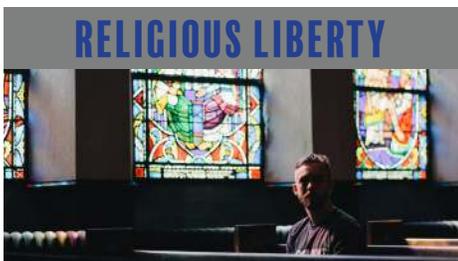
This bill prohibits the state board of education from adopting or providing standards or competencies for social and emotional learning (SEL). Last summer, Tennessee joined a national pilot program (CASEL) implementing SEL standards but was forced to withdraw following concerns from citizens and legislators.

**SB 582/HB 1039**

This bill requires school board elections to be partisan races. This is an important bill for transparency and voter education. Since Tennessee is mostly Republican, many Democrats have focused on non-partisan elections (school board, municipal office) to assert influence on the local level. They are able to be elected because it is difficult to ascertain the full extent of their beliefs through campaign mailers, etc.

**SB 771/HB 888**

Also known as the Student Bathroom Privacy Bill, this bill requires students in public schools and universities to use bathroom and locker room facilities of the sex listed on their birth certificate. This bill is similar to a bill pursued last year that was opposed by the Administration.



**SB 127/HB 54**

Also known as the Business Protection Act, this bill prohibits discriminatory action by state and local government officials against businesses on the basis of the business' internal personnel policies, provided they are in compliance with state and federal law. It prohibits a local government or a "rogue" state or local

official from conditioning contracts or bids or other business with private entities on whether they hold specific internal policies beyond what state law requires.

**SB 403/HB 609**

This bill exempts churches and religious organizations from the requirements applicable to Political Action Committees (PACs) when spending funds in favor or opposition to ballot measures related to morality, such as alcohol, drugs, abortion, marriage, or gambling.



**SB 436/HB 558**

Also, known as the Legislator Standing Bill, this bill allows the Legislature, either by the majority of both chambers or by approval by both Speakers, to initiate lawsuits against local governments to challenge local ordinances that violate state law or compel compliance with state law, to initiate lawsuits that challenge the constitutionality or application of federal laws, and to intervene in lawsuits in which the constitutionality or interpretation of a state or federal law is at issue.

**SB 449/HB 566**

This bill requires all boards and commissions that currently implement an ethics code developed by a private professional or business association to submit any changes to those codes by those private associations for approval by the House and Senate Committee on Government Operations. This bill restores the democratic principle that the power to create state law cannot be delegated to or exercised by outside, private organizations unaccountable to the people or their elected representatives.

**SB 1240/HB 690**

In Tennessee, the attorney general is not elected. He is appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court, whose members are also unelected. As a result, the attorney general is essentially unaccountable to the people

or their representatives. SB 1240/HB 690, also known as the Solicitor General Bill, creates the office of solicitor general to be appointed by the Legislature and transfers all the current duties of the attorney general (except the reporting of Supreme Court cases) to the office of solicitor general. The solicitor general can be removed by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the General Assembly.

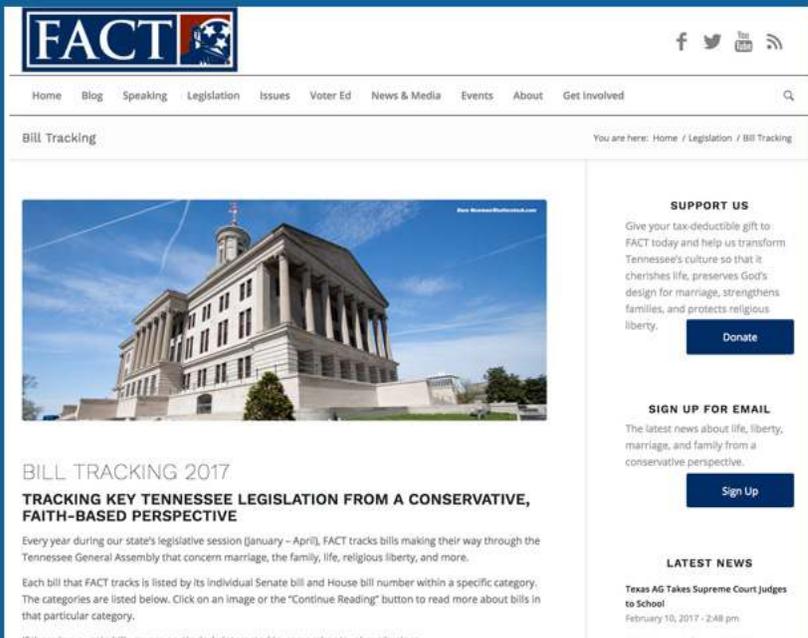


**SB 346/HB 814**

This bill establishes the Tennessee Horse Racing Commission to regulate horse racing and wagering in Tennessee. This bill is the final step toward full legalization of horse racing and gambling on those races in Tennessee.

**SB 385/HB 694**

This bill excludes cannabidiol products approved as prescription medication by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from the statutory definition of marijuana. Cannabidiol, by definition, is an extract from the cannabis plant that does not contain THC, the property in cannabis that causes a "high." Typically, it is dispensed in an oil form and can be used to help treat seizures and other medical conditions.



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