

INDIVISIBLE TENNESSEE'S progressive bill 'We Are Watching' guide
WEEKLY BILL ALERT for the week of April 19-22, 2021

Bills in committees/subcommittees week of Apr 19-22, 2021

Committee calendars are subject to change; bills could be deferred

[House Committees calendar for Apr 19-22](#)

[Senate Committees calendar for Apr 19-22](#)

PRIORITY BILLS: Up this week in committees/subcommittees, **TAKE ACTION-->see** scripts and legislator email contacts below

BAD --

OPPOSE [SB1402](#) cut unemployment benefits by more than half; **OPPOSE** [HJR0140](#) prohibit future marijuana legalization in the Tennessee Constitution; **OPPOSE** [SB0843](#) Criminalization of demonstrators/protestors; **OPPOSE** [SB0557](#) prohibits the enforcement of any future federal gun laws regulating sales or possession; **OPPOSE** [HB0928](#) "Tennessee Second Amendment Sanctuary Act," declares any federal gun laws unenforceable and prohibits state and local government from enacting gun laws; **OPPOSE** [HB1143](#) changes the punishment from a misdemeanor to a felony for third and subsequent offenses for driving with license that is canceled, suspended, or revoked; **OPPOSE** [HJR0072](#) right to work for less, detrimental to unions; **OPPOSE** [HB1181/SB0828](#) requires cremation or burial of aborted fetal tissue; **OPPOSE** [SB1370](#) redefines life at the moment of fertilization; **OPPOSE** [SB1224](#) anti-inclusive transgender restrooms signage; **OPPOSE** [HB1233/SB1367](#) school discrimination and exclusion against transgender students

THE GOOD --

SUPPORT [HB1406/SB1380](#), prohibits magistrate issued no-knock warrants and requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding de-escalation and use of force; **SUPPORT** [HB1393/SB0647](#) restoration of voting rights if a person enters into a payment plan for child support obligations; **SUPPORT** [HB0413](#) decriminalizes marijuana possession or exchange for less than one ounce;

*******ALSO up this week in committees ---additional bills WE ARE
WATCHING-->**

THE RIDICULOUS: **OPPOSE** [HB0142/SB0751](#) TANF red tape; **OPPOSE** [SB0457](#) required training for Nashville COB members; **OPPOSE** [HB0910](#) prohibits the public release of information pertaining to arrests

HEALTH & COMMUNITY: **SUPPORT** [SB0821](#) fund research on the impact of crimes and violence; **SUPPORT** [HB0204](#) the "CROWN Act", stops natural hair shaming at schools and other public institutions; **SUPPORT** [HB0880](#) fund a study on the licensing and regulation of medical marijuana; **SUPPORT** [HB0119/SB0102](#) creates a

SILVER alert system for missing adults; **SUPPORT SB0022** childcare service for state employees; **SUPPORT HB1578** increases disability leave for veteran state employees with veteran related service disability

EDUCATION: **SUPPORT HB0044** funds social worker position through public school BEP funds

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: **SUPPORT SB1336** and **HB1062/SB1349** death penalty ineligibility due to intellectual disability; **SUPPORT HB1480** decriminalizes marijuana possession or exchange for less than one ounce

*****PRIORITY BILLS: CONTACT ALL COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS*****

*** HOUSE FLOOR***

BAD FOR WOMEN BAD FOR LGTBQ BAD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

ASK: OPPOSE HB1181 OPPOSE HB1233 OPPOSE HB0928

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: **OPPOSE HB1181** requires cremation or burial of aborted fetal tissue; **OPPOSE HB1233** school discrimination and exclusion against transgender students; **OPPOSE HB0928** "Tennessee Second Amendment Sanctuary Act," declares any federal gun laws unenforceable and prohibits state and local government from enacting gun laws

ACTION: Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email YOUR State Rep before MONDAY, April 19. Include *CONSTITUENT* in the subject line.

[Email campaign through Tennessee Equality Project for bill HB1233](#)

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you as your constituent, to ask you to vote no on HJR185M, no on HB0529, no on HB0978, and no on HB0928. "I am contacting you to urge you to vote against HB1181 before you this week. This bill would require fetal remains from an abortion to be cremated or buried. It is obviously meant to shame individuals surrounding their decisions. It is not the government's place to interject in these personal and private decisions. Additionally, this legislation would result in increased costs that would be unfairly imposed on abortion facilities. There is a similar law that is currently being challenged by the ACLU in Ohio, I would urge you not to waste my tax dollars on these bills. I am contacting you to urge you to vote no on bill HB1233, which improperly dignifies the idea that it is acceptable not to share space with fellow transgender students. This bill would identify, target, and stigmatize transgender students, which would be very harmful for their mental health and well being. Additionally, this bill would impact state and local budgets that would be associated with school compliance measures, as well as possible civil litigation. Please consider voting no and stand in support of transgender students. I am also asking you to vote no on HB0928 the "Tennessee Second Amendment Sanctuary Act," that would nullify federal gun laws and prohibit state and local governments from enacting gun laws. This bill is dangerous and I don't think Tennessee should be picking which federal laws it chooses to follow and which ones

it breaks. This is obviously a challenge to federal laws that Tennessee should follow and would surely waste taxpayer dollars in court.

WATCH: Video link to the House Floor [here](#) Monday, April 19 at 5:00 PM CST, Wednesday, April 21 at 9:00 AM CST, and Thursday April 22 at 9:00 AM CST.

SENATE FLOOR

BAD FOR LGTBQ

ASK: [OPPOSE SB1367](#) [SUPPORT SB1380](#)

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: [OPPOSE SB1367](#) school discrimination and exclusion against transgender students; [SUPPORT SB1380](#), prohibits magistrate issued no-knock warrants and requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding de-escalation and use of force

ACTION: Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email YOUR State Senator before MONDAY, April 19. Include CONSTITUENT in the subject line.

[Email campaign through Tennessee Equality Project for bill HB1233/SB1367](#)

[SCRIPT]: “I am contacting you to urge you to vote no on bill SB1367, which improperly dignifies the idea that it is acceptable not to share space with fellow transgender students. This bill would identify, target, and stigmatize transgender students, which would be very harmful for their mental health and well being. Additionally, this bill would impact state and local budgets that would be associated with school compliance measures, as well as possible civil litigation. Please consider voting no and stand in support of transgender students. I am also contacting you to vote in favor of SB1380. This bill would prohibit magistrates from issuing no-knock warrants and also require the police to establish policies regarding de-escalation tactics and the use of force. It is important that we do everything possible to reduce violence, the use of force, and unintended shootings by the police. There are way too many incidences not to take action to change our policies. ”

WATCH: Video link to the Senate Floor [here](#) Monday, April 19 at 4:30 PM CST, Wednesday, April 21 at 8:30 AM CST, and Thursday April 22 at 8:30 AM CST.

Senate Commerce and Labor

BAD FOR WORKERS AND TENNESSEE

ASK: [OPPOSE SB1402](#)

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: [OPPOSE SB1402](#) cut unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 12 weeks

ACTION: Email all Senate Commerce and Labor committee members before TUESDAY, April 20, Copy and Paste all email addresses into the BCC line:
sen.paul.bailey@capitol.tn.gov, sen.art.swann@capitol.tn.gov,
sen.frank.niceley@capitol.tn.gov, Sen.Raumesh.Akbari@capitol.tn.gov,
sen.jack.johnson@capitol.tn.gov, sen.shane.reeves@capitol.tn.gov,

sen.steve.southerland@capitol.tn.gov, sen.bo.watson@capitol.tn.gov,
sen.ken.yager@capitol.tn.gov

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you to urge you to vote no on bill SB1402, which would cut unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 12 weeks. Tennesseans were hit hard economically by the pandemic, if unemployment benefits were cut, even more people would have felt financial hardships of this pandemic. We should be extending unemployment benefits not cutting them in half. Please support our working Tennesseans and vote against this harmful legislation."

WATCH: Video link to the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee [here](#) Tuesday, April 6 at 1:00 PM CST

Senate Judiciary Committee

SB1370 SB1224 SB0821 SB0843 SB0003 SB0647 SB0457 SB8111 SB0557

BAD FOR WOMEN BAD FOR HEALTH BAD FOR LGTBQ

GOOD FOR HEALTH GOOD FOR DEMOCRACY

ASK OPPOSE SB1370 OPPOSE SB1224 OPPOSE SB0557 OPPOSE SB0843

OPPOSE SB0457 SUPPORT SB0647 SUPPORT SB0003 SUPPORT SB0821

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: **OPPOSE SB1370** redefines life at the moment of fertilization; **OPPOSE SB1224** anti-inclusive transgender restrooms signage; **OPPOSE SB0557** prohibits the enforcement of any future federal gun laws regulating sales or possession; **OPPOSE SB0843** Criminalization of demonstrators/protestors; **OPPOSE SB0457** required training for Nashville COB members; **SUPPORT SB0647** restoration of voting rights if a person enters into a payment plan for victim restitution; **SUPPORT SB0003** non-partisan redistricting

ACTION: Email all Senate Judiciary members before TUESDAY, April 13, Copy and Paste all email addresses into the BCC line: sen.mike.bell@capitol.tn.gov, sen.Dawn.White@capitol.tn.gov, sen.paul.rose@capitol.tn.gov, sen.todd.gardenhire@capitol.tn.gov, sen.sara.kyle@capitol.tn.gov, sen.jon.lundberg@capitol.tn.gov, sen.kerry.roberts@capitol.tn.gov, sen.Katrina.Robinson@capitol.tn.gov, sen.john.stevens@capitol.tn.gov

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you to ask you to vote no on SB1370, no on SB1224, no on SB0557, no on SB0843, no on SB0457, yes on SB0647, and yes on SB0003 before you in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. I would like to ask you to vote no on SB1370, which states that there is no cause of action for wrongful birth or wrongful life and redefines life as beginning at fertilization. This bill's attempt to redefine personhood at fertilization could potentially create grounds for suing health providers, in vitro fertilization clinics, and women for pregnancy outcomes. This bill offers zero value as there are no examples of someone filing a lawsuit for wrongful life, however, it could create very large litigation expenses for the state as it infringes on women's reproductive rights and potential fallout for healthcare providers. I would also like for you to vote no on SB1224, which would require businesses and public buildings with transgender-inclusive restrooms to post signs. This bill is an effort to intimidate transgender people about restrooms and intimidate businesses

that support inclusive restrooms. These signs will endanger transgender people and could lead to aggression against trans-inclusive businesses. I would urge you to consider how this legislation might impact the lives and safety transgender individuals and the overall negative impact this will have on communities, businesses, and the economy of Tennessee. I am also asking you to vote against SB0557 which would not allow the federal government to regulate guns. This bill is dangerous and I don't think Tennessee should be picking which federal laws it chooses to follow and which ones it breaks. This is obviously a challenge to federal laws that Tennessee should follow as part of the United States and would surely waste taxpayer dollars in court. I am also asking you to vote no on SB0843, because this bill seeks to criminalize our first amendment rights. SB0843 changes the penalties from misdemeanor to felony and also creates new criminal offenses surrounding actions involving demonstrators. A felony charge is too severe a penalty. Demonstrators, whether you agree or disagree with their cause, are exercising their first amendment right, freedom of assembly. This bill intentionally seeks to discourage people from demonstrating, which is protected under our constitution. This bill also carries a high fiscal cost to our state and it is highly likely that this bill, if passed, will face significant legal challenges and incur high litigation costs to Tennesseans, while providing no benefits. I would also like to ask you to vote no on SB0457. This bill requires training for Nashville Community Oversight Board members and invalidates their authority until all members have completed this training. I believe this is a local decision that the people of Nashville and their elected officials should decide. This bill is government overreach and interference, especially given that the bill sponsors and co-sponsors represent constituents that live outside of Nashville and Davidson County. I am also asking you to support SB0647, which seeks to limit some of the financial obligations associated with the restoration of voting rights. SB0647 would restore voting rights through provisional voting if a person enters into a payment plan for victim restitution. Placing financial hurdles on individuals trying to re-establish their lives is not only unfair but also completely unrelated to the right to vote. The current law is voter suppression of the poor and responsible for disenfranchising voters based on their economic status. With Tennessee having one of the country's lowest voter turnout rates, we should be doing everything possible to increase voting. I am also asking you to support and vote yes on SB0003 which would create a non-partisan redistricting committee in order to create fairer voting districts for the revised census. I believe this is at the heart of our democracy and allows for votes to be more evenly and fairly represented and counted. Partisan biased voting maps disenfranchise voters by giving certain groups more power and say in elections and ultimately in our government."

WATCH: Video link to the Senate Judiciary Committee [here](#), Tuesday, April 20 at 2:30 PM CST and Wednesday, April 21 at 12:00 PM CST.

House Criminal Justice subcommittee

BAD FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE GOOD FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM GOOD FOR VOTING

ASK: OPPOSE HB1143 SUPPORT HB0413 SUPPORT HB1393 SUPPORT SB1380

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: **OPPOSE HB1143** changes the punishment from a misdemeanor to a felony for third and subsequent offenses for driving with license that is canceled, suspended, or revoked; **SUPPORT HB0413** decriminalizes marijuana possession or exchange for less than one ounce; **SUPPORT HB1393** restoration of voting rights if a person enters into a payment plan for victim restitution; **SUPPORT HB1406** prohibits magistrate issued no-knock warrants and requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding de-escalation and use of force

ACTION: Email all House Criminal Justice subcommittee members before WEDNESDAY, April 21, Copy and Paste all email addresses into the BCC line:

rep.clay.doggett@capitol.tn.gov, rep.bill.beck@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.michael.curcio@capitol.tn.gov, rep.andrew.farmer@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.bruce.griffey@capitol.tn.gov, rep.ga.hardaway@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.dan.howell@capitol.tn.gov, rep.debra.moody@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.lowell.russell@capitol.tn.gov, rep.jerry.sexton@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.william.lamberth@capitol.tn.gov

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you to ask you to vote no on bill HB1143, yes on bill HB0413, and yes on HB1393, and yes on HB1406 before you in the House Criminal Justice subcommittee on Wednesday of this week. I am urging you to vote no on HB1143, because this bill would change the punishment from misdemeanor where it stands currently, to a felony for violations associated with driving with a license that is canceled, suspended, or revoked. This is way too severe a punishment for this type of driver's licence violations. The result of this legislation could lead many to lose or hinder future employment, lose their right to vote, and negatively impact their immigration status. Additionally, this bill carries a large fiscal impact of over \$4.3 million annually to our state budget due to the increased strain to our court and criminal justice system. I don't believe a stiffer punishment will do anything to prevent or deter these offenses and will cost our state millions. I am also asking you to support and vote yes on HB0413. This bill would decriminalize marijuana possession or exchange for amounts under an ounce. Currently the law stands that possession or casual exchange, not sale, for under a half ounce is a misdemeanor and over half an ounce is a felony, and these bills would change that to an ounce. These bills would save thousands of individuals from the trauma of arrest and incarceration. Small amounts of marijuana possession has permanently and negatively impacted lives and communities. Additionally, this bill would save Tennessee millions in decreased expenditures on incarcerations at both state and local level. We shouldn't be using taxpayer dollars to prosecute and incarcerate people for these actions. I am also asking you to support HB1393, which seeks to limit some of the financial obligations associated with the restoration of voting rights. HB1393 would restore voting rights through provisional voting if a person enters into

a payment plan for victim restitution. Placing financial hurdles on individuals trying to re-establish their lives is not only unfair but also completely unrelated to the right to vote. The current law is voter suppression of the poor and responsible for disenfranchising voters based on their economic status. With Tennessee having one of the country's lowest voter turnout rates, we should be doing everything possible to increase voting. I am also contacting you to ask you to vote in favor of SB1380. This bill would prohibit magistrates from issuing no-knock warrants and also require the police to establish policies regarding de-escalation tactics and the use of force. It is important that we do everything possible to reduce violence, the use of force, and unintended shootings by the police. There are way too many incidences not to take action to change our policies."

WATCH: Video link to the House Criminal Justice subcommittee [here](#) Wednesday, April 21 at 5 PM CST.

House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee

BAD FOR TENNESSEE

ASK: OPPOSE HJR0140

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: OPPOSE HJR0140 prohibit future marijuana legalization in the Tennessee Constitution; **ACTION:** Email all House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee members before WEDNESDAY, April 21. Copy and Paste all email addresses into the BCC line: rep.gary.hicks@capitol.tn.gov, rep.charlie.baum@capitol.tn.gov, rep.karen.camper@capitol.tn.gov, rep.bob.freeman@capitol.tn.gov, rep.ron.gant@capitol.tn.gov, rep.david.hawk@capitol.tn.gov, rep.patsy.hazlewood@capitol.tn.gov, rep.susan.lynn@capitol.tn.gov, rep.brandon.ogles@capitol.tn.gov, rep.chris.todd@capitol.tn.gov, rep.ryan.williams@capitol.tn.gov, rep.john.windle@capitol.tn.gov, rep.sam.whitson@capitol.tn.gov

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you to urge you to vote no on HJR0140 before you this Wednesday in the House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee. I am asking you to vote no on HJR0140 because an added amendment by the bill sponsor would prohibit the General Assembly from authorizing by law "the use of a substance, other than that prescribed by an authorized physician." This amendment clearly targets future marijuana legalization bills. Each elected General Assembly should be able to write and pass bills based on knowledge, health and government guidelines, and constituent input. This amendment oversteps future General Assemblies and defines all legal substances based on criteria determined in 2020."

WATCH: Video link to the House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee [here](#) Wednesday, April 21 at 11 AM CST

House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

BAD FOR WORKERS

ASK: OPPOSE HJR0072

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: OPPOSE [HJR0072](#) right to work for less, detrimental to unions

ACTION: Email all House Finance, Ways, and Means committee members before WEDNESDAY, April 20. Copy and Paste all email addresses into the BCC line:

rep.patsy.hazlewood@capitol.tn.gov, rep.charlie.baum@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.scotty.campbell@capitol.tn.gov, rep.karen.camper@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.john.crawford@capitol.tn.gov, rep.jeremy.faison@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.bob.freeman@capitol.tn.gov, rep.ron.gant@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.johnny.garrett@capitol.tn.gov, rep.john.gillespie@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.david.hawk@capitol.tn.gov, rep.gary.hicks@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.london.lamar@capitol.tn.gov, rep.william.lamberth@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.susan.lynn@capitol.tn.gov, rep.larry.miller@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.brandon.ogles@capitol.tn.gov, rep.jerry.sexton@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.johnny.shaw@capitol.tn.gov, rep.mike.sparks@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.chris.todd@capitol.tn.gov, rep.sam.whitson@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.ryan.williams@capitol.tn.gov, rep.john.windle@capitol.tn.gov,
rep.jason.zachary@capitol.tn.gov

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you to urge you to vote no on HJR0072 before you in the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. In other states similar laws have resulted in driving down wages and increasing workplace injuries and fatalities. Additionally, this bill would add this constitutional amendment to the 2022 general election ballot, resulting in increased local government expenditures. Tennessee is already considered a "right to work" state due to current laws. Not only is this bill harmful to workers but it is unnecessarily costly to our counties. Please vote no and protect working families in Tennessee."

WATCH: Video link to the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee [here](#) Tuesday, April 20 at 3:00 PM CST.

This document is compiled by Indivisible Tennessee

Email: Indivisible Tennessee legislative lead director at IndivisibleTN7@gmail.com

Facebook @IndivisibleTennessee <https://www.facebook.com/IndivisibleTennessee/>

Twitter: @IndivisibleTenn

Web: www.indivisibletn.org