



REP. AFTYN BEHN (D)

Nashville - House District 51 – Part of Davidson County

Bill Number HB2008 (Companion SB512)

What it does (from TNGA bill description):

HB2008 requires local education agencies to provide sufficient pre-kindergarten classrooms to serve all eligible children, defined as children who are age four on or before August 15 and reside in the LEA's area, beginning with the 2027–2028 school year. It sets program parameters, including a maximum class size of 20 and staffing requirements that include at least one licensed early-childhood teacher. It also bars tuition or fees for eligible children to attend LEA pre-K, while allowing fees for care outside the instructional day. If applications exceed capacity in a given year, the bill requires an enrollment lottery. To fund universal pre-K, the bill creates a 9.5% “data transaction privilege tax” on annual gross revenues derived from data transactions in digital advertising services in Tennessee, applying only to entities with an assessable base of \$50,000,000 or more. The tax provisions take effect January 1, 2027, and proceeds are directed into a dedicated universal pre-K fund for program support and administration.

Questions:

- How will the state monitor private child care providers to ensure they meet the same high-quality instructional standards as public school classrooms?
- By making pre-K universal for all families regardless of income, how does the bill ensure that the most vulnerable children—who benefit most from early intervention—don't lose their seats to families who can already afford private preschool?

Links:

Bill Page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=HB2008&ga=114>

Bill PDF: <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/HB2008.pdf>

Bill Senate Page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=SB2512&GA=114>

News Links:

<https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/vouchers-leaving-public-schools-students-behind>

REP. AFTYN BEHN (D)

Nashville - House District 51 – Part of Davidson County

Bill Number HB2007 (Companion SB2511)

What it does (from TNGA bill description):

HB2007 changes Tennessee's sales tax treatment of groceries by amending TCA § 67-6-228(a) so that retail sales of "food and food ingredients" are not taxed, subject to specified exceptions. It also removes language in § 67-6-103(c)(2) that ties part of the grocery tax rate to K-12 education earmarking. The bill adds a state reimbursement approach intended to offset local impacts by directing the state to allocate and distribute amounts substantially equal to what counties and municipalities would have received without the exemption, using reporting on exempt food sales and other relevant data that the commissioner may require. Implementation details are assigned to state administration, including the calculation and distribution of allocations. The bill's effective date is July 1, 2026.

Questions

- Does this bill apply to all food items, or does it exclude 'prepared foods' and 'luxury' items, and how does that affect local grocery stores that have to program their registers to distinguish between them?
- How does HB2007 differ from the other grocery tax reduction bills filed by the supermajority, and is there a 'middle ground' version that both parties are likely to support this year?
- Is a total elimination of the tax more effective for low-income families than the 'sales tax holidays' we have used in the past, which only last for a month?

Links:

Bill Page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=HB2007&ga=114>

Bill PDF: <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/112/Bill/HB2007.pdf>

News:

<https://www.wsmv.com/2026/01/14/tennessee-legislature-considering-eliminating-grocery-tax/>

Nashville - House District 51 – Part of Davidson County

BILL NUMBER: HB0298 (companion: SB0242)

What it does (from TNGA bill description):

This bill enacts the “Homes not Hedge Funds Act.” In certain counties (including Davidson and Shelby), it is unlawful for a person or entity (including affiliates) to buy a single-family home for rental purposes if they already own 100 or more single-family homes in those counties that are primarily rentals.

For enforcement, the bill authorizes the attorney general to bring a civil action. It also creates a private cause of action for an individual aggrieved by a violation, and it describes potential civil penalties and damages.

Potential Questions:

- Why was “100 or more homes” chosen as the threshold?
- How do you want enforcement to work in practice (AG enforcement vs. private lawsuits), and what should residents expect?
- TEA question: Will you commit to tracking whether this bill actually reduces displacement and investor-driven rent spikes in Memphis and Nashville?

Links:

Active bill page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/Billinfo/Default?BillNumber=HB0298&ga=114>

Bill PDF: <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/HB0298.pdf>

News:

<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/state/homes-not-hedge-funds-act-proposed-in-tennessee/51-f8ed887f-9393-4001-8469-099571301aa9>



SENATOR CHARLANE OLIVER (D)

Nashville - Senate District 19 - Part of Davidson County

Bill Number SJR0684**What it does (from TNGA bill description):**

A Resolution to express opposition to The Boring Company's proposed tunnels within Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County; condemn the company's lack of transparency, inadequate community and Davidson County delegation engagement, and troubling labor and safety practices; and affirm that public land and public infrastructure decisions must prioritize the welfare, safety, and expressed needs of Nashville residents.

Questions:

- Is this project being prioritized because it solves a legitimate traffic problem for daily Nashville commuters, or is it a 'tourist shuttle' designed to serve the preferences of elite travelers and private interests?
- Nashville voters recently approved the 'Choose How You Move' transit plan. Does this tunnel project complement that plan, or does it compete for the same physical space and political attention as traditional mass transit, such as the bus system or light rail?

Links:

Bill Page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=SJR0684&GA=114>

News:

<https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/pithinthewind/state-oks-parking-lot-music-city-loop/article>

Bill Number SB2511 (Companion HB2007)**What it does (from TNGA bill description):**

As introduced, enacts the "End the Grocery Tax Act." - Amends TCA Title 57 and Title 67.

Questions

- Does this bill also allow local cities and counties to keep their portion of the grocery tax, or would their local funding be cut as well?
- If the full repeal is too expensive for the current budget, would you support a 'graduated' repeal that lowers the tax by 1% each year until it is gone?
- How much money is the average Tennessee family of four expected to save annually if this bill passes?

Links:

Bill Page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=SB2511&ga=114>



REP. WILLIAM LAMBERTH (R)

Portland — House District 44 – Part of Sumner County

Bill Number: HB0001 (companion: SB0001)

What it does (from TNGA bill summary/description):

As introduced, this bill enacts the “Education Freedom Act of 2025.” The bill summary describes an education freedom scholarship program administered by the Department of Education that provides scholarships to eligible students beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, subject to appropriations and other available funds.

Questions:

- What should families understand first about who qualifies and how awards are prioritized?
- TEA is focused on justice and public accountability. What hard transparency requirements will you support so taxpayers can see who receives funds, what results are delivered, and whether public schools are being harmed?

Links

Bill page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=HB0001>

News: <https://apnews.com/article/eae62504c1441d7d84bd927f0fc1db3c>

News (program kickoff coverage):

<https://fox17.com/news/local/tennessee-school-voucher-bill-kicks-off-new-session-for-state-lawmakers-education-election-school-choice-bill-lee>

Bill Number: HB0793 (Companion: SB0836) ¹

What it does (from TNGA bill description): As introduced, authorizes LEAs and public charter schools to refuse to enroll students who are unlawfully present in the United States.

Questions:

- What specific documents will a parent be required to show to prove 'lawful presence'? Will this apply to all families during registration, or only to those whom a school official suspects might be undocumented?
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Links:

Bill Page: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default?BillNumber=HB0793>

News:

<https://www.wvlt.tv/2025/12/02/knox-county-school-board-push-back-tennessee-bill-forcing-immigration-tracking-schools/>

¹ Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee 10:00 AM Meeting on 3/4/26