

INDIVISIBLE TENNESSEE'S progressive bill 'We Are Watching' guide
WEEKLY BILL ALERT for the week of May 3-6, 2021

Bills on the floor/committees/subcommittees week of May 3-6, 2021

*This is likely the LAST week of session, bills will have floor votes without notice.
All remaining bills active in committees this week also have actions for floor votes.*

[House Committees calendar for May 3-6](#)

[Senate Committees calendar for May 3-6](#)

PRIORITY BILLS: Up this week on floor/committees/subcommittees

TAKE ACTION-->CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS. Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email ASAP, see scripts and contacts below.

BAD --

OPPOSE [HB1130/SB0868](#) creates a new elected court and judicial process to review unconstitutional bills; **OPPOSE** [SB0915](#) prohibits city and local government from challenging state laws and keeps unconstitutional laws; **OPPOSE** [SB1334](#) creates a felony offense for the creation of a gun registry that is sent to the federal government; **OPPOSE** [HB0513](#) Criminalization of demonstrators/protestors, legal immunity from hitting protestors with cars; **OPPOSE** [HB1039/SB1402](#) cut unemployment benefits by more than half; **OPPOSE** [HB1143/SB0284](#) 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** [HB1027](#) a caption bill that will carry an amendment that regulates gender-affirming care for transgender youth; **OPPOSE** [HB0575](#) limit the health authority of the county departments of health; **OPPOSE** [SB0457](#) required training for Nashville COB members; **OPPOSE** [HB0928](#) "Tennessee Second Amendment Sanctuary Act," declares any federal gun laws unenforceable and prohibits state and local government from enacting gun laws; **OPPOSE** [HB0580](#) bans public education curriculum on systemic racism

THE GOOD --

SUPPORT [HB1406](#), prohibits magistrate issued no-knock warrants and requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding de-escalation and use of force; **SUPPORT** [SJR0080](#) resolution to propose an amendment to the Tennessee Constitution to prohibit slavery; **SUPPORT** [HB1071/SB1107](#) exempting retail sale of food from sales tax May – Oct

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

OPPOSE [SB0751](#) TANF red tape; **OPPOSE** [HB0910](#) prohibits the public release of information pertaining to arrests; **SUPPORT** [SB0136](#) the "CROWN Act", stops natural hair shaming at schools and other public institutions; **SUPPORT** [SB1257](#) funds social worker position through public school BEP funds; **SUPPORT** [SB0581](#) funds more

school nurse positions through public school BEP funds; **SUPPORT** [SB0371](#) funds more school counselor positions through public school BEP funds; **SUPPORT** [SB0229](#) TN Promise pilot program for those in urgent financial need

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

*** HOUSE FLOOR***

BAD FOR LGTBQ BAD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH GOOD FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ASK: OPPOSE HB1027 OPPOSE HB0928 OPPOSE HB0575 SUPPORT HB1406
SUPPORT SJR0080

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: **OPPOSE** [HB1027](#) a caption bill that will carry an amendment that regulates gender-affirming care for transgender youth; **OPPOSE** [HB0575](#) limit the health authority of the county departments of health; **OPPOSE** [HB0928](#) "Tennessee Second Amendment Sanctuary Act," declares any federal gun laws unenforceable and prohibits state and local government from enacting gun laws; **SUPPORT** [HB1406](#), prohibits magistrate issued no-knock warrants and requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding de-escalation and use of force; **SUPPORT** [SJR0080](#) resolution to propose an amendment to the Tennessee Constitution to prohibit slavery

ACTION: Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email YOUR State Rep before MONDAY, May 3, include *CONSTITUENT* in the subject line.

[Email campaign through Tennessee Equality Project for bill HB1027](#)

[SCRIPT]: "I am contacting you as your constituent, to ask you to vote no on HB1027, no on HB0575, no on HB0928, and yes on HB1406. I am contacting you to vote no on HB1027. This is a caption bill that will carry language regulating the standards for best-practice health care for transgender youth. This bill is dangerous as it could result in the interruption of the standard of care for transgender youth. The current standard of care is backed by research, is considered ethical, and it saves the lives of transgender youth. I am also contacting you to urge you to vote no on HB0575 which would take authority away from the local health department. In the midst of a global pandemic this is absolutely the last thing that we need to do in order to save lives and help prevent illness. Please vote no and protect our communities. I am also asking you to vote no on HB0928 the "Tennessee Second Amendment Sanctuary Act." This bill would nullify federal gun laws and prohibit state and local governments from enacting gun laws. These bills are 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. I am also asking you to support and vote yes on HB1406. 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. I am contacting you to ask you to vote yes on SJR0080. This resolution would amend the Tennessee Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude forever in our state. This resolution is long overdue as this freedom is a right of everyone that was secured by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It is a step forward to confront our history, while acknowledging the validity of the freedom from slavery.”

WATCH: Video link to the House Floor [here](#) Monday, May 3 at 4:00 PM CST, nothing is currently scheduled for May 4, 5, 6, but continue watching.

SENATE FLOOR

BAD FOR PUBLIC SAFETY BAD FOR DEMOCRACY

ASK: OPPOSE SB0915 OPPOSE SB1334 OPPOSE SB0457

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: **OPPOSE SB1334** creates a felony offense for the creation of a gun registry that is sent to the federal government; **OPPOSE SB0915** prohibits city and local government from challenging state laws; **OPPOSE SB0457** required training for Nashville COB members

ACTION: Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email YOUR State Senator before MONDAY, May 3. Include *CONSTITUENT* in the subject line.

[SCRIPT]: “I am contacting you to ask that you vote no on SB1334, no on SB0457, and no on SB0915. I am asking you to vote no on SB1334 which has an amendment that would prevent state and local governments from creating a gun registry and also criminalize anyone who transfers a gun registry to the federal government. This bill is dangerous, as the registry and background checks prevent people who have committed violent crimes or are considered a threat from purchasing a gun. Additionally, this bill seeks to challenge federal laws that are in place to keep people safe and will end up in the courts wasting more taxpayer dollars. I am asking you to vote no on SB0915, which would prevent local governments from filing a lawsuit challenging unconstitutional laws passed by the legislature and allows for these unconstitutional laws to remain in place until the upper court rules on them. This bill is an effort to put in place unconstitutional laws and allows political agendas to be pushed. It is a blatant overstep of legislative powers and undermines our Tennessee Judicial branch by removing important checks and balances from our government. 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.”

WATCH: Video link to the Senate Floor [here](#) Monday, May 3 at 4:30 PM CST, nothing is currently scheduled for May 4, 5, 6, but continue watching.

House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee AND Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

BAD FOR WORKERS AND TENNESSEE

ASK: OPPOSE HB1130/SB0868 OPPOSE HB1039/SB1402

OPPOSE HB1143/SB0284 SUPPORT HB1071/SB1107

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: **OPPOSE** [HB1130/SB0868](#) creates a new court and judicial process to review unconstitutional bills; **OPPOSE** [HB1039/SB1402](#) cut unemployment benefits by more than half; **OPPOSE** [HB1143/SB0284](#) 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** [HB1071/SB1107](#) exempting retail sale of food from sales tax May – Oct.

ACTION: Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email YOUR State Representative and Senator before MONDAY, May 3. Include *CONSTITUENT* in the subject line. Also email all Senate Commerce and Labor committee members before MONDAY, May 3, Copy and Paste all email addresses into the BCC line: sen.bo.watson@capitol.tn.gov, sen.john.stevens@capitol.tn.gov, sen.joey.hensley@capitol.tn.gov, sen.todd.gardenhire@capitol.tn.gov, Sen.Brenda.Gilmore@capitol.tn.gov, sen.ferrell.haile@capitol.tn.gov, sen.jack.johnson@capitol.tn.gov, sen.jon.lundberg@capitol.tn.gov, Sen.Dawn.White@capitol.tn.gov, sen.ken.yager@capitol.tn.gov, sen.jeff.yarbro@capitol.tn.gov, 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 vote no on HB1130/SB0868, no on HB1039/SB1402, and no on HB1143/SB0284 before you this week. I am asking you to vote no on HB1130/SB0868, which is an attempt to politicize our court by establishing a statewide Chancery Court to hear constitutional challenges to state laws. Currently, there is a democratic, non-political judicial process in place that allows lawmakers to appeal rulings or replace judges if they aren’t happy with rulings. Establishing a Chancery Court will invite politicalization and out of state political influences by adding three additional judicial elections. Additionally this bill adds considerable expenses, costing the state more one million per year. Please keep our judicial branch focused on the constitution and not politics. I am contacting you to urge you to vote no on bill HB1039/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 greater financial hardships. We should be extending unemployment benefits not cutting them in

half. Please support our working Tennesseans and vote against this harmful legislation. I am urging you to vote no on HB1143/SB0284, 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 contacting you to ask you to support HB1071/SB1107, which would exempt retail sale of food from sales tax from May – October. Tennessee can afford to give people a few months of sales tax breaks on groceries. Tennessee has millions in the “rainy day budget” and the Governor's budget included a year long sales tax break for gun safes, in addition to sending money to Tim Tebow's Texas based foundation. Please do the bare minimum and support this bill.”

WATCH: Video link to the House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee [here](#) Monday, May 3 at 10 AM CST

****House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee****

BAD FOR TENNESSEE

ASK: OPPOSE HB0513

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: OPPOSE HB0513 Criminalization of demonstrators/protestors

ACTION: Find your legislator [here](#) and call/email YOUR State Rep before MONDAY, May 3. Include *CONSTITUENT* in the subject line.

Email all House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee members before MONDAY, May 3. 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 HB0513 before you in the House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee. This bill provides legal immunity to anyone that hits a person demonstrating with their car. It is disgusting that our “pro-life state” would seek to legalize murder. Demonstrators, whether you agree or disagree with their cause, are exercising their first amendment right. This bill changes the penalties from misdemeanor to felony, criminalizes our first

amendment rights and disenfranchising voting. 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.”

WATCH: Video link to the House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee [here](#)
Monday, May 3 at 10 AM CST

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