



TENNESSEE  
CONSERVATION  
VOTERS

The Environmental Voice

## TCV Priority Bill Report - February 20, 2020

### **SB243/HB1071 Requires mail or email notification regarding legality of removal of vegetation for outdoor advertisements.**

Sponsors Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Howell, Dan

Category Environment & Nature

Summary Specifies that the notice the commissioner of transportation must give to the affected outdoor advertiser regarding the determination of illegality of the removal, cutting, or trimming of vegetation, is to be made by United States postal service or electronic mail. **This is the billboard industry's caption bill. TDOT also has a bill. Scenic TN and Tennessee Conservation Voters are actively working on these bills. Until a bill becomes law on this issue, TN is not regulating billboards!**

Senate Status 02/01/19 - Referred to Senate Transportation & Safety Committee.

House Status 01/14/20 - House sponsor changed from Sanderson to Howell.

### **SB1633/HB1675 Plan to implement the Affordable Clean Energy Rule.**

Sponsors Sen. Yager, Ken; Rep. Keisling, Kelly

Category Environment & Nature

Summary Requires the department of environment and conservation to develop a plan to implement the federal Affordable Clean Energy Rule (40 CFR Part 60, Subpart Ba) and submit the plan to the administrator of the EPA by June 15, 2020. Specifies that the plan must not impose standards of performance or a compliance schedule that results in the retirement of any existing coal-fired electricity generating unit or an increase in price rates for electricity that exceeds 0.5 percent. **This bill is a step toward more coal mining in Tennessee and is being pushed prematurely for national political reasons. Timing is premature and bill as written now has not been approved by the state administration.**

Fiscal Note (Dated January 31, 2020) Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$300,000/FY19-20

Senate Status 02/19/20 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 02/26/20.

House Status 02/11/20 - House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee recommended. Sent to House Finance.

### **SB1766/HB1841 Creation of new water or wastewater treatment authorities.**

Sponsors Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. Marsh, Pat

Category Local Government

Summary Imposes various changes to the process for any city, metropolitan government or county to create new water or wastewater treatment authorities. Requires any city, metropolitan government or county attempting to create new authorities to submit a petition to the water and wastewater financing board for review and approval before a public hearing is held. Establishes petition requirements and approval process.

Fiscal Note (Dated January 27, 2020) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status 02/19/20 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 02/26/20.

House Status 02/20/20 - Set for House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee 02/25/20.

**SB1801/HB1842 Tire pre-disposal fee - reporting requirements.**

Sponsors Sen. Dickerson, Steven; Rep. Carter, Mike

Category Taxes Business

Summary Senator Dickerson has a rewrite amendment which incorporates most of the recent TACIR suggestions for tire disposition. It will significantly enhance used tire recycling if passed. The steps laid out in the amended bill make sense to truly stop the problem of illegal tire dumping and improper disposal.  
It will significantly enhance used tire recycling if passed. TCV supports this bill.

Senate Status 02/20/20 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 02/26/20.

House Status 02/20/20 - Set for House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee 02/25/20.

**SB1934/HB1838 Connection or reconnection of a utility service.**

Sponsors Sen. Swann, Art; Rep. Boyd, Clark

Category Utilities

Summary Specifies that no political subdivision of this state may adopt an ordinance, resolution, regulation, code, or policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of a utility service based upon the type or source of energy to be delivered to an individual customer.

Fiscal Note (Dated January 30, 2020) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status 02/19/20 - Set for Senate State & Local Government Committee 02/25/20.

House Status 02/20/20 - Set for House Commerce Committee 02/25/20.

**SB1961/HB1633 Use of revenues by municipal utility systems.**

Sponsors Sen. Gresham, Dolores; Rep. Gant, Ron

Category Utilities

Summary Requires a municipal utility board or the municipal governing body and the comptroller of the treasury to establish procedures and guidelines for a natural gas utility system to devote revenues derived from the system to fund chambers of commerce or economic and community organizations. Requires certain financial reporting by any chambers of commerce or economic and community organizations receiving such funds.

Fiscal Note (Dated January 25, 2020) Increase Local Expenditures Exceeds \$100/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years/Permissive

Senate Status 02/19/20 - Set for Senate State & Local Government Committee 02/25/20.

House Status 02/20/20 - Set for House Utilities Subcommittee 02/26/20.

**SB2102/HB2169 Water bottle filling stations in schools.**

Sponsors Sen. Massey, Becky; Rep. Hazlewood, Patsy

Category Education

Summary Requires an LEA or the governing body of a public charter school that constructs or renovates a public school or public charter school building to install water bottle filling stations for students. Requires at least one station for every 75 students enrolled, one on each floor, one in the school food service area and one near gyms, outdoor learning areas, athletic facilities and playgrounds. Prohibits schools from denying students' ability to bring clear water bottles on campus.

Senate Status 02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status 02/20/20 - Set for House Education K-12 Subcommittee 02/25/20.

**SB2131/HB2369 Prohibits establishments from providing carryout bags.**

Sponsors Sen. Briggs, Richard; Rep. Wright, Dave

Category Environment & Nature

Summary Prohibits grocery stores, retail stores, and food service establishments from providing a carryout bag, defined as a bag made of paper or plastic meant for a single use, to a customer. Broadly captioned. **TCV supports this bill.**

Senate Status 02/19/20 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 02/26/20.

House Status 02/10/20 - Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

**SB2188/HB2255 Redefines restrictions pertaining to billboards regulations and the Control Act of 1972.**

Sponsors Sen. Johnson, Jack; Rep. Lamberth, William

Category Transportation General

Summary Revises various sections of the Control Act of 1972. Defines an "off-premises device" as outdoor advertising that is separate from business facility. Adds a severability clause to the Act (15 pp.). Part of Administration Package. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status 02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Transportation.

House Status 02/10/20 - Referred to House Infrastructure Subcommittee.

**SB2322/HB1951 UAPA - rulemaking hearings by state agencies.**

Sponsors Sen. Roberts, Kerry; Rep. Daniel, Martin

Category Government Regulation

Summary Requires state agencies to hold rulemaking hearings when promulgating proposed administrative rules that may affect a person's rights.

Fiscal Note (Dated February 7, 2020) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status 02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Government Operations Committee.

House Status 02/20/20 - Set for House Government Operations Committee 02/24/20.

**SB2361/HB1658 Motor vehicle inspection requirements for vehicles with an illuminated check engine light.**

Sponsors Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Garrett, Johnny

Category Transportation Vehicles

Summary Permits owners and operators of vehicles with an illuminated check engine light to elect to have the tailpipe emissions test performed in lieu of an onboard diagnostics test.

Fiscal Note (Dated February 19, 2020) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status 02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Transportation.

House Status 01/22/20 - Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

**SB2410/HB2593 Requires electricity providers pay a carbon emissions tax.**

Sponsors Sen. Robinson, Katrina; Rep. Dixie, Vincent

Category Utilities

Summary Requires that by May 1 of every year, an electricity provider must apply to the technical secretary of the air pollution control board or their designee for a written certification of the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted to produce electricity from that provider in Tennessee during that previous year. Also requires the provider to provide the technical secretary with information including the number of megawatt hours of electricity provided, the number of megawatt hours of electricity generated by each generator and the information the provider gives the federal power commission. States that It is a privilege taxable by this state to provide electricity for delivery to consumers in this state that resulted in carbon dioxide emissions and requires each provider pay a carbon emissions tax of \$10 for every metric ton of carbon dioxide emitted in an excess of 500,000 tons a year. Distributes sixty percent (60%) of the revenue gained to the general fund and forty percent (40%) to the municipality or county in which the payer's principle business is located. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status 02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

House Status 02/11/20 - Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

**SB2594/HB2825 Requires an agency to repeal an old rule in order to implement a new rule.**

*Sponsors:* Sen. Niceley, Frank , Rep. Grills, Rusty

*Summary:* Requires an agency that promulgates a new permanent rule to identify and repeal one existing permanent rule.

*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 9, 2020) Other Fiscal Impact Repeal of permanent rules of agencies will result in an unknown impact to federal funding, state expenditures, and state revenue. Due to multiple unknown factors, a precise impact on state government cannot reasonably be determined.

*Senate Status:*02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Government Operations Committee.

*House Status:* 02/20/20 - Set for House Government Operations Committee 02/24/20.

**SB2649/HB2868 Terminates the department of environment and conservation. ??**

*Sponsors* Sen. Roberts, Kerry; Rep. Daniel, Martin

*Category* Government Organization

*Summary* Terminates the department of environment and conservation on June 30, 2020, causing the department to go into a one-year wind down period and cease to exist on June 30, 2021. **We don't know the full story behind this bill, which won't pass, but the problems these sponsors may be having with TDEC are pretty are not our problems and we would likely be on TDEC's side, given past history.**

*Fiscal Note* (Dated February 9, 2020) NOT SIGNIFICANT

*Senate Status* 02/10/20 - Referred to Senate Government Operations Committee.

*House Status* 02/10/20 - Referred to House Government Operations Committee.

**HJR773 Constitutional amendment - dedicated revenue allocation to protect forests, parks.**

*Sponsors* Rep. Marsh, Pat

*Category* Environment & Nature

*Summary* Proposes an amendment to Article II of the Constitution of Tennessee to authorize the General Assembly to provide for, by general law, a dedicated revenue allocation to be used to protect and conserve forests, fish, wildlife habitats, and state and local parks; conserve lands that protect drinking water sources and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; and to provide opportunities for our children and families to play and enjoy the outdoors.

*House Status* 01/29/20 - Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

**HJR826 Memorials, Recognition - Cumberland Plateau.**

*Sponsors* Rep. Clemmons, John

*Category* Miscellaneous

*Summary* Recognizes the beauty and cultural heritage of the Cumberland Plateau region.

Fiscal Note (Dated February 11, 2020) NOT SIGNIFICANT

House 02/18/20 - **Failed** in House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee. **(long story)**  
Status