

# 2022



**TENNESSEE CHAMBER**  
of Commerce & Industry

TENNESSEE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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**THE RESULTS REPORT:**  
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[tnchamber.org](https://tnchamber.org)



## OUR SUMMARY OF SUCCESSES:



The adjournment of the 2022 legislative session marks the completion of the 112th General Assembly. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and House Speaker Cameron Sexton, lawmakers initially focused on redistricting. The most contentious issue became dividing Nashville from one to now three U.S. House districts.

During the 2022 session, lawmakers continued to grapple with how to set policy dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, including addressing the extension of business liability protection laws which were set to sunset in July. The Tennessee Chamber, which led original efforts to implement COVID-19 liability protections, was a staunch advocate in favor of extending the protections; lawmakers decided to extend the protections one year.

In February, Governor Bill Lee delivered his fourth State of the State address and the last of his first term. The 2022-2023 budget is the largest budget in Tennessee's history with new record-breaking investments of \$1 billion into K-12 education. Governor Lee helped set the pace for the 2022 legislative year by introducing language for the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement Act (TISA) which replaces the former Tennessee's Basic Education Program (BEP). The Chamber was supportive of Governor Lee's TISA program which was successful in gaining passage and appropriations.

The Chamber completed its legislative priorities during the 2022 legislative session. Among them, the legislature passed and made significant investments in a number of the Chamber's workforce priorities, a voluntary unemployment workshare program, legislation protecting the state's energy infrastructure, TISA, and liability protections. As important, the Chamber was also successful in advocating in opposition to proposals that would harm Tennessee's business climate.

## A NOTE TO OUR VALUED TENNESSEE CHAMBER MEMBERS:

A special thank you goes to all Tennessee Chamber members who diligently advocated on behalf of our organization throughout the 2022 legislative year. It is because of the grassroots efforts of Tennessee business leaders that our organization was able to achieve high levels of legislative success in the 2022 session. The strength of our team in Nashville comes from the respected business leaders who dedicate time and resources to our organization and maintain strong reputations in every corner of the state.

We will continue our work in the areas of environmental regulation, tax policy, workforce development, human resources policy, and economic development to name a few. Members are the pulse of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry/Tennessee Manufacturers Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate on your behalf.

Respectfully,

**Bradley Jackson**  
President & CEO

**Ryan King**  
Vice President  
of Government Affairs

**Mallorie Kerby**  
Associate Vice President of  
Environment and Energy

**Karrington Anderson**  
Government Affairs &  
Communications  
Assistant





# SUMMARY OF SUCCESSSES IN REVIEW



## **\$52.6 BILLION BUDGET:**

The Chamber and Tennessee business community saw a number of priorities included in the FY 2022-23 budget. \$1.5 million will be allocated to establish a state Be Pro Be Proud mobile workforce initiative, and another \$1.5 million will be allocated directly to Chamber workforce development programming. Perhaps the most notable spending increase will be in the education category and will accompany the Chamber-supported TISA education funding formula plan. \$1 billion in new education spending will be established under the budget. The General Assembly also authorized \$500 million in bonds to be utilized for a new multi-use domed stadium in Nashville. The stadium would be home to the Tennessee Titans, and instantly attract a variety of entertainment events to the city, significantly broadening tax revenue opportunities.



## **ANTI-BUSINESS LEGISLATION:**

The Tennessee Chamber worked to either amend or defeat a number of mandate bills that, if enacted, would have significantly impacted businesses in Tennessee. These bills include several employer mandates that would have increased cost and regulation in a number of areas. These bills along with several related to Human Resources, can be found at [tnchamber.org](http://tnchamber.org).



## **TENNESSEE INVESTMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (TISA):**

Public Chapter 966 was supported by the Tennessee Chamber and establishes an entirely new education funding formula for Tennessee and replaces the Basic Education Program (BEP). The plan is an aggregate split between LEA's and funding derived from the state budget. TISA focuses on individual student centered funding, in which education funding follows an individual child. For instance, it includes a base of \$6,860 per student, followed by each student's individual funding amount being weighted based on individual needs.



## **COVID-19 BUSINESS LIABILITY PROTECTIONS:**

Public Chapter 1117, which extends the sunset date of Tennessee's COVID-19 business liability protection laws, passed on the last day of session. The Tennessee Chamber strongly supported extending the Tennessee COVID-19 Recovery Act, which provides business protections for at least one year for all industries, to July 1, 2023. Extending these critical business liability protections aligns sunset dates with all other COVID-19 related laws, which were scheduled to expire at the same time.



# SUMMARY OF SUCCESSSES IN REVIEW (cont.'d)



## **VOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT WORKSHARE PROGRAM:**

Public Chapter 1086 was legislation supported on a bipartisan basis in both chambers of the legislature. It establishes a voluntary shared work unemployment benefits program that allows employers to submit to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for approval of a plan to reduce employee work hours. It allows for employee access to reduced unemployment compensation benefits. This legislation is Chamber-supported and would provide great flexibility to businesses needing short-term payroll relief.



## **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Public Chapter 1100 responds to efforts where local governments have exceeded their authority by prohibiting the siting of critical infrastructure or passing ordinances that make siting for a project infeasible. The legislation is necessary for improving energy security and independence and ensuring that affordable, reliable, and sustainable fuel and industrial materials are available to support Tennessee's economy and the day-to-day demand of local and state transportation and manufacturing needs.



## **CDL REFORM (OPERATION OPEN ROAD):**

Public Chapter 992 authorizes the Tennessee Department of Safety resources to further partner with third-party, private testing entities in order to establish more CDL testing sites throughout the state. This legislation streamlines commercial driving licensures and alleviates supply chain concerns. Public Chapter 992 allows for the purchase of surplus vehicles to be utilized at testing sites, a shortage that greatly needs remediating. The legislation also allows for easier maintenance and entry for both commercial truck drivers and commercial truck driving testing proctors.



## **COMPUTER SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

Public Chapter 979 requires LEAs to provide computer science courses, including online options, in which public school students across the state may enroll at no charge. It also establishes certain computer science requirements for students in grades K-12. This legislation was part of Governor Lee's administration package and supported by the Tennessee Chamber.

SEE US ONLINE AT [TNCHAMBER.ORG](http://TNCHAMBER.ORG)





# TENNESSEE CHAMBER 2022 ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

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**T**he Chamber spearheaded an effort to limit the ability of local governments to prohibit fossil fuel infrastructure in Tennessee. **Public Chapter 1100** is necessary to improve energy security and independence. Ensuring that affordable, reliable, and sustainable fuel and industrial materials are available to support Tennessee’s economy, and the day-to-day demand of local and state transportation and manufacturing needs. The legislative process included extensive stakeholder engagement and resulted in legislation that strikes that appropriate balance between safeguarding energy infrastructure needs and preserving local government input and oversight.

The Chamber once again pushed back on a number of bills that would result in negative impacts to Tennessee businesses. They include the establishment of an Extended Producer Responsibility program for packaging, the creation of a new commission to implement a bottle deposit and single use bag reduction program, and significant roadblocks to landfill siting and expansions. These bills, while intended to create environmental improvements, would place additional burdens on Tennessee businesses while offering no guarantees of the protections they purport to provide. All such legislation was either taken off notice by the sponsors or failed in committee.

The Chamber also partnered with the soft drink and malt beverage industry to shepherd legislation to provide TDOT with additional tools to enhance the Litter Grant Program. The program is funded by a tax on the soft drink and malt beverage industry and has picked up an impressive 800 million pounds (400,000 tons) of litter over its forty year history. **Public Chapter 903** allows TDOT to issue special grants for law enforcement, non-profits, cities, and also encourages grants for waterway cleanups.



**SAVINGS TO BUSINESS:**

**\$68,000,000** FOR ONE-YEAR BROADBAND TAX RELIEF

**\$9.7**

**\$1.55 BILLION**

IN TOTAL SAVINGS TO BUSINESS AS RESULT OF LEGISLATION NOT ENACTED

MILLION SAVED FOR DOCTORS BY ELIMINATING THE PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE TAX ON DOCTORS

**\$418M**

THE 2022-2023 STATE BUDGET INCLUDES MORE THAN \$418 MILLION IN TAX CUTS KEEPING TENNESSEE COMPETITIVE AND BUSINESS FRIENDLY



**\$500,000**

**\$2.5 MILLION** INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

FOR TNCAPS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND FOR READY FOR INDUSTRY PATHWAY

**\$1,500,000**

INVESTMENT IN BE PRO. BE PROUD. WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

**\$400K**

FOR THE US SMART FACTORY INSTITUTE







The Champion of Commerce award is the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry's most prestigious state legislator award. The process for selecting award recipients is extremely deliberative and is based heavily on recorded key votes with final oversight from a committee of Tennessee business leaders. Champions of Commerce are a rare distinction and overall are based on exemplary voting records and other applicable factors. Strong scores represent extraordinary support for business and manufacturing in the Volunteer State.

**2021-2022 CHAMPION OF COMMERCE  
AWARD:**

**STATE SENATOR  
BO WATSON**

**DISTRICT 11 – HIXSON**

**CHAIR, SENATE FINANCE,  
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**



**You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?**

The Workers' Compensation Reform Act of 2013. The new law was essential to establishing Tennessee as “the place” to do business. In my mind, that law is one of the pillars that has supported the amazing business growth we have experienced in the past eight years and helped make us one of the most business-friendly states in the nation.

**Please describe the business community within your district.**

Like many districts I have some large companies, but most are small businesses. I have a number of large legacy companies like McKee Foods (Little Debbie) and U. S. Express, and I have some newer players like Volkswagen and Amazon. All contribute to the growth and development of the southeast region of our state, and each is a special thread in the fabric of our business and manufacturing community.

**What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?**

Maintain our competitive advantage. That means we must stick to our basic, conservative fundamentals that have made us successful: balanced budget, low taxes, low debt, and limited regulation. Sometimes that means we have to play legislative offense, but many times it means we have to play legislative defense against progressive social ideas designed to attack and deter business growth.

**What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?**

Allow business and industry to compete with as little interference as possible from the government. The legislature should not pick winners and losers— that's up to the competitive marketplace. Our laws should create an environment that allows business and industry and the private sector to thrive.

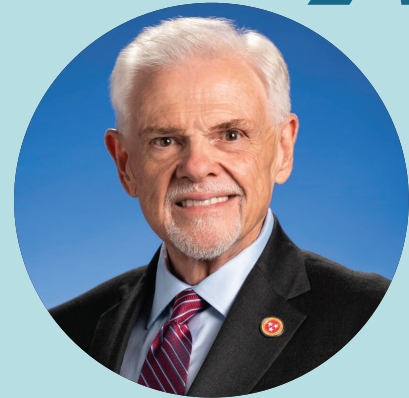


**2021-2022 CHAMPION OF COMMERCE  
AWARD:**

**STATE SENATOR  
KEN YAGER**

**DISTRICT 12 – KINGSTON**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR**



**You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?**

When I was first elected to the General Assembly in 2008 the Republican party was on its way to the supermajority that we now currently hold. As new leadership was taking over, a conscious decision was made that Tennessee would strive to lead the country in fiscal responsibility and fiscal stability. Before my election to the state Senate, I served as Roane County Executive from 1982 to 2006. From working in local government, I knew and valued the importance of a balanced budget. Under Governor Haslam and Governor Lee, the General Assembly has made sure that our budget is not only fiscally sound but structurally sound.

Without fiscal stability, there is no economic investment. When a business looks to expand or move into Tennessee, they want to know that we won't pull the rug out from under them and raise taxes that will negatively impact their bottom line once they get here. Because of this fiscal stability, Tennessee is the envy of the nation. US News recently ranked Tennessee number 1 for long-term fiscal stability (Best States for Fiscal Stability | US News Best States).

**Please describe the business community within your district.**

Inflation is the main focus of the entire country right now. Federal spending has reached levels in the last year that we have never seen before. Leadership in both the Tennessee House and Senate have carefully and conservatively prepared for a future economic downturn by raising our cash reserves. This year we added \$250 million to the state's Rainy Day Fund, which raised it to a historic level of \$ 1.8 billion. This year's budget also set aside an additional \$1.3 billion of a \$3 billion revenue surplus for future use. These fiscally conservative practices must be our focus as we approach a less favorable economy to ensure that Tennessee remains not only fiscally stable and structurally balanced, but also a low-tax state. Our practice of only funding recurring expenses with recurring revenue will continue to serve us well so that we do not find ourselves out on a limb in the future.

**What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?**

The legislature has a great relationship with Tennessee's business community. Communication is key in any relationship, and thanks to the Tennessee Chamber, our line of communication with the business community is always open. We've grown in our partnership with the business community by ensuring that state laws enhance the business environment that we have worked with you all to create. Together, we have eliminated arbitrary or growth inhibiting regulation. As a result, businesses in Tennessee are thriving.

One of my most important duties is serving on the Senate Commerce and Labor committee. On that committee we have made it a practice to avoid mandates on businesses and maintain a tax friendly posture. The legislature will continue phasing out the professional privilege tax and supporting workforce training and technical education, which will enhance our strong relationship with the business community.

**View Senator Yager's full response on our website at [www.tnchamber.org/work/champion-of-commerce](http://www.tnchamber.org/work/champion-of-commerce).**





**2021-2022 CHAMPION OF COMMERCE  
AWARD:**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DENNIS POWERS**

**DISTRICT 36 - JACKSBORO**

**CHAIR, HOUSE BANKING AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**



**You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?**

I think our investments in TCAT and the creation of TN Promise and TN Reconnect (which I carried in the House) are the most important things we have accomplished during my years of service. These accomplishments provide the training and education that businesses are looking for when they are evaluating whether to invest in our state. Business owners and managers want a workforce that is ready to go to work on day one and we are investing in the targeted skills that make our workforce attractive to current companies that are considering our state for relocation.

**Please describe the business community within your district.**

My district is a rural area that would be considered a "commuting district" because most of the higher-paying jobs are located within a 30-mile radius in Knoxville and Oak Ridge. Over the years, my district has developed into a large tourism district because of the lake and mountains, however, we are working to attract new companies into our area by developing our workforce tailor-made for those companies. Recently, I got a budget amendment for Union County for \$9M to build a combination TCAT/Walters State Community College for a county that has neither and this is going to be the prototype for rural communities. I think that is really where we can improve our rural business community, by investing in those things that will change the future.

**What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?**

We need to continue investing in our future workforce and improving our infrastructure to attract new business and expand our existing businesses. We also need to continue to make it easier for businesses to do business in our state by keeping taxes low and removing unnecessary, burdensome regulations.

**What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?**

Our State Government has a role of regulation, taxation, and education, but I think we should make sure government gets out of the way of business. As previously mentioned, that means lower taxes and regulations and continued investment in our infrastructure and workforce to attract and expand businesses in our state.





**2021-2022 CHAMPION OF COMMERCE  
AWARD:**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
KEVIN VAUGHAN**

**DISTRICT 95 - COLLIERVILLE**

**CHAIR, HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**



**You have proven that a strong business climate is important to you. What do you believe is one of the Tennessee General Assembly's most pro-business accomplishments during your service?**

While I have only been serving in the General Assembly the past five years, there have been many policy issues that we have addressed, from unemployment reform to COVID liability protection for our businesses. We also have to include the incentive packages used to attract large employers such as Volkswagen, Oracle, Ford, and others.

Being pro-business means being pro-Tennessee. These businesses have ownership, management, employees, stockholders, and vendors that benefit from our policies. So many times, I feel like that is forgotten and businesses are looked on as “takers” rather than “givers”. Businesses are organizations made up of people that provide opportunities for people.

I view one of our responsibilities to be to give our constituents the best opportunity to improve the quality of life. A prominent way to do that is through an increased income brought about by a job in a thriving business.

**Please describe the business community within your district.**

District 95, commonly referred to as the “District of Champions”, is the home to several larger companies. FedEx has several divisions there including the World Technology Center campus. The largest Carrier air conditioning manufacturing plant in North America is there and so is the corporate headquarters for Helena Agri-enterprises, a large agricultural service provider. Orgill, Inc., one of the largest hardware manufacturers in the world is headquartered there as is IMC, a rapidly growing logistics firm. These are a few of our heavy hitters that are valued near or over a billion dollars. We are also home to a thriving retail and small business community.

**What do you believe the economic development/pro business priorities of the next General Assembly should be?**

Perhaps the most important thing we do is play defense. We take that role of protecting the gains we have made very seriously.

On top of that, we will continue to take a look at things that are important to our business community, and how we can assist them in areas like energy supply and stability, and workforce development. We are also beginning to look into utility issues and making sure that the lowest cost energy can be delivered in a transparent and reliable manner to our businesses.

**What do you believe the legislature's role in interacting with the business community be?**

Doing our jobs well depends upon getting feedback from folks that are most affected by our policies. Whether that comes from interaction at home in the district, or working with advocacy groups in Nashville like the Tennessee Chamber, we need to know what is important to those that are affected by our decisions.







# TENNESSEE CHAMBER & MANUFACTURING TENNESSEE HOUSE 2022 SCORECARD

## HOW THEY VOTED:

VOTING KEY: Y Yea Vote  
N Nay Vote  
Blank No Vote Recorded

DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE	LIABILITY (SPECIAL SESSION)	FEDERAL COVID DECOUPLING	BUILDING MATERIALS	CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	OPERATION OPEN ROAD	UNEMPLOYMENT WORKSHARE	EXTENDING COVID-19 LIABILITY PROTECTIONS	DECOUPLING R&D
		SB9014/ HB9077	SB775/HB776	SB0631/ HB0749	SB2077/ HB2246	SB2399/ HB2146	HB1274/SB958	SB2448/ HB2671	SB2397/ HB2144
HD-37	BAUM, CHARLIE	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-51	BECK, BILL	N	Y	N		Y	Y		Y
HD-46	BOYD, CLARK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-47	BRICKEN, RUSH		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-71	BYRD, DAVID	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-32	CALFEE, KENT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-87	CAMPBELL, SCOTTY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-12	CAMPER, KAREN D.	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-29	CARR, DALE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
HD-63	CARRINGER, MICHELLE	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-64	CASADA, GLEN	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-85	CEPICKY, SCOTT		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-55	CHISM, JESSE		Y		N	Y	Y	Y	
HD-23	CLEMMONS, JOHN RAY	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-97	COCHRAN, MARK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-86	COOPER, BARBARA		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-01	CRAWFORD, JOHN		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-69	CURCIO, MICHAEL G.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-18	DARBY, TANDY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-90	DIXIE, VINCENT		Y	N	N		Y		
HD-54	DOGGETT, CLAY	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-70	ELDRIDGE, RICK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-16	FAISON, JEREMY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-10	FARMER, ANDREW	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
HD-11	FREEMAN, BOB	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	
HD-17	GANT, RON M.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-56	GARRETT, JOHNNY	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-94	GILLESPIE, JOHN	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-45	GRIFFEY, BRUCE	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		
HD-75	GRILLS, RUSTY	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-77	HAKEEM, YUSUF		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-28	HALFORD, CURTIS	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
HD-79	HALL, MARK	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-24	HARDAWAY, G. A.	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-93	HARRIS, TORREY	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	
HD-72	HASTON, KIRK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-05	HAWK, DAVID	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-27	HAZLEWOOD, PATSY	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-30	HELTON, ESTHER	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-09	HICKS, GARY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-06	HICKS, TIM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-06	ALEXANDER, REBECCA		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-67	HODGES, JASON	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-04	HOLSCLAW, JR., JOHN B.	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
HD-76	HOWELL, DAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-22	HULSEY, BUD	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-02	HURT, CHRIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-82	JERNIGAN, DARREN		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-60	JOHNSON, CURTIS G.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

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# TENNESSEE CHAMBER & MANUFACTURING TENNESSEE HOUSE 2022 SCORECARD

## HOW THEY VOTED:

VOTING KEY: Y Yea Vote  
N Nay Vote  
Blank No Vote Recorded

DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE	LIABILITY (SPECIAL SESSION)	FEDERAL COVID DECOUPLING	BUILDING MATERIALS	CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	OPERATION OPEN ROAD	UNEMPLOYMENT WORKSHARE	EXTENDING COVID-19 LIABILITY PROTECTIONS	DECOUPLING R&D
		SB9014/ HB9077	SB775/HB776	SB0631/ HB0749	SB2077/ HB2246	SB2399/ HB2146	HB1274/SB958	SB2448/ HB2671	SB2397/ HB2144
HD-68	JOHNSON, GLORIA	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-13	KEISLING, KELLY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-38	KUMAR, SABI 'DOC'	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-66	LAFFERTY, JUSTIN	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-89	LAMBERTH, WILLIAM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-91	LEATHERWOOD, TOM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-44	LITTLETON, MARY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-99	LOVE, HAROLD M., JR.		Y	N	N		Y	Y	Y
HD-78	LYNN, SUSAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-58	MANNIS, EDDIE	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-57	MARSH, PAT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-62	MARTIN, GREG				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-88	MCKENZIE, SAM		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	
HD-50	MILLER, LARRY J.		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-81	MITCHELL, BO	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-08	MOODY, DEBRA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-61	MOON, JEROME		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-98	OGLES, BRANDON	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-59	PARKINSON, ANTONIO		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-53	POTTS, JASON					Y			
HD-36	POWELL, JASON	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-33	POWERS, DENNIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-20	RAGAN, JOHN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-74	RAMSEY, BOB		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-34	REEDY, JAY D.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-39	RUDD, TIM	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-21	RUDDER, IRIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-25	RUSSELL, LOWELL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-35	SEXTON, CAMERON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-80	SEXTON, JERRY		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
HD-43	SHAW, JOHNNY	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-26	SHERRELL, PAUL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-49	SPARKS, MIKE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-15	STEWART, MIKE	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
HD-52	TERRY, BRYAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-48	THOMPSON, DWAYNE		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-96	TODD, CHRIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-92	TOWNS, JOE, JR.		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-73	TRAVIS, RON	N	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-84	VACANT						Y		
HD-31	VAUGHAN, KEVIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-06	VITAL, GREG	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-95	WEAVER, TERRI LYNN	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-40	WARNER, TODD	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-83	WHITE, MARK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-65	WHITSON, SAM	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-42	WILLIAMS, RYAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-41	WINDLE, JOHN MARK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-19	WRIGHT, DAVE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HD-14	ZACHARY, JASON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y







# TENNESSEE CHAMBER & MANUFACTURING TENNESSEE SENATE 2022 SCORECARD

## HOW THEY VOTED:

VOTING KEY: Y Yea Vote  
N Nay Vote  
Blank No Vote Recorded

SENATOR	LIABILITY (SPECIAL SESSION)	FEDERAL COVID DECOUPLING	BUILDING MATERIALS	CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	UNEMPLOYMENT WORKSHARE	EXTENDING COVID-19 LIABILITY PROTECTIONS	OPERATION OPEN ROAD	DECOUPLING R&D
	SB9014/ HB9077	SB775/HB776	SB0631/ HB0749	SB2077/ HB2246	HB1274/SB958	SB2448/ HB2671	SB2399/ HB2146	SB2397/ HB2144
AKBARI, RAUMESH	N		Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
BAILEY, PAUL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BELL, MIKE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BOWLING, JANICE	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
BRIGGS, RICHARD		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CROWE, RUSTY	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CAMPBELL, HEIDI	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
GARDENHIRE, TODD	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
GILMORE, BRENDA		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
WALLEY, PAGE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HAILE, FERRELL		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
HENSLEY, JOEY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JACKSON, ED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHNSON, JACK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
KELSEY, BRIAN		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
KYLE, SARA		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
LUNDBERG, JON	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MASSEY, BECKY DUNCAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
MCNALLY, LT. GOV. RANDY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NICELEY, FRANK S.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
POWERS, BILL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
PODY, MARK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
REEVES, SHANE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
ROBERTS, KERRY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ROSE, PAUL	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
LAMAR, LONDON				N	Y	Y	Y	
SOUTHERLAND, STEVE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
STEVENS, JOHN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SWANN, ART	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WATSON, BO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
WHITE, DAWN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
YAGER, KEN		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
YARBRO, JEFF	N	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y

### KEY CHAMBER BILLS & EXPLANATIONS

- LIABILITY (SPECIAL SESSION):** EXTENDS COVID-19 LIABILITY PROTECTIONS TO BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS, HEALTHCARE, ETC., EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT TO JULY 2022.
- FEDERAL COVID DECOUPLING:** IMPLEMENTS EXCISE TAX DEDUCTIONS ON SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYER RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM, SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF AND OTHER TENNESSEE COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS.
- BUILDING MATERIALS:** ENSURES THAT APPROVED BUILDING MATERIALS ARE TREATED EQUALLY AND FAIRLY IN THE MARKET AND THAT ATTAINABLE HOUSING CONCEPTS ARE RECOGNIZED, AND CANNOT BE OUTRIGHT BANNED BY A GOVERNMENT ENTITY.
- CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:** CLARIFIES INSTANCES WHERE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS EXCEED THEIR AUTHORITY BY PROHIBITING THE SITING OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OR PASSING ORDINANCES THAT MAKE SITING FOR A PROJECT INFEASIBLE.
- OPERATION OPEN ROAD:** LEGISLATION STREAMLINES COMMERCIAL DRIVING LICENSURES AND ALLEVIATE SUPPLY CHAIN CONCERNS BY AUTHORIZING THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY RESOURCES TO FURTHER PARTNER WITH PRIVATE TESTING ENTITIES.
- UNEMPLOYMENT WORKSHARE:** ESTABLISHES A VOLUNTARY SHARED WORK UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS EMPLOYERS TO SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR APPROVAL A PLAN TO REDUCE EMPLOYEE WORK HOURS AND ACCESS TO REDUCED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS.
- EXTENDING COVID-19 LIABILITY PROTECTIONS:** EXTENDS COVID-19 LIABILITY PROTECTIONS TO BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS, HEALTHCARE, ETC., EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT TO JULY 2023.
- DECOUPLING R&D:** SEVERS TENNESSEE'S TAX CODE FROM THE FEDERAL CODE'S EXTENDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE, ALLOWING BUSINESSES IN TENNESSEE TO CONTINUE DEDUCTING THOSE EXPENSES FROM THEIR STATE TAX LIABILITY.



## 2022-23 Budget Overview

### EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE:

- \$1 billion in new, recurring education spending for Tennessee public schools across Tennessee
- \$2.5 million investment in the Future Workforce Initiative
- \$1.5 million investment in Be Pro Be Proud Workforce Initiative
- \$500,000 for TNCAPS Workforce Development Program
- \$500,000 for Ready for Industry Pathway
- \$200,000 for Learning Blade Career Programs
- \$400,000 for the US Smart Factory Institute
- \$125 million raise to teacher pay this year
- \$200 million in TCAT expansions
- \$90 million investment in Tennessee's nationally-highlighted outcomes-based funding formula at the higher education level
- \$250 million dollar investment to improve the physical infrastructure at TSU
- \$500,000 for new CTE positions (FFA)
- \$1.2 million to effectuate Chamber supported computer science requirements

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAJOR INVESTMENTS:

- \$100 million allocation towards the IMPROVE Act to ensure progress on critical projects
- \$250 million toward road infrastructure projects in the fastest growing counties
- \$18 million allocation to attract 150 new primary care residents for rural Tennessee
- \$4M to enhance litter cleanup on Tennessee highways
- \$3M to apply agricultural sales tax exemption to all goods purchased for agricultural purposes
- (\$18M REDUCTION) \$85M for the FastTrack program, ensuring the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has the tools to recruit and retain top companies to call Tennessee home
- Formalizing a long-term strategy to develop the Clinch River Nuclear Site
- \$40M to invest in environmental cleanup, including National Priority List sites
- 5% State employee reduction without layoffs
- (\$18M REDUCTION) \$8M for Rural Opportunity Grants, helping to get communities ready for business investment
- \$750,000 for Chattanooga waterfront upgrades

### THE REST:

- \$500 Million in bonds to support construction of an enclosed stadium in Nashville
- \$80 million for a one-month moratorium on the state's 4% sales tax on groceries
- \$20 million for riverfront development in Memphis
- \$17 million in grants to prepare a Nashville track for a NASCAR race
- \$10 million for the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis

### A RECORD BREAKING YEAR:

- Largest budget in the state's history, \$52.6 billion (an increase from \$41.8 billion in FY 21-22)
- Rainy-Day Fund to a highest-ever, \$1.6 billion
- F&E revenues \$1.5 million more than the estimate and the annual growth rate is 21.18 percent
- Largest proposed K-12 Education expenditure in state history, \$12 billion





# OUR FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR 2022-23

★ **Chamber turns focus to federal agenda: inflation, labor, and regulations make top of the list of concerns**

★ Tennessee Chamber continually monitors issues affecting the business community at the federal level in the legislative, administrative, judicial, and regulatory areas. It engages on a perennial basis in a variety of issues including: Labor/employment law, tax policy, workforce, environment, regulatory, trade, energy, infrastructure, and more.

★ **This year, the chamber is focusing specifically on these five areas of concern:**

★ **FUNDING THE “CREATIVE HELPFUL INCENTIVES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SEMICONDUCTORS” (CHIPS) FOR AMERICA ACT AND ENHANCED FACILITATING AMERICAN-BUILT SEMICONDUCTORS (FABS) ACT**

- ★ ● Semiconductors are essential to nearly every sector of the economy, including aerospace, automobiles, communications, clean energy, information technology, and medical devices.
- ★ ● Demand for semiconductors has outstripped supply, partly due to shifts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. This has created a global chip shortage and resulted in a loss of growth and jobs, in turn underscoring the need for increased domestic manufacturing capacity.
- ★ ● Tennessee is home to four OEM automobile manufacturers and is a national healthcare hub. These critical industries especially stand to lose significantly from global semiconductor shortages.
- ★ ● Approval of funding provisions would help meet this long-term challenge by incentivizing semiconductor research, design, and manufacturing in the United States.
- ★ ● Funding will strengthen the U.S. economy, national security, and supply chain resilience and increase the supply of chips which is crucial to our entire economy.





## COMBATTING RISING INFLATION

- On April 12th, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the change over time in the price of consumer goods. The new numbers for March 2022 show a 1.2% rise in the cost of goods and services from February, up 8.5% in the last year, with energy and food being the largest contributors to rising prices.
- Businesses of all sizes are faced with raising prices because of what is happening across the entire economy that is beyond their control, including supply chain disruptions, worker shortages, world events, and U.S. monetary policy.

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON INFLATION

- Inflation is the result of supply and demand. Pandemic related shocks, a tight labor market, and loose monetary and fiscal policy have limited the supply of many goods and at the very same time boosted demand. This has created broad-based price increases.
- Businesses raise prices when input costs rise, and they can either see their margins shrink and start losing money, or they can raise prices to offset those higher costs.
- To shift the blame to businesses is misguided and only increases the likelihood that the real causes of inflation will not be addressed, prolonging and exacerbating higher prices for families and risking a recession.

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) RULES

### **Proxy Advisory Firms Rule Rollback**

- The rules finalized by the SEC in 2020 created a level playing field and ensured that investors would have access to high quality information free of bias. The SEC promulgated rules to roll back these rules, which signals it is not serious about rooting out and eliminating misinformation and conflicts of interest in the proxy process

### **Climate Related Disclosures**

- On March 21, 2022, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed a rule that would require registrants, which are companies that register with the SEC, to include certain climate-related disclosures in their registration statements and periodic reports, including information about climate-related risks that could impact their business, results of operations, or financial condition.
- The Tennessee Chamber strongly supports responsible environmental stewardship; however, this approach is unworkable and places large and small businesses in a costly and unfair position.
- This rule forces entire supply chains to adhere to climate standards of those utilized by downstream users.
- Companies will also be forced to comply with rules attempting to regulate immaterial risks.

## OPPOSING THE PRO ACT – PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

- The PRO Act restricts actions states may take to secure their labor policies. It would undo a number of protections provided by Tennessee's right-to-work statute.
- Costly effects of the PRO Act make it exceedingly challenging to hire contract workers and requires employers to share employee's personal contact information with union organizations without the consent of employees.
- Businesses have been in recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing costly government mandates like the PRO Act delays growth and adds unnecessary government regulations that are burden some for businesses.
- Tennessee has been a right-to-work state since 1947. The PRO Act would nullify right-to-work laws in favor of labor unions at the cost of businesses and their employees.
- The PRO Act takes away the right of workers to hold secret ballot elections.

**CONTINUED >>>**





## WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

- In-migration as well as favorable business climate and tax policies, has facilitated the 2.1% growth Tennessee’s labor force participation rate has seen since its low of 58% in May of 2020. However, businesses in Tennessee are having difficulties hiring employees because of a nationwide labor shortage initiated by federal pandemic unemployment benefits and a host of other factors.
- The workforce challenge has been made more urgent by COVID 19 pandemic—with Tennessee experiencing a low workforce participation rate of just 60.6%.
- 84% of manufacturers report shortages in skilled professions and 86% of commercial builders struggle to fill open positions.
- Nationwide, half of the labor force participation drop-off (2.1M workers) is due to early retirements. (Source: the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank)
- The greatest challenge among Tennessee businesses is the lack of skilled and available workers. The U.S. Department of Education estimates that 60 percent of the new jobs that will be available will require skills held by only 20 percent of the current workforce. It is predicted that in the next ten years, 123 million high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage jobs will be available, but only 50 million Americans will be qualified to take them

## **A RECAP OF THE TENNESSEE CHAMBER’S 2022 WASHINGTON DC FLY-IN**

The Tennessee Chamber hosted its 2022 Washington DC fly-in in June, partnering with local chambers across the state for a successful trip. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the importance of Tennessee’s business and manufacturing sectors with the state’s congressional members and United States senators. Vanderbilt University and Norfolk Southern made the event possible through their gracious sponsorships.

Kicking things off, the Tennessee Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau hosted the Tennessee Chamber and local chambers in their DC office for the opening night reception. Congressman Mark Green and Congressman John Rose welcomed all of the business leaders from Tennessee. Tuesday morning led with Tennessee Tuesday where the Chamber and business leaders met with US Senators Bill Hagerty and Marsha Blackburn. It was a privilege to hear their perspectives and updates on what was happening in Congress.

Volkswagen hosted later that morning where fly-in attendees heard political updates on the midterm elections and polling across the nation. The US Chamber gave policy updates followed up by the Tennessee Manufacturers Association. Later that afternoon, Brown-Forman hosted the Chamber’s Taste of Tennessee Reception; afterwards, attendees went to a Washington Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves baseball game.

On Wednesday, the fly-in concluded after meeting with Tennessee Congressional members. Briefings from Tennessee congressional members were invaluable as the Chamber and participants shared federal priorities and lawmakers provided information on those issues. A number of topics were discussed including: funding the Creative Helpful Incentives for the Production of Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act and enhanced Facilitating American-Built Semiconductors (FABS) Act, combating rising inflation, SEC rules, opposing the PRO Act, and workforce shortages. The Chamber is extremely grateful for all business and local chamber leaders who attended.



2022 DC FLY-IN PARTICIPANTS



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT



**VOTE  
RIGHT  
TO  
WORK**



**COMING TO  
THE BALLOT  
BOX IN  
2022**

- **MORE INFO:**  
[tnright2work.com](http://tnright2work.com)
- **VOTE  
NOVEMBER 8,  
2022!**

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING



*"This amendment will protect the rights of Tennessee workers and strengthen our economy for years to come."*  
— Gov. Bill Lee



*"Tennessee's Right to Work laws have been critical to producing the economic growth our state has experienced over the last decade."*  
— Lt. Gov. Randy McNally



*"This will strengthen our economic standing, support our current and future workforces, and also ensure this state remains open for business."*  
— House Speaker Cameron Sexton





Tennessee Business and Manufacturers PAC: Supporting Pro-Business Candidates

A crucial function of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry/Tennessee Manufacturers Association is to positively impact public policy and support pro-business candidates. Through our annual policy agendas and legislative scorecards, we work to hold legislators accountable for their support of Tennessee Chamber members; in turn we recognize that support through our PAC.

The Tennessee Chamber competes with a number of groups that do not share our vision of economic freedom and prosperity. Any amount you choose to give helps the Tennessee Chamber work on your behalf. All PAC contributions go to those candidates who are allies of the business community. Please support our work to help make sure Tennessee maintains and improves its standing as a business-friendly state; send your donation today.



SCAN OUR QR CODE OR VISIT [TNCHAMBER.ORG/PAC](https://tnchamber.org/pac)

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- Vote by November 21, 2022!





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