



Lawmakers head home today after floor sessions continue to become longer and more urgent with the end of session talks beginning to happen. Several committees closed this week including Senate State and Local, Senate Commerce, House Health Sub, House Property and Planning Sub, House Elections and Campaign Finance Sub, House Children and Family Sub, House Business and Utilities Sub.

Outside the normally scheduled bills and resolutions heard in the General Assembly, the focus will soon change to the budget and budget amendments filed by lawmakers, with the House and Senate appropriation deadlines having already passed. The Governor's office released the supplemental budget this week which spurred lawmakers and staff to double check which items received proposed funding from the executive branch.

The budget process will be interesting to watch this year with both chambers differing in their opinions on how to pay for the proposed school voucher bill. The House choosing to carve out new money and the Senate wanting the money to come out of the TISA resources. If the voucher bill were to not pass in equal forms by both chambers, this could free up money for projects by lawmakers. We will keep you updated.

### Legislation Spotlight:

**HB 416**, which would expand the PACE program, was heard in House Finance, Ways, and Means Sub and placed behind the budget.

The bill sponsored by Representative Caleb Hemmer (D-Nashville) would expand PACE to be a statewide program. PACE, which already successfully operates in Hamilton County, is a health care provider that offers an encompassing swath of services for both members of the elderly population and individuals with disabilities.

The bill is scheduled to be heard in Senate Health and Welfare Committee on April 3.

### Next Week:

**Monday, April 1, at 12:30pm**  
House Appropriations Sub (HHR III)

**Tuesday, April 2, at 10:30am** (or immediately following Senate Finance)  
Senate Appropriations Sub

**Wednesday, April 3, at 8:00am**  
House Agriculture and Natural Resources (HHR III)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presentation  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency presentation

**Thursday, April 4, at 9:00am**  
Joint Convention of the House and Senate in the House Chambers

## Committee News:

Finance and Administration **Commissioner Jim Bryson** and his team presented the governor's administration amendment to the proposed FY2024-25 budget in the House and Senate Finance, Ways, and Means committees.

The amendment allocates 150 million dollars to successfully close out the FY23-24 budget. It also appropriates:

- funds for two THP regional offices
- the purchase of Capitol Towers
- improvements for the East TN Veterans' Cemetery Gravesite
- the completion of the University of Tennessee Knoxville's Chemistry Building.

The commissioner emphasized that this amendment puts Tennessee in a good position, entering into a more "normal" FY25-26 with the base budget and reserve funds preserved and no new additional debt.

## Other News:

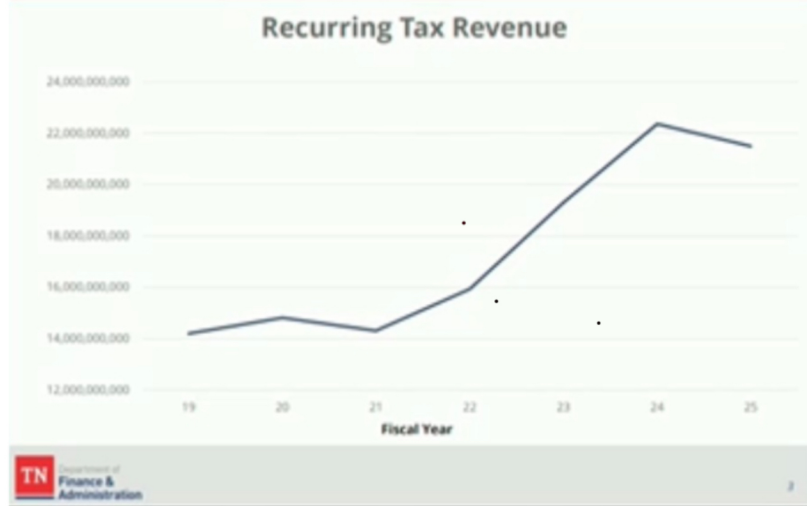
**Representative Dwayne Thompson** (D-Cordova) announced that he will be retiring from the legislature at the conclusion of the 2024 session.

Elected in 2016, Thompson has successfully represented part of Shelby County for eight years. While in office, Thompson focused on increasing access to mental health care and affordable housing as well as prioritized making government more efficient.



"This has been one of the honors of my life to have my community allowed to represent them in the Tennessee State House," stated Thompson.

## Revenue Has Leveled



The above graph was provided by Commissioner Bryson as a part of the department's presentations before the finance committees to demonstrate how tax revenue in TN has leveled out from 2019 to the predicted 2025 estimations.

## Legislation to Watch:

**HB 2297**, which would expand the Katie Beckett Program, advanced out of House Health committee.

The bill sponsored by Representative Sam Whitson (R-Franklin) would expand the program by adding an additional 1,000 participant slots. The Katie Beckett Program provides home and community-based services for children with significant disabilities or complex medical needs whose families are not eligible for Medicaid.

The bill is scheduled to be heard in Senate Health and Welfare Committee on April 3.