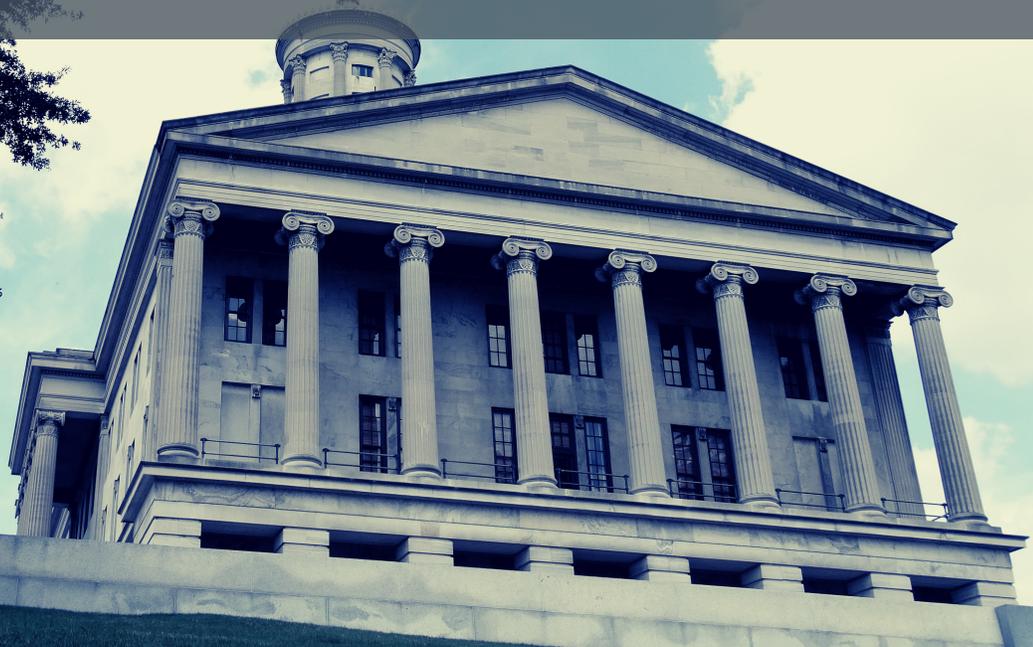




LEGISLATIVE INSIDER

SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE NEWSLETTER



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2019 FAILED BILLS

Here's a rundown on some of the bills that failed

HB0255/SB1149 - BEP funding for teachers reflective of maximum class size requirements

HB0301/SB0019 - Retention election for director of schools

HB0048/SB1358 - Increase purchasing authority threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000

HB1084/SB0477 - Survey students regarding availability of internet access in their homes

HB1244/SB0330 - Decrease the number of physical education classes an LEA must require elementary school students to attend each full school week

2019 TN Legislative Session in Review

The first regular session of the 111th Tennessee General Assembly came to an end Thursday, May 2nd after nearly four months of activity. Hundreds of bills were introduced and debated; and while many of the legislative efforts passed without incident, some fell short, and amendments were inked onto others in last ditch efforts to get initiatives into law. To sum the session up in one word for Shelby County Schools, CHALLENGING! Take a look at a few of the bills that passed during the 2019 legislative session.

2019 PASSED LEGISLATION

HB0939/SB0795: Tennessee Education Savings Account Act

This provision will long be remembered as the most consequential bill of the legislative session – perhaps more so than originally expected. Upon enactment (Public Chapter not assigned by the date of this publication), students (excluding undocumented immigrants) from Shelby County Schools, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, and the state-run Achievement School District will have access to public dollars for private school education. Litigation over the constitutionality of the law is expected.

HB0940/SB0796: Charter School Authorizer

The passage of HB0940/SB07 (Public Chapter 219) expanded the footprint for charter schools in Tennessee. The legislation, backed by Gov. Lee, established a new commission with state-wide authority to review charter school applications denied by a local school board. The commission will serve as a local education agency for any public charter school it authorizes.

HB1083/SB0836: Charter School Revocation

After minimal opposition, lawmakers overwhelmingly approved the charter school revocation bill that, as enacted under Public Chapter 205, authorizes rather than requires, a school district to revoke a public charter school agreement if the public charter school is identified as a priority school for 2017 or any year thereafter. However, school districts are required to revoke the agreement if the public charter school is identified as a priority school for two consecutive cycles beginning in 2017. Shelby County Schools worked with the sponsors of the bill in drafting the provision.

HB0248/SB0182: Transportation

A Lewisburg mom's fight was won when all members of the Senate and House except one voted to enact legislation (Public Chapter 256) allowing parents to view photos and video footage from cameras and video cameras installed on school buses. The law requires compliance with state and federal privacy requirements and district supervision while viewing.





TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN REVIEW



School Safety: HB0947/SB0803

A proposal to provide \$40 million in grants to help pay for school resource officers and other safety priorities was signed into law on the 24th of April. School safety grants, administered by the Tennessee School Safety Center, are subject to a twenty-five percent match by the receiving school district. Priority for grant funds will be given to school districts without a full-time school resource officer during the 2018-2019 school year.

Child Custody and Support: HB0169/SB0402

Tennessee students residing between parents an equal amount of time would be covered by state legislation (Public Chapter 83) when determining school zoning. The law permits a designation as joint primary residential parents or a waiver of the primary residential parent designation upon agreement of the parents when the child is scheduled to reside an equal amount of time with both parents; and allows the address of either parent to be used to determine school zoning when the child is scheduled to reside an equal amount of time with both parents.

GIVE Act: HB0949/SB0805

Gov. Lee signed the “Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education” Act into law (PC203) expanding access to vocational and technical training for Tennessee students beginning July 1, 2020.

FINAL WORDS

A lot of ground was covered over the 2019 legislative session and our team of political influencers were with us every step of the way. Special thanks to Tony Thompson, Andre Dean, and CLASS lobbyists Elizabeth Millsaps and Robert Gowan who spent countless hours talking to lawmakers and staff, gathering and analyzing data, attending and testifying in committee hearings, and monitoring legislative activities on behalf of TN public education and Shelby County Schools. While the session provided some notable action and was not void of its controversial issues, we are heartened by the work and engagement they provided.

Now that the 2019 legislative session has come to an end, instead of looking behind, the district must focus on the overarching implications of new laws and navigate through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We will take full advantage of every moment to educate and work with students, parents, community members, and legislators on our agenda to prepare ALL students for success in learning, leadership and life.



The 111th Tennessee General Assembly has adjourned and will reconvene on January 14, 2020 at 12 Noon

*Stephanie P. Love
Legislative Committee Chair*