

Enacted laws of interest to UT (2018)

Public Chapter	Subject	Summary	Effective Date
530	Sunset	Extends the board of nursing for three years to June 30, 2021.	7-Mar-18
531	Sunset	Extends the board of pharmacy for five years to June 30, 2023.	7-Mar-18
540	Public Funds	Adds debit card fraud to the definition of unlawful conduct that must be reported to the comptroller of the treasury; adds certain certified public accountants and firms to those with a duty to report unlawful conduct to the comptroller; removes immunity from those reporters who knowingly provide false information.	5-Mar-18
544	Contracts	Enacts the Contract Accountability and Responsible Employment (CARE) Act.	9-Mar-18
546	Academic Programs	Requires public higher education institutions in this state to adopt a policy by July 1, 2019 to allow American sign language courses to satisfy any foreign language requirements for admissions.	9-Mar-18
572	Autopsies	Changes the period of time within which a facility that performs autopsies must be accredited; clarifies that non-accredited facilities may perform autopsies under certain circumstances.	16-Mar-18
576	Pensions and Retirement Benefits	Designates board of trustees for the Tennessee consolidated retirement system instead of the consolidated retirement board as serving among the trustees for the optional retirement program; makes various revisions to the administration of deferred or tax-sheltered compensation plans for state employees.	16-Mar-18
602	THEC/Governance	Clarifies certain code references to account for the state university boards established by the FOCUS Act; reduces the number of student members on the higher education commission to a single voting member and revises the nominating process for that student member; removes the alumni requirement for appointments to the board of regents.	23-Mar-18
611	UAPA	Requires agencies, when statutorily required to hold a public hearing as part of their rulemaking process, to make copies of the rule available in redline form to persons in attendance at the hearing.	1-Jul-18
614	Tuition and Fees	Enacts the "Tuition Transparency and Accountability Act."	1-Jul-18
629	Worker's Compensation	Allows farm and agricultural employers to accept the Workers' Compensation Law by purchasing a workers' compensation insurance policy; allows a farm or agricultural employer to withdraw acceptance of the law at any time by canceling or not renewing the policy and providing notice to its employees.	2-Apr-18

647	Military Absences	Requires state institutions of higher education to grant an excused absence to military reserve or national guard personnel for an absence due to mandatory military service; requires state institutions of higher education to permit military reserve and national guard personnel to withdraw or receive a grade of incomplete in any course if the service member is called to active duty while enrolled.	9-Apr-18
657	BOT	Enacts the University of Tennessee Focusing on Campus and University Success (FOCUS) Act; reconstitutes the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee and revises other related provisions.	Effective 6-Apr-18/New Board Begins 1-Jul-18
703	Sunset	Extends the state university and community college system, board of regents, for four years to June 30, 2022; requires the governor, in making appointments, to ensure that the state university boards are composed of members who are diverse in sex rather than in gender.	12-Apr-18
705	Sunset	Extends the Tennessee higher education commission for four years to June 30, 2022.	12-Apr-18
706	Sunset	Extends the Tennessee student assistance corporation, board of directors for four years to June 30, 2022.	12-Apr-18
707	Sunset	Creates sunrise provision for local governing boards of trustees of the board of regents state universities, to terminate June 30, 2019.	12-Apr-18
712	Public Records/Rulemaking	Requires, by January 1, 2019, state governmental entities to promulgate rules, rather than adopt policies, to establish a process for making requests to inspect or receive copies of public records, for responding to requests for public records, and for the creation of a statement of any fees charged for copies of such records.	12-Apr-18
714	Medical Examiner	Clarifies that the ability of a next of kin to seek reconsideration of a medical examiner's manner of death determination applies only when the manner of death is determined to be suicide; specifies that unrelated parties have no liability for relying on the original death certificate, without regard to subsequent revision made pursuant to a request for reconsideration of the cause of death.	12-Apr-18
718	County Government	Requires members of a county legislative body to complete orientation and certain training after being elected or appointed; such training must be provided by or approved by CTAS.	12-Apr-18
739	Student Debt Obligations	Establishes requirements for issuance of diplomas, certificates of credit, and transcripts when a student has outstanding debts or obligations owed to a college or university.	18-Apr-18
754	UAPA	Prohibits boards, commissions, and other multi-member governmental entities from promulgating rules or issuing other internal restrictions that infringe on an entity member's freedom of speech.	18-Apr-18

770	Executive Search	Adds provisions to the process of selecting a President of a public institution of higher education.	19-Apr-18
771	Veterans	Makes the veteran hiring preference mandatory.	1-Jul-18
784	Academic Programs	Revises the Course Access Program Act.	20-Apr-18
790	THEC/Governance	Revises various provisions of the Tennessee Higher Education Authorization Act of 2016, and provisions regarding the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.	20-Apr-18
818	TN Promise	Adds to the definition of "eligible postsecondary institution" for purposes of the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Act of 2014.	1-Aug-18
823	Firearms	Authorizes an individual, business entity, or government entity to allow the concealed carry of handguns by handgun carry permit holders on the individual's or entity's property while prohibiting other weapons or the open carry of firearms; establishes posting requirements for "concealed firearms by permit only" signage.	24-Apr-18
825	Wind Energy	Establishes a regulatory framework for wind energy facilities in this state. Requires MTAS/CTAS to disseminate model local legislation to municipalities.	24-Apr-18
828	Post Commission	Creates appointment process for vacant citizen member positions on the Tennessee peace officer standards and training commission.	21-May-18
841	BOT Appointment	Requires the governor to strive to ensure that the board of trustees is composed of members who are diverse in sex, race, perspective, experience, and honorable military experience.	26-Apr-18
888	TennCare	Enacts the "Annual Coverage Assessment of 2018."	1-Jul-18
894	Student Records	Enacts the "Transparency in Higher Education Act, which requires each state institution of higher education to notify parents of enrolled students of the parent's right to view student records under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 on the institution's website.	1-Jul-18
907	Employees, Employers	Revises provisions governing the use of leave by state employees.	1-Jul-18
929	UAPA	Clarifies definitions of "rule" and "policy" for rulemaking purposes and revises other administrative procedures.	1-Jul-18
932	Tennessee Foreign Language Center	As enacted, transfers operation of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute from the Institute's board to the Institute for Public Service of the University of Tennessee; renames the institute to be the Tennessee Foreign Language Center; makes other related changes.	1-Jul-18
937	Teacher Preparation	Revises the teacher code of ethics; requires annual professional development for teachers on the teacher code of ethics; requires teacher preparation programs to include training for all students on the teacher code of ethics.	1-Jul-18
942	Student Code of Conduct	Continues permanent rules, including the UTK student code of conduct, filed with the secretary of state on or after January 1, 2017.	15-May-18

956	Utility Board Training	Authorizes online education courses as a method of compliance for continuing education requirements mandated for commissioners of a municipal utility board; requires the comptroller to offer online education courses, beginning no later than March 1, 2019, for the purposes of compliance with continuing education requirements; requires comptroller to approve courses offered by other providers (MTAS, CTAS, etc.), enacts other related provisions.	15-May-18
963	ORNL	Specifies that any entity that qualifies for exemption as a spallation neutron source facility will not be eligible for a sales and use tax exemption with regard to any industrial machinery that is used in operation of a qualified data center or used primarily for research and development; provides exception for a leadership computing facility that is funded by the United States government or instrumentality thereof, not funded with any state funds, and located at a national laboratory.	15-May-18
965	Employees, Employers	Prohibits public and private employers from requiring an employee or prospective employee to execute a non-disclosure agreement with respect to sexual harassment in the workplace as a condition of employment.	15-May-18
973	Immigration	Prohibits state and local governmental entities and officials from adopting sanctuary policies; authorizes Tennessee residents and members of the general assembly to submit complaints to the attorney general; provides that violations subject entities to ineligibility of state moneys; requires law enforcement agencies to enter into memorandums of agreement with federal officials concerning enforcement of federal immigration laws.	1-Jan-19
980	Student Due Process	Encourages students to report cases of sexual misconduct, protects the identity of victims, and ensures uniform due process rights for students; authorizes public institutions of higher education to appoint persons who have appropriate training but no employment relationship with the institution, including former municipal, state, and Federal judges to conduct contested cases under the UAPA.	For purposes of rule promulgation 21-May-18/ Effective date 1-Jul-18
991	Work-based Learning	Establishes liability framework for employers that accept or employ students receiving a secondary education to participate in work-based learning coordinated through the student's LEA; creates franchise and excise tax credit for taxpayers employing work-based learning students.	21-May-18
997	Public Employees	Enacts the "Tennessee Public Safety Behavioral Health Act."	1-Jul-18
1005	Suicide Prevention	Enacts the "Suicide Mortality Review and Prevention Act of 2018."	1-Jan-19
1014	Fair Board	Revises provisions governing the composition of the state fair board and selection of the board chairman. Places UTIA Dean of Extension on Fair Board.	21-May-18
1021	UAPA	Requires venue for appeals of contested case hearings be in chancery court nearest to the place of residence of the person contesting the agency action, chancery court nearest to the place the cause of action arose, or any court having subject matter jurisdiction.	1-Jul-18

1036	Teacher Preparation	Requires all state-approved teacher preparation programs to issue an annual report on the number of graduates who, in their first year of teaching, receive a score of "below expectations" or "significantly below expectaitons" on their overall evalautions; updates present law regarding temporary probation for teacher preparation programs and makes other techincal changes that aligns to updated terminology and practices.	1-Jan-19
1043	Sunset	Extends the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees for two years to June 30, 2020.	21-May-18
1061	Appropriations	Makes appropriations for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018.	1-Jul-18
1062	Bonds	Authorizes the state to issue and sell bonds of up to \$245,435,000.	1-Jul-18