

# Weekly Update



State Representative Gary W. Moore \*\* 32 Legislative Plaza \*\* Nashville, TN 37243  
615-741-4317\*\* [rep.gary.moore@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:rep.gary.moore@capitol.tn.gov) \*\* [www.moorefortn.net](http://www.moorefortn.net)

## **PHOTO I.D.**

HB 7 requires presentation of a photo i.d. before voting; and states that voters without proper identification shall be allowed to cast only a “provisional” ballot. This bill has passed in the Senate and is scheduled to be heard on the House floor next week.

I have had many senior citizen constituents contact me regarding the issue of requiring a photo i.d. to vote. They are concerned, as am I, this bill would disenfranchise our senior citizens and many other legal citizens who have non-photo driver license or no driver license at all.

In what is without a doubt an attempt to mitigate the issues passage of HB 7 would create, Senate Democratic Caucus Chair Lowe Finney and House Democratic Representative Gary Odom are sponsoring bills that would give free photo i.d.s to Tennesseans age 18 and up. Both bills are still in committee.

## **E-VERIFY**

Although the business community has opposed it, legislators on both sides have introduced bills which are making their way through the committee process which would require Tennessee employers to use the federal “E-Verify” system to ensure that workers they hire are in the country legally. I support these bills.

## **FOOD TAX REDUCTION**

A bill which would have imposed a tax of one cent per ounce on regular soft drinks and in turn, cut the sales tax on food by one cent has been placed “behind the budget”. This means it will not be considered for further action until after the state budget has been approved.

### **TENNESSEE TRAVELING TREASURES**

The Tennessee State Museum has begun a history project for schools. Called "Tennessee Traveling Treasures", it provides teachers with artifacts, books, posters, CDs, DVDs and other objects to use in their classrooms. The program covers topics from various eras of Tennessee history; and includes lesson plans developed by teachers and museum staff.

### **HEARING AID COVERAGE FOR MINOR CHILDREN**

On Thursday the House passed a bill requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for hearing aids for minor children, up to \$1,000 per hearing aid to be covered every three years.

### **STORM RELATED POWER OUTAGES**

Many thanks to our N.E.S. workers who worked around the clock to restore power to the thousands who were without power due to the bad weather we experienced this week. My home was without electricity for 2 days and nights due to two poles being broken in half by strong wind, and I know some of you are still without power. We are thankful to the workers and hopefully everyone will be back up and running soon.

### **STORM SAFETY**

Tornados, gusty winds and heavy rains can cause many problems such as we witnessed this past week. Below are a few tips for being prepared for severe storms.

- Have a designated plan and safe place to gather your family. If you don't have a storm cellar or basement, go to an inside room, without windows, on the lowest floor. This could be a center hallway or bathroom.
- Include in your safe place a safety kit that would have flashlights, batteries, battery operated radio, non-perishable foods and necessary utensils, first aid kit, medicines and hygiene supplies.
- Include blankets in your safe place if possible.
- Make sure all members of your family know your storm safety plan.

Of course, these are just a few suggestions and are not all inclusive.

Hope you have a great weekend with beautiful weather. Please let me know if I may assist you in any way.



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