

Weekly Update



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House Bill 1353, commonly referred to as the “Sharia Law” legislation, passed the House Judiciary Committee on a vote of 12 to 4. I voted for the bill because it was amended to remove any reference to any religious group.

The amendment also addressed two other concerns I had.

- 1) **After investigation** and recommendation by the Commissioner of the Department of Safety and the Director of the Tennessee Office of Homeland Security, the Governor and the Attorney General are authorized to jointly designate an entity as one of the following under the law of this state:
 - a) A domestic terrorist, as defined in Tennessee Code 39-13-902; or
 - b) A foreign terrorist organization; provided the entity is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State of the United States pursuant to U.S. Code 1189.
- 2) In making a designation, the Governor and Attorney General shall create written administrative findings, and the designee shall be afforded the same due process rights as are afforded to entities designated under U.S. Code 1189.

This legislation gives law enforcement the tools / means to gather information to prevent terrorist attacks on the citizens of our state, rather than respond after the fact.

House Bill 130, commonly referred to as the “Teacher Negotiation Bill” faced a major setback this week. A bi-partisan vote in the House Finance Committee delayed the unpopular “anti-teacher” bill, which is an attempt to strip teachers of their current ability to negotiate for better working conditions, class size, school safety and fair wages.

The Finance Committee sent the bill back to the House Education Committee, where it passed several weeks ago. The bill has already passed in the Senate. Although the bill could still see the light of day, this certainly puts into question whether or not the bill will pass this year. Tennessee teachers should continue to contact legislators to voice their opinion about this bill.

House Bill 1135, my bill that requires for accounting of funds raised by charitable entities for disaster relief, passed both the House and Senate. It awaits the Governor’s signature.

House Bill 1662, my bill that would have taken sales tax off of food items and increased the sales tax on non-food items just enough to make it revenue neutral, failed in the Senate. My **House Bill 2123**, which gives a franchise and excise break to existing small Tennessee businesses who hire additional employees and keep them, also failed in the Senate. Unfortunately, bills have to pass in both the House and Senate and be signed by the Governor in order to become law.

This is Mothers Day weekend. If you are fortunate enough to still have your mother, I hope you will enjoy some time with her. My mother is no longer with me, but I have sweet memories. With a few exceptions, mothers are loving, encouraging, they believe in you and want the best for you. Call her or go see her and let her know what she means to you.

*"When I was a child, my mother said to me:
'If you become a soldier, you'll be a general.
If you become a monk you'll end up as the pope.'
Instead I became a painter and wound up as Picasso."
-- Pablo Picasso*

Let me know if you have any questions or comments, or if I may assist you in any way.



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