

# TENNESSEE LEGISLATION BILLS

## APRIL 3, 2009

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### CAMPAIGNS & LOBBYING

SB 0728    **CAMPAIGNS & LOBBYING: Campaign contributions by corporations.**  
HB 0105\*    Allows representatives of any corporation doing business with the state to make campaign contributions up to the same contribution limits as individuals, LLCs, or partnerships on behalf of the corporation. (S: [Watson B.](#); H: [McCormick](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate State & Local Government.

**House Status:** Set for House Elections Subcommittee 04/08/2009.

SB 1423\*    **CAMPAIGNS & LOBBYING: Allows trade and professional association to**  
HB 1719    **fund PACs.**  
Permits qualifying trade and professional associations to contribute money to association PACs as long as the association has been in existence in TN for at least 5 years and has regular dues-paying members. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [McCormick](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate State & Local Government.

**House Status:** Set for House Elections Subcommittee 04/08/2009.

SB 1887\*    **CAMPAIGNS & LOBBYING: Amount individual can contribute to**  
HB 2126    **candidates.**  
Decreases the aggregate amount individual can contribute to candidates and all PACs to \$25,000 every two years. (S: [Kyle](#); H: [Turner M.](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate State & Local Government.

**House Status:** Referred to House Elections Subcommittee.

### COMMERCIAL LAW

SB 0812\*    **COMMERCIAL LAW: Uniform Debt Management Services Act.**  
HB 1278    Enacts the "Uniform Debt Management Services Act." Requires debt management service providers to register with the state as such and continue to operate as a non-profit organization for tax purposes as long as the provider is in operation. Specifies certain registration requirements and procedures. Establishes maximum dollar amounts that such providers can charge for certain services. Requires such debt management providers to have insurance coverage of at least \$250,000. Requires such providers to maintain a web site with contact information and other information about the organization and its operations. (48 pp.) (S: [Overbey](#); H:

[Stewart M.](#))

**Senate Status:** Set for Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee 04/07/2009.

**House Status:** Set for House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

SB 0813\* **COMMERCIAL LAW: Uniform Debt Management Services Act.**  
HB 1279 Enacts the "Uniform Debt Management Services Act." Requires debt management service providers to register with the state as such and continue to operate as a non-profit organization for tax purposes as long as the provider is in operation. Specifies certain registration requirements and procedures. Establishes maximum dollar amounts that such providers can charge for certain services. Requires such debt management providers to have insurance coverage of at least \$250,000. Requires such providers to maintain a web site with contact information and other information about the organization and its operations. (S: [Overbey](#); H: [Stewart M.](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

SB 0847\* **COMMERCIAL LAW: Claiming of damages under Consumer Protection Act.**  
HB 1206 Requires an individual claiming damages under Consumer Protection Act to prove causal link between alleged act and person's damages. Requires such a claimant to show actual out-of-pocket loss based on actual market value of good or service received in order to recover damages. (S: [Black](#); H: [McCord](#))

**Senate Status:** Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture deferred to 05/26/2009.

**House Status:** House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee recommended 03/03/2009. Sent to House Consumer & Employee Affairs Committee.

SB 2178 **COMMERCIAL LAW: Division of consumer protection - disclosure of info.**  
HB 2118\* Allows the division of consumer affairs to consult with the office of open records counsel in order to develop appropriate policies concerning access to records and disclosure of information under the Consumer Protection Act of 1977. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [Matheny](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

SB 0650 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Surety bond guarantee program for small**  
HB 0518\* **businesses.**  
Requires the department of economic and community development to create and administer funds to establish a surety bond guarantee program for small and emerging contractors designated as small businesses. Specifies that monies from the fund can be used to guarantee bid, payment and performance bonds on contracts up

to \$1,000,000. Stipulates that any such deposited monies or interest must remain in the reserve until expended for purposes consistent with such program and cannot revert to the general fund. (S: [Finney L.](#); H: [Shaw](#))

**Senate Status:** Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture deferred to 04/21/2009.

**House Status:** Set for House Small Business Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

## GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

SB 0155\* **GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: TN Business Ombudsman Act.**  
HB 1671 Establishes position of business ombudsman to be appointed by governor and confirmed by legislature. Specifies that the business ombudsman shall report directly to the governor. Also specifies scope of business ombudsman's responsibilities. (S: [Ketron](#); H: [Lynn](#))

**Senate Status:** Set for Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee 04/07/2009.

**House Status:** Set for House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee 04/08/2009.

SB 0223 **GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: Advisory board to commissioner and**  
HB 0148\* **governor.**  
Creates an advisory board to commissioner and governor for the purpose of reviewing complaints against regulatory boards administered by department. Broadly captioned. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [Casada](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Government Operations.

**House Status:** Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB 1029 **GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: Sunset - advisory council on workers'**  
HB 1064\* **compensation.**  
Sunsets the advisory council on workers' compensation on June 30, 2010. (S: [Johnson J.](#); H: [Lynn](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Government Operations.

**House Status:** Referred to House Government Operations.

## INSURANCE AUTOMOBILES

SB 1578\* **INSURANCE AUTOMOBILES: Uninsured Motorist Stipulation of Benefits**  
HB 1664 **Act.**  
Specifies that an operator of a motor vehicle who does not have a complying liability policy and is involved in an accident shall be deemed to have waived by any right to recover against a complying policyholder for noneconomic loss. Also specifies that such operator shall be able to recover, if at all, only for an award covering economic loss. Clarifies that operator deemed to have waived recovery

pursuant to this subsection , in an action against a complying policyholder, shall have the reward reduced by an amount equal to the portion of the award representing compensation for noneconomic losses. In such cases, prohibits a jury from being informed of the waiver of any right to recovery. (S: [Ketron](#); H: [Todd](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Judiciary Civil Practice Subcommittee.

SB 1816     **INSURANCE AUTOMOBILES: Liability insurance required on vehicles**  
HB 0705\*     **operated in state.**

Requires liability insurance be maintained on all motor vehicles operated in TN, in accordance with the TN Financial Responsibility Law of 1977. Requires that insurance companies notify division of financial responsibility when coverage is terminated and specifies that any insurance company that fails to provide such notice shall remain liable to the extent of the original policy limits for any accident the policy would have covered during the period of validity of the certificate or until such notice is provided. Specifies that owner of motor vehicle has 30 days to obtain coverage again. (S: [Herron](#); H: [Turner L.](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Set for House Public Safety Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

## **INSURANCE GENERAL**

SB 0273\*     **INSURANCE GENERAL: Violations regarding the licensing of insurance**  
HB 0381     **providers.**

Requires the commissioner to investigate possible violations of the Tennessee Insurance Producer Licensing Act of 2002 upon receipt of a written complaint from a member of the public or upon the commissioner's determination. Permits those accused of committing violations to access investigatory files relative to the case. Specifies that all proceedings be conducted by the administrative procedures division of the secretary of state's office. Requires any documents or other information provided by the insurance producer to be confidential and privileged. Mandates that the department provide a copy of any complaint against an insurance producer or company within 15 days of receipt of the complaint. Requires all investigations to take place within one year of the complaint being made. (S: [Ketron](#); H: [Sargent](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee.

SB 0665     **INSURANCE GENERAL: Use of credit info to increase premiums.**

HB 0475\*     Prohibits using an individual's credit information in any manner to cancel or refuse a new risk or to increase premiums on homeowners and renters policies. (S: [Stewart E.](#); H: [Fraley](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.  
**House Status:** Taken off notice in House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee 04/01/2009.

SB 0923 **INSURANCE GENERAL: Changes to insurance coverage and spousal death.**  
HB 0613\* Prohibits an insurance company from increasing its premiums or canceling coverage on any insurance policy prior to the renewal or expiration date of the policy for the sole reason that the spouse of a policy holder has died. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [DeBerry J.](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.  
**House Status:** Set for House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee 04/08/2009.

SB 1180\* **INSURANCE GENERAL: Assigned Risk Plan.**  
HB 1438 Requires the commissioner of commerce and insurance to approve a reasonable plan or plans for the apportionment among companies licensed to issue automobile liability policies of applicants who are in good faith entitled to, but are unable to, procure such policies through ordinary methods. Authorizes such insurance companies to employ or retain persons as are necessary to handle claims and perform other duties of the plan or plans. (S: [Tracy](#); H: [Sargent](#))

**Senate Status:** Set for Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee 04/07/2009.  
**House Status:** House passed 03/23/2009.

SB 1364\* **INSURANCE GENERAL: Trade association agreements with pool**  
HB 1993 **participants.**  
Requires trade association which permits employers to enter into agreements to pool their liabilities for purposes of qualifying as self-insurers to have operating agreement -- or constitution or bylaws. Contains broad caption. (S: [Johnson J.](#); H: [Sargent](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.  
**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.  
**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 deferred to next meeting.

SB 1489\* **INSURANCE GENERAL: Setting of rates based on applicant's zip code.**  
HB 2096 Prohibits an insurance company from setting rates based upon the zip code of the applicant's place of residence or employment. (S: [Ford O.](#); H: [Towns](#))

**Senate Status:** Taken off notice in Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture 03/17/2009.  
**House Status:** Referred to House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee.

SB 2080 **INSURANCE GENERAL: False claims statutes revised.**

HB 1986\* Revises existing false claims statutes. Requires a mechanism for establishing the primacy of certain insurance claims. (S: [Johnson J.](#); H: [Shipley](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Set for House Civil Practice Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

SB 2240 **INSURANCE GENERAL: Info concerning insurer's market conduct.**

HB 2304\* Requires insurance companies to annually file with the commissioner of commerce and insurance a statement providing information concerning the company's market conduct for the year. Also requires the commissioner to promulgate rules prescribing manner in which such statements are to be filed. (Part of Administration Package.) (S: [Kyle](#); H: [Shepard](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee deferred to 04/15/2009.

## JUDICIARY

SB 0817\* **JUDICIARY: Civil procedure and civil causes of action.**

HB 1149 Specifies that in certain civil actions in which the plaintiff makes a demand for monetary damages, the extent, amount and other relevant information concerning any liability insurance coverage the defendant has is discoverable under rules of civil procedure regardless of whether the information may or may not lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Broadly captioned. (S: [Norris](#); H: [Kelsey](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

**Other Status:** Tennessee Judicial Council reviewed 04/02/2009 with comment.

## LABOR LAW

SB 1251 **LABOR LAW: Political activities by labor organizations.**

HB 0820\* Specifies that a labor organization may only make expenditures for political activities if the labor organization establishes a segregated fund. Also specifies that union dues are not to be used for political activities, transferred to the fund, or intermingled in any way with fund moneys. (S: [Bunch](#); H: [Campfield](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Set for House Employee Affairs Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

SB 1311 **LABOR LAW: Drug-free workplaces.**

HB 1355\* Conforms Tennessee's law relative to drug-free workplace testing to U.S. department of transportation rules pertaining to workplace drug and alcohol testing. Removes references to "alcohol" in procedures for written policy statements regarding drug testing for employees and job applicants. (S: [Tracy](#); H: [Carr](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Set for House Employee Affairs Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

- SB 2104    **LABOR LAW: Employment of subcontractors and independent contractors.**  
HB 1997\* Clarifies that "employee" includes contractors and subcontractors but not direct sellers relative to employment records. Allows the employer to report using a 1099 form in addition to a W-4. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [West](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate General Welfare.

**House Status:** Referred to House Domestic Relations Subcommittee.

## **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

- SB 0297    **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Requirements for notaries.**  
HB 0110\* Requires new notaries and renewing notaries to complete five hours of continuing education at each renewal period by an approved notary public vendor or an approved notary instructor. Also requires notaries to pass a written exam. Requires notaries to maintain journal entries. Allows notaries to perform electronic notarizations. (S: [Johnson J.](#); H: [Casada](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Referred to House Judiciary Civil Practice Subcommittee.

## **TAXES BUSINESS**

- SB 2290    **TAXES BUSINESS: Revises excise tax exemption for FONCEs.**  
HB 2264\* Revises the excise tax exemption for certain family-owned non-corporate entities (FONCEs). Includes rents from residential or farm property but not commercial or industrial property and not including golf course playing hole improvements. (Part of Administration Package) (S: [Kyle](#); H: [Turner M.](#))

**Senate Status:** Set for Senate Finance Tax Subcommittee 04/08/2009.

**House Status:** House Budget Subcommittee deferred to 04/15/2009.

- HB 0019\*    **TAXES BUSINESS: Privilege tax on professional athletes and entertainers.**  
Imposes an occupational privilege tax on professional athletes and professional entertainers. Specifies that privilege tax will be \$400 annually per athlete or entertainer. Broadly captioned. (H: [Hardaway](#))

**House Status:** Referred to House Finance Budget Subcommittee.

## **TAXES GENERAL**

- SB 1421    **TAXES GENERAL: Rates for professional privilege tax.**  
HB 0668\* Revises amounts of professional privilege tax to be paid for persons licensed or registered after July 1, 2009, by basing amount upon years a person has been

licensed or registered as a professional. (S: [Stewart E.](#); H: [Hackworth](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Finance Tax Subcommittee.

**House Status:** Referred to House Finance Budget Subcommittee.

## **TORT LIABILITY**

SB 0076\* **TORT LIABILITY: Health care liability actions as medical malpractice reform.**  
HB 0289

Changes "medical malpractice" to "health care liability action" and revises provisions of law relative to such action. Specifies that recoverable damages do not include expenses or charges that have been discounted or forgiven for any reason, including discounts arising from a relationship with a health insurer or other payor. Stipulates that when liability is admitted or established, the damages awarded may include noneconomic losses, provided such damages do not exceed a total of \$250,000 against all health care practitioners and/or facilities who are defendants. Limits the aggregate amount of damages recovered by a plaintiff for such losses to \$500,000. Allows any party involved in such a case to enter a judgment ordering that damages be paid in whole or in part by periodic payments rather than by a lump sum payment if the award equals or exceeds \$75,000. Requires judgment debtors in such cases to post security adequate to assure full payment of such damages awarded by the judgment when not adequately insured. Makes debtors who become delinquent in paying liable for further damages including court and attorney costs. Establishes provision for transfer of payments upon death of creditor. Changes limitations for reasonable attorneys' fees from 33 1/3 percent of total damages to the following: 40 percent of the first \$50,000; 33 1/3 percent of the next \$50,000; 25 percent of the next \$500,000; and 15 percent of any amount by which the recovery exceeds \$600,000. Requires expert witnesses to have been practicing the same specialty as the defendant for the past year. Prohibits an action against an attorney for legal malpractice from arising based solely on the fact that the damages awarded in the underlying health care liability action exceeded the amount sought in the ad damnum of the complaint filed in such underlying action. Specifies that the plaintiff may not attempt to seek recovery on this difference from the attorney unless the attorney's conduct in the underlying action constituted fraud or willful misconduct. Requires a plaintiff in any action for damages alleging professional negligence against a health care provider to file a HIPAA-compliant medical authorization form when filing the complaint. Authorizes the release of certain health care information to attorneys in such cases. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [Kelsey](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Referred to House Judiciary Civil Practice Subcommittee.

SB 1105 **TORT LIABILITY: Increases governmental tort liability limits.**  
HB 0513\* Increases governmental tort liability limits for actions arising on or after July 1, 2007, but before July 1, 2009. (S: [Stewart E.](#); H: [Matheny](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Referred to House Judiciary Civil Practice Subcommittee.

## TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

SB 0300     **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Exchange of insurance info required in an**  
HB 0282\*   **accident.**

Requires, rather than allows, a motor vehicle officer investigating scene of accident to have parties exchange insurance information. (S: [Johnson J.](#); H: [Casada](#))

**Senate Status:** Set for Senate Transportation Committee 04/07/2009.

**House Status:** Set for House Public Safety Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

SB 0597     **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Liability insurance for motor vehicles.**

HB 0669\*   Requires that all vehicles registered or driven on the state's highways be compliant with the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1977. Requires that an application for registration or renewal be accompanied by evidence that the requirements of the law have been met. Broadly captioned. (S: [Burchett](#); H: [Hackworth](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Set for House Public Safety Subcommittee 04/07/2009.

SB 0793\*   **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Recovery against a motor vehicle dealer's**  
HB 0965   **surety bond.**

Creates following additional grounds for recovery against a motor vehicle dealer's required minimum \$50,000 surety bond by persons who suffer loss: dealer's failure to pay off debt on a trade-in motor vehicle; dealer's failure to pay for a motor vehicle when purchasing from a dealer for resale. (S: [Overbey](#); H: [McCord](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Commerce Small Business Subcommittee.

SB 0797     **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Financial liability for negligent motor**  
HB 0749\*   **vehicle operations.**

Declares that damage determinations made by the commissioner of safety are not admissible in any civil court proceeding for negligent operation of motor vehicle and raises the minimum amount of financial security required to \$5,000. (S: [Overbey](#); H: [Montgomery](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB 1401\*   **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Vehicle liability insurance proof for vehicle**  
HB 1466   **registration.**

Requires proof of valid motor vehicle liability insurance before issuance of motor

vehicle registration or renewal of registration. Also requires proof of valid driver license and motor vehicle liability insurance before issuance of temporary permit. (S: [Jackson](#); H: [Shepard](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Transportation.

**House Status:** Referred to House Transportation Public Safety Subcommittee.

SB 1686\* **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Proof of valid driver license before**  
HB 2052 **registration.**

Establishes that an individual applying for registration or renewal of registration for a motor vehicle shall not be issued registration plates unless the applicant possesses a valid driver license at the time such application is made. Requires a temporary permit to be issued only to a person who possesses a valid driver license at the time of the application for registration. (S: [Ketron](#); H: [Rowland](#))

**Senate Status:** Senate Transportation deferred to 04/14/2009.

**House Status:** House Transportation Public Safety Subcommittee deferred to 04/14/2009.

SB 1964\* **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Failure to wear seat belt - admissible as**  
HB 1855 **evidence.**

Makes failure to wear a seat belt, citation for failure, or warrant for arrest for failure, admissible into evidence in a civil action. (S: [Black](#); H: [Montgomery](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Taken off notice in House Civil Practice Subcommittee 03/10/2009.

SB 2150 **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Proof of compliance with financial**  
HB 2037\* **responsibility laws.**

Requires law enforcement officers to obtain proof of compliance with financial responsibility laws upon charging a person with any motor vehicle violation, rather than only with moving violations. (S: [Stewart E.](#); H: [Sargent](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Judiciary.

**House Status:** Referred to House Transportation Public Safety Subcommittee.

## **WORKERS COMPENSATION**

SB 0487\* **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Penalties abated and voided after one year.**

HB 1564 Allows workers' compensation penalties to be abated and then voided after one year, rather than two years, if employer obtains and maintains workers' compensation coverage. (S: [Burchett](#); H: [West](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously

recommended against passage of bill.

SB 0545\* **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Injuries occurring at employee's residence.**  
HB 0900 Limits definition of "injury" when it occurs at an employee's residence to only include injuries that occur while the employee is engaged in a defined work activity within an established immediate work area. (S: [Norris](#); H: [Casada](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 recommended that issue be studied more.

SB 0661 **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Recreational activities not covered by**  
HB 0256\* **workers' comp.**

Provides that injuries incurred during employee's recreational activities are not compensable unless: (1) Employer has expressly required participation or made activity part of services of employee; or (2) Employer derives substantial direct benefit from activity beyond intangible value of improvement in employee health and morale. (S: [Stanley](#); H: [Casada](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously recommended passage of bill as written.

SB 1500 **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Injuries that occur during recreational**  
HB 1229\* **activities.**

Excludes from workers' compensation coverage any injuries that occur during recreational activities, that are not required by the employer, and do not directly benefit the employer. (S: [McNally](#); H: [Fitzhugh](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously recommended passage of bill as written.

SB 1524\* **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Alcohol and drug use - cause of injury or**  
HB 1604 **death.**

Changes standard for denying workers' compensation benefits in cases involving alcohol and drug use from such use being a proximate cause of the injury or death to such use being a contributing cause of such injury or death. Removes the provision that does not allow compensation for an injury or death due to an employee's willful failure to use a safety appliance or perform a duty required by law. (S: [Burchett](#); H: [Brooks, Harry](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously opposes bill as written.

SB 1574\* **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Civil penalty assessed to insurance**  
HB 1472 **companies.**

Decreases the amount of any civil penalty the commissioner of commerce and insurance may assess against insurance companies for failure to submit modification factors or rates from \$2,000 per incident to \$1,000 per incident. Broadly captioned. (S: [Norris](#); H: [Casada](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

**Other Status:** Set for Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 04/03/2009.

SB 1767 **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Maximum obligation for workers'**  
HB 0981\* **compensation claim.**

Increases to \$250,000 from \$100,000 the maximum obligation of the TN insurance guaranty association for any covered workers' compensation claim. (S: [Herron](#); H: [McDaniel](#))

**Senate Status:** Taken off notice in Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture 03/10/2009.

**House Status:** Set for House Commerce Industrial Impact Subcommittee 04/08/2009.

SB 1828 **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Penalties for noncompliance with insurance**  
HB 1408\* **requirements.**

Rewrites provisions on noncompliance with insurance requirements. Lists powers granted to department of labor and workplace development, including issuing subpoenas and stop-work orders, and assessing penalties. Broadly captioned. (S: [Kyle](#); H: [Ferguson](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 deferred to next meeting.

SB 1909\* **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Additional injuries that are currently not**  
HB 1500 **covered.**

Provides that no compensation will be allowed for an injury or death due to the employee's voluntary participation in recreational, social, athletic, or exercise activities (including, but not limited to, athletic events, competitions, parties, picnics, exercise programs) whether or not the employer pays some or all of the costs thereof unless: (1) Participation was expressly or impliedly required by the employer; (2) Participation produced a direct benefit to the employer beyond

improvement in employee health and morale; (3) Participation was during employee's work hours and was part of the employee's work-related duties; or (4) The injury occurred due to an unsafe condition during voluntary participation using facilities designated by, furnished by or maintained by the employer on or off the employer's premises and the employer had actual knowledge of the unsafe condition and failed to curtail the activity or program or cure the unsafe condition. (S: [Norris](#); H: [Fitzhugh](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously recommended passage of bill as written.

SB 2055     **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Effective date for Chapter 1041 of Public**  
HB 1899\*   **Acts of 2008.**

Changes from December 31, 2009 to July 2, 2012 the effective date of 2008 PC 1041 relative to the liability of principal, intermediate contractor or subcontractor. (S: [Barnes](#); H: [Pitts](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously recommended against passage of bill as written.

SB 2081     **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Injury after conclusion of claim but during**  
HB 1964\*   **treatment.**

Provides that an injury to an employee following the conclusion of a workers' compensation claim is not considered an accident arising out of and in the course of employment with the original employer even though medical benefits remained open and the employee was injured as a result of an accident or incident occurring during authorized medical treatment or travel to or from any authorized medical treatment. Broadly captioned. (S: [Johnson J.](#); H: [Sargent](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 was evenly split on this bill - 3 members for passage and 3 members against.

SB 2231     **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Illegal immigrants - workers' compensation**  
HB 2102\*   **benefits.**

Provides that an employer who did not knowingly hire an illegal immigrant is not required to provide temporary partial disability benefits, permanent partial disability, permanent total disability benefits, or death benefits. Creates a presumption that the employer did not knowingly hire an illegal immigrant when the employer can show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the employer in good faith complied with the employment eligibility and identity verification

requirements of federal law when the employee was hired. Contains broad caption.  
(S: [Southerland](#); H: [Sargent](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 unanimously opposes passage of bill.

SB 2292     **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Venue for certain workers' compensation**  
HB 2253\*     **claims.**

Following the exhaustion of the benefit review conference process, sets venue as follows: (1) If the employee resides in Tennessee, in the circuit or chancery court of the county in which the employee resides; (2) If the employee resides outside Tennessee, in the circuit or chancery court of the county in which the alleged injury occurred; (3) If the employee resides outside Tennessee and the injury occurred outside Tennessee, in the circuit court or chancery court of any county where the employer maintains an office; (4) If not determined by (1), (2) or (3), in the circuit or chancery court of Davidson County; (5) If the employer is a county or municipal corporation that has accepted the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law, in the circuit or chancery court of the county in which the governmental entity is located. (Part of Administration Package.) (S: [Kyle](#); H: [Turner M.](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** Referred to House Employee Affairs Subcommittee.

**Other Status:** Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 03/06/2009 deferred to next meeting.

SB 2299     **WORKERS COMPENSATION: Guaranty fund for employers that self-insure.**  
HB 2268\*     **(1) Authorizes the commissioner of commerce and insurance to establish a guaranty**

fund for self-insuring employers. Creates the Tennessee Self-Insurers Guaranty Fund Association to conduct an accounting to determine the amount of money each self-insuring employer should contribute to the fund. Earmarks moneys in the fund to compensate persons entitled to receive workers' compensation benefits from a Tennessee self-insurer which is unable or fails to meet its workers' compensation benefits obligations and to defray expenses of the fund. Provides that if the fund becomes inadequate to make payments to all valid claimants, the Association will assess the participating employers in an amount necessary to pay the outstanding claims and expenses and to replenish the fund. (2) As an alternative to each private self-insuring employer securing its own incurred liabilities, permits the commissioner to provide rules for an alternative collateral fund mechanism whereby self-insured employers may collectively secure their aggregate incurred liabilities.  
(S: [Kyle](#); H: [Moore](#))

**Senate Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture.

**House Status:** House sponsor changed from Turner M. to Moore on 03/12/2009.

**Other Status:** Set for Workers' Compensation Advisory Council 04/03/2009.

