

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED
06/24/2020
Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

BENJAMIN LAY ET AL. v. MARK GOINS ET AL.

**Chancery Court for Davidson County
No. 20-0453-III**

No. M2020-00832-SC-RDM-CV

ORDER

On June 12, 2020, Defendants Mark Goins, Tre Hargett, and William Lee, each in his official capacity for the State of Tennessee, (hereinafter collectively the “State”), filed in the Court of Appeals an application for permission to appeal from the trial court’s grant of a temporary injunction pursuant to Rule 9 of the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure. On that same date, the State filed a motion pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 16-3-201(d) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 48 requesting that this Court assume jurisdiction of the interlocutory appeal and that it expedite review. As justification for these requests, the State’s motion asserts that this is a case of unusual public importance necessitating an expedited decision because it raises a constitutional challenge to Tennessee’s vote-by-mail statute, the resolution of which may “dramatically alter Tennessee’s voting process for at least the impending August and November elections.” See Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-3-201(d)(2)(C).

Upon due consideration, the Court hereby grants the State’s motion to assume jurisdiction over this appeal. The Court further grants the State’s application for permission to appeal pursuant to Rule 9 of the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure and its request for expedited review. The record in this case shall be filed no later than Friday, June 26, 2020. The State shall file any supplemental brief no later than Thursday, July 2, 2020. The Plaintiffs shall file their response brief no later than Thursday, July 9, 2020. The State shall file any reply brief no later than Monday, July 13, 2020. As a part of the expedited procedure in this appeal, the parties shall file and serve their respective briefs electronically in accordance with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 46. Oral argument will be conducted by Zoom video conferencing at a date to be determined by the Court.

PER CURIAM