

Legislative Update 112th General Assembly

Tennessee Judicial Conference

Cool Springs, June 15, 2022

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Thank you TJC Legislative Committee!





112th GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 31st LEGISLATIVE DAY HB1153

New Appropriations

Indigent Defense Counsel\$3,000,000Pretrial Services Texting Initiative\$150,000Judge COLA\$2,268,400AOC Lease\$367,700Safe Baby Court CLE\$1,000,000

Other court-related items not assigned to the AOC:

- Jackson Court Renovation \$5,200,000
- Statewide e-filing \$1,500,000



Part II

Judiciary

Judicial Redistricting Task Force



PC1098 (Bell/Lamberth)

Task force to be created by July 1, 2025

Report and recommendation by Jan. 1, 2027

Must have at least one public hearing in each Grand Division

Travel reimbursements only

AOC must establish a website which includes meeting notices and redistricting plans

AOC to provide support services



*Effective date: May 27, 2022

Judicial Redistricting Task Force (continued)

Membership:

- > 3 current trial judges
 - Speaker of the House: East and Middle
 - Speaker of the Senate: West
- ➤ 3 current DAs
 - Speaker of the House: West
 - Speaker of the Senate: East and Middle
- > 3 current PDs
 - Speaker of the House: East and Middle
 - Speaker of the Senate: West
- > 3 citizen members
 - Speaker of the House: West
 - Speaker of the Senate: East and Middle
- Chair of Senate Judiciary Committee Joint chair of the Task Force
- > Chair of House Civil Justice Committee *Joint chair of the Task Force*





Judicial Redistricting Task Force (continued)

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By December 31, 2027, following the submission of the task force's report and recommendations, the General Assembly shall:

- > Reapportion the judicial districts, and
- ➤ Promote the efficient utilization of publicly funded resources allocated for the courts





If the General Assembly fails to pass this legislation, then the funding for each judicial district that has a disproportionately high number of judges, as determined by the Comptroller, must be reduced by 10% during the subsequent fiscal year

BJC Changes

PC976 (Bell/Curcio)

Makes various changes to BJC:

- > Creates a one year statute of limitations
- ➤ Allows BJC to pay for a mental/physical evaluation if a judge's mental or physical abilities are called in question and he/she has been referred to TLAP
- ➤ Allows for earlier dismissal of complaints that are repetitive or outside of BJC jurisdiction
- ➤ If a term ends without an appointment, the current appointee is allowed to continue to serve until an appointment is made



Judicial candidates - personal solicitation



PC668 (Bell/Lamberth)

Authorizes a judicial candidate to personally solicit and accept campaign contributions. Effective March 18, 2022.



* Judicial Ethics Committee Advisory Opinion 22-01

Mental Health Treatment Act



PC1071 (Roberts/Sexton)

- Mental Health Court for each county
- ☐ To be created by DMHSAS
- □ court with criminal jurisdiction may apply for grant funding



Effective date: May 25, 2022

Electronic Monitoring Service Providers



PC1097 (Bell/Curcio)

Establishes requirements for electronic monitoring service providers.



Effective date: May 27, 2022



Part III

Criminal Law

Truth-in-Sentencing

PC988 (McNally/C. Sexton)

There will be no release eligibility, or credit reduction (only for privileges or classification purposes), for a person committing:

- ☐ Attempted first degree murder;
- ☐ Second degree murder;
- ☐ Vehicular homicide by intoxication;
- ☐ Aggravated vehicular homicide;
- ☐ Especially aggravated kidnapping;
- ☐ Especially aggravated robbery;
- ☐ Carjacking; and
- ☐ Especially aggravated burglary





Truth-in-sentencing (continued)

There will be no release eligibility, or credit reduction beyond 15%, for a person committing:



- ☐ Aggravated assault (with a deadly weapon, SBJ or death, or against a first responder);
- □ Voluntary manslaughter;
- ☐ Vehicular homicide;
- ☐ Reckless homicide;
- ☐ Aggravated kidnapping;
- ☐ Involuntary labor servitude;
- ☐ Aggravated robbery;
- ☐ Aggravated burglary;

- ☐ Aggravated arson;
- ☐ Possessing or using a firearm during the commission or attempt to commit a dangerous felony;
- ☐ Manufacture, delivery or sale of a controlled substance; and classified as a Class A, B, or C felony; and has two (2) or more prior felonies for the same; or
- ☐ Criminally negligent homicide





PC952 (Stevens/Cameron Sexton)

At a true sentencing hearing, the court shall estimate the sentence before defendant is eligible for release

TDOC shall provide a form to assist the court in determining the estimate

The estimation cannot be a basis for post-conviction relief or for a direct appeal of the sentence



Misdemeanor revocation

PC1060 (Bell/Lamberth)

Authorizes a court to revoke a defendant's probation and suspension of sentence, in part or in full, for a misdemeanor offense based upon one instance of a technical violation or violations

Authorizes the court to sentence the defendant to a sentence of probation for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Establishes a technical violation does not include contacting the defendant's victim in violation of a condition of probation





Resentencing for drug free school zone



PC927 (Roberts/Curcio)

Authorizes a defendant, DA, or the court to motion the court that imposed a sentence for a drug-free school zone violation prior to September 1, 2020, to resentence a defendant

Counsel to be appointed if indigent



Expunction change

PC677 (Lundberg/Lamberth)

Revises law so that a person may apply for expunction even if they've been convicted of another non-expungeable offense.

- ➤ They must not have been convicted of a non-expungable offense that occurred prior to the offense for which they're seeking expunction
- They may not apply if they've ever had another offense expunged.
- ➤ Applicable time since completion of sentence applies to the most recent criminal offense.





Expunction for crimes prior to '89



PC1027 (Bell/Curcio)

Applies current expunction laws to those crimes committed prior to 1989.



Administration Human Trafficking changes

PC1115 (Johnson/Lamberth)

- > increases the age of a victim whose testimony can be used by video from 13 y/o to 18 y/o.
- Prohibits prosecution of prostitution as a juvenile or adult for a victim of human traficking for the purpose of a commercial sex act under the age of 18
- ➤ Enhances penalty for trafficking for forced labor or services from class c to class a felony if victim is a minor
- ➤ Increases age of a victim for class a felony trafficking for the purpose of commercial sex act from a child under age of 15
- Enhances penalty for promoting prostitution from class b to class a felony if victim is a minor or if person has intellectual disabilities.

Agg. Human Trafficking

PC1089 (Bell/Curcio)

- ☐ New class A felony for all human trafficking offenses for a minor under 13
- Prevents release eligibility of an offender convicted under this offense
- ☐ Enhances sentencing for other related trafficking offenses.
- ☐ Adds Agg. Human trafficking to list subject to judicial forfeiture.



*Effective date: July 1, 2022.

Human Trafficking Expunction



PC1033 (Massey/Littleton)

Removes a conviction for prostitution as a requirement for a person to be eligible for expunction of multiple, nonviolent convictions for offenses that results from the person's status as a victim of human trafficking



*Effective date: July 1, 2022.

Removing possibility of parole for certain 1st degree murder convictions



PC718 (Rose/Ogles)

Removes the possibility of parole for a person convicted of first degree murder for the killing of another in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of:

- Aggravated Rape;
- □ Rape;
- Rape of a Child; and
- Aggravated Rape of a Child

New Rape Offenses (all A felonies)

PC1062 (Henlsey/Ogles)

- 1. Especially aggravated rape
- 2. Especially aggravated rape of a child (< 18)
- 3. Grave torture

Requires life without parole.

Possibility of death penalty for grave torture

*Effective date: for offenses occurring after July 1, 2022



Judicial Asset Forfeiture Expansion

PC982 (Rose/Ogles)

Expands the list of offenses for which certain items may be seized utilizing judicial asset forfeiture to include:

- 1. Agg kidnapping
- 2. Especially agg kidnapping
- 3. Agg rape of a child
- 4. Rape of a child
- 5. Agg rape
- 6. Rape
- 7. The commission of an act of terrorism



Bail Revocation

PC643 (Stevens/Howell)



 notwithstanding sentencing hearings, motions for a new trial, or post-guild determination hearings –

for a defendant who is convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a child

*Effective date: March 11, 2022



Discretionary additional 12 hour hold for Agg. Domestic Assault



PC828 (Hakeem/Yarbro)

TCA 40-11-150 (n) new subsection

The court or magistrate may, in addition to the 12 hour hold period and victim notification requirements in subsection (m), extend the 12 hour hold period of to 24 hours after the time of arrest.

New Offense – Agg. Reckless Driving

PC1022 (Bell/Curcio)



- 1. Commits reckless driving, and
- 2. Intentionally or knowingly impedes traffic

A class A misdemeanor (and up to \$2,500 fine)

*Effective date: for offenses occurring after July 1, 2022



Agg. Assault involving use or display of a deadly weapon

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PC1136 (Bell/Curcio)

Mandates convictions of aggravated Assault committed by discharging a firearm from a vehicle be sentenced one classification higher than other aggravated assault violations





PC1056 (Bell/Hall)

- ☐ Requires a court to order restitution / child maintenance until 18 or graduate high school (unless there is a wrongful death claim)
- ☐ Court to determine reasonable payments base on outlined factors
- ☐ Clerk to remit payment to surviving parent or guardian

*Effective date: May 25, 2022

BUI – "Nicholas' Law"

PC910 (White/Ogles)

A prior conviction for BUI under T.C.A. § 69-9-217(a) is treated the same as a prior conviction for DUI under T.C.A. § 55-10-401 in determining if someone is a repeat or multiple offender in T.C.A. § 55-10-405.

Likewise, a prior conviction for DUI under T.C.A. § 55-10-401 will be treated the same as a prior conviction for BUI under T.C.A. § 69-9-217(a) in determining if someone is a repeat or multiple offender in T.C.A. § 69-9-219

Must allege prior conviction by setting forth the time and place of each in indictment or charging instrument

Certified computer print out of the official driver record maintained by TDOSHS constitutes prima facie evidence of a prior conviction of DUI, VA, AVA, VH, or AVH

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Ignition Interlock required as a bail condition

PC1134 (Stevens/Garrett)



If charged with DUI, vehicular assault, aggravated vehicular assault, vehicular homicide, or aggravated vehicular homicide, and the use of alcohol is involved, then:

The court "shall" require a functioning ignition interlock device be installed, as a condition of bail, if:

- A collision involving property damaged resulted;
- > A minor was present in the vehicle;
- > Their driver's license is suspended for Implied Consent; or
- The defendant has a prior for Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangerment, DUI, VA, AVA, VH, or AVH

Unless the court "determines that the requirement would not be in the best interest of justice and public safety" *Effective date: July 1, 2022

Ignition Interlock Changes

PC964 (Johnson/Lamberth)

- □ Adds *reckless endangerment* (if original charge was a DUI) and *DUI* to offenses that require ignition interlock that occurred within the preceding 5 year period
- ☐ Adds going to-and-from medical treatment (including for an immediate family member) and/or care of an immediate family member suffering from a serious illness to reasons why a court may allow limited driving
- ☐ Deletes the six month requirement for interlock device after the license revocation period
- ☐ Prohibits Dept. of Safety from accepting a court order waiving any ignition interlock requirements if the court order is not in compliance with statutes





Ignition Interlock Changes (cont.)

PC964 (Johnson/Lamberth)

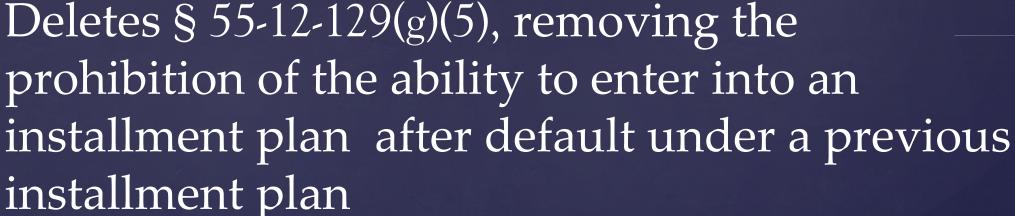
- □ Establishes a process for the Dept. of Safety to waive the interlock requirement for those who cannot produce enough breath to operate an interlock device (*Dept. of Safety to create a form which will require statements from two physicians*).
- ☐ Person may petition a court for reinstatement of his/her driver's license. Upon the court order, the Dept. of Safety will reinstate the license. No six month extra requirement.
- □ Changes "shall" to "must" in several parts of TCA § 55-10-417. Ignition interlock restriction MUST be a condition of probation or supervision for entire period of restriction (a)(3). Court MUST establish a specific calibration setting of .02% BAC at which the functioning interlock device will prevent the motor vehicle from being started (b).
- ☐ Makes various changes to timelines and start dates for 365 day interlock period for Dept. of Safety





Driver's License Payment Plan

PC788 (Johnson/Lamberth)





^{*}Effective date: when the Dept. of Safety is able to implement or on July 1, 2022, whichever is sooner.

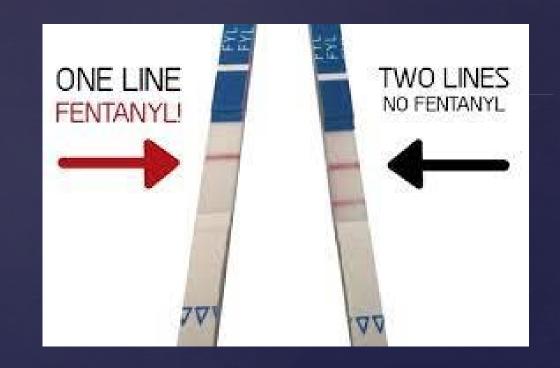
Fentanyl Testing Strips

PC764 (Johnson/Lamberth)

Excludes fentanyl testing strips from definition of "drug paraphernalia."

Except if defendant is using it as parting of selling drugs.

3 year sunset.



*Effective date: March 31, 2022

Pill Press = Drug Paraphernalia



PC804 (Lamberth/Reeves)

- ☐ Adds a pill press (and individual parts) to the definition of "drug paraphernalia."
- ☐ Unless lawfully possessed.

*Effective date: July 1, 2022



Constable crimes



PC969 (Lundberg/Hulsey)

If elected constable is indicted or formally charged with a misdemeanor involving gambling or moral turpitude or a felony, then the constable shall be placed on administrative leave by the court with jurisdiction over the criminal offense.

Court may hold constable who does not comply in criminal contempt.



Advance payment for witnesses



PC980 (Johnson/Lamberth)

TDOC is authorized to advance or reimburse witness expenses

Indigency hearing for the witness not necessary at the beginning of the criminal proceeding in order to have them paid in advance



*Effective date: May 3, 2022 and applies to all cases that have not reached final disposition oas of May 3.

Clarification of summons

PC981 (Niceley/Russell)

Clarifies that a judge has the authority to issue a criminal summons as opposed to a warrant for a new arrest for violation of probation.





*Effective date: July 1, 2022.

SAVIN Court Criminal Notification



Sheriffs Association expanding current automated victim notification system (SAVIN)

Info on criminal case to be available to those who register

Notice of upcoming hearings, trial, sentencing, etc.

Summary of past hearings

Pilot program starting July 1, 2022





Upcoming form changes:

Expungement Notification Reference Document

Felony Judgment Form





Part IV

Civil Law

Reallocation of Marital Debt

PC762 (Gardenhire/Garrett)

*Effective date: July 1, 2022

T.C.A. §36-4-121(a) shall be amended to provide as follows:

- (1) In all actions for divorce or legal separation, the court having jurisdiction thereof shall, upon request of either party or on its own initiative, and prior to any determination as to whether it is appropriate to order the support and maintenance of one (1) party by the other, equitably divide, distribute or assign the marital property between the parties without regard to marital fault in proportions as the court deems just based on the factors set forth in subsection (c). In addition, the Court may allocate responsibility for paying the marital debt in proportions as the Court deems just based on the factors set forth in subsections (g)(3)-(5). The Court may also order the payment of all or a portion of the marital debt from the marital property prior to distribution of the marital property to the parties.
- (2) In all actions for legal separation, the court, in its discretion, may equitably divide, distribute or assign the marital property in whole or in part or reserve the division or assignment of the marital property until a later time. If the court makes a final distribution of marital property at the time of the decree of legal separation, any after-acquired property is separate property. Further, the court, in its discretion, may make a final allocation of all or part of the then existing marital debt or the court may reserve the allocation of marital debt until a later time. If the court makes a final allocation of marital debt at the time of the decree of legal separation, any after-acquired debt is separate debt.



T.C.A. § 36-4-121 shall be amended to add the following subsection (g) and the subsections following thereafter shall be re-lettered and be renumbered in sequence:

- (g)(1) "Marital debt" means all debts incurred by either or both spouses during the course of the marriage through the date of the final hearing and any proceedings brought pursuant to TENN. R. CIV. P. 59. "Marital debt" includes debt incurred to pay attorney fees and expenses in connection with the proceedings. "Marital debt" also includes unpaid attorney fees and expenses incurred in connection with the proceedings through the date of the final hearing including any matters brought pursuant to TENN. R. CIV. P. 59.
- (2) "Separate debt" means all debt incurred by either spouse prior to the date of their marriage and all debt incurred after the entry of a decree of legal separation if the court allocated responsibility for payment of marital debt as part of the decree of legal separation.
- (3) In allocating responsibility for the payment of marital debt, the Court shall consider the following factors:
 - (A) the debt's purpose;
 - (B) which party incurred the debt;
 - (C) which party benefited from incurring the debt; and
 - (D) which party is best able to repay the debt.
- (4) In allocating responsibility for paying unpaid attorney fees and expenses, the Court shall consider the factors in subsection (3), above, and shall consider the following additional factors:
 - (A) the total amount of attorney fees and expenses incurred by each party in connection with the proceedings;
 - (B) the total amount of attorney fees and expenses paid by each party in connection with the proceedings;
 - (C) whether the attorney fees and expenses incurred by each party are reasonable when applying the factors set forth in Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 1.5; and
 - (D) whether the attorney fees and expenses were necessary and the reasons why they were necessary or not necessary.
- (5) The Court may order the payment of all or a portion of marital debt from the marital property prior to the allocation of responsibility for paying marital debt by either party.





T.C.A. §36-4-121 shall be amended to add (c)(11) with the sections following thereafter to be renumbered, which section shall read in its entirety as follows:

(11) The total amount of attorney fees and expenses paid by each party in connection with the proceedings and whether such fees and expenses were paid from marital property, separate property or funds borrowed to enable the party to make payment.

T.C.A. §36-5-121(h)(1) shall be amended as follows:

- (a) Alimony in solido, also known as lump sum alimony, is a form of long-term support, the total amount of which is calculable on the date the decree is entered, but which is not designated as transitional alimony. Alimony in solido may be paid in installments: provided, that the payments are ordered over a definite period of time and the sum of the alimony to be paid is ascertainable when awarded. The purpose of this form of alimony is to provide financial support to a spouse and/or enable the court to equitably divide and distribute the marital property.
- (b) In addition, alimony in solido may be awarded for attorney fees and expenses incurred in connection with the proceedings through the date of the final decree including any matters brought pursuant to TENN, R. CIV, P. 59. When determining whether attorney fees and expenses should be awarded as alimony in solido, the Court shall consider the following:
 - (a) (1) The factors enumerated under T.C.A. §36-5-121(i);
 - (2) The total amount of attorney fees and expenses incurred and the total amount of attorney fees and expenses paid by each party in connection with the proceedings;
 - (3) Whether the attorney fees and expenses requested are reasonable applying the factors set forth in Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 1.5; and
 - (4) Whether the attorney fees and expenses were necessary and the reasons why they were necessary or not necessary.



Noah's Law

*Effective date: April 6, 2022



PC767 (Haile/Garrett)

A custodial parent, may file a motion seeking emergency order declaring the child to be in imminent danger and ordering the return of the child, if the court finds:

- 1. A custody, parentage, child support, or D&N is pending before the court;
- 2. Noncustodial parent failed to return the child;
- 3. Custodial parent has reported the child missing to LE;
- 4. At least 48 hours have passed since child was to be returned; AND
- 5. Non-custodial parent has failed to contact custodial parent in past 48 ours; OR has failed to return the child



Clerk to immediately email the order to LE investigating the report

Child Custody – New Factor

PC671 (White/Casada)

New factor to consider in determining the best interest of the child:

Whether a parent has failed to pay courtorder child support for a period of three years or more.





*Effective date: March 18, 2022

Divorce mediation by video



PC697 (Gardenhire/Smith)

Authorizes a court to allow mediation between parties in a divorce proceeding to occur by video conference when appropriate.



*Effective date: July 1, 2022

Challenge of Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity

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PC863 (Lundberg/Parkinson)

Removes 5 year statute of limitations for challenging a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity



Effective date: July 1, 2022

Small Estate Limited Letter of Authority Act



PC665 (Garrett/Stevens)

- > Death certificate required upon filing of the affidavit
- ➤ Adds the requirement that the affiant not have any prior felony convictions
- > Affiant to notify all heirs
- > Mandatory bond
- The affidavit only covers personal property, and that the decedent did not have any interest in any real property
- ➤ Provides an additional avenue for conversion to full probate if additional assets exceed \$50,000
- > Adds TennCare liability for those applicable decedents



Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act

PC1109 (Stevens/Farmer)

- □ Changes process for partition actions for tenants-in common with at least one co-tenant who acquired title from a relative with at least 20% of the ownership interest traceable to a family member and without a written agreement governing partition.
- □ NOTICE changes
- □ Court shall determine the method of sale that is most economically advantageous and in the best interest of the co-tenants of the group. Sale may be a open-market; by sealed bid; or an auction.





*Effective date: July 1, 2022

Bankers Omnibus Trust Bill

PC877 (Stevens/Garrett)

TCA 35-15-813 – Technical correction to 2021 trust bill

TCA 35-15-1206 – Deletes entire section

TCA 35-15-205; 1004; 604; 807; 1005 – Allows statutory release of trustee after notice to beneficiaries and no objections made

TCA 35-16-111(2) – Clarification of treatment of TISTs

TCA 35-15-816(c) – Revisions to decanting statute

TCA 35-15-1301 – Special Purpose Entities – allow for time beyond 30 day notice period

TCA 48-17-301 – Extend duration of voting trusts





Public Receiver

PC912 (Gardenhire/Hazlewood)

Authorizes a probate or chancery court to appoint a public receiver to determine the need for a temporary or permanent receiver

Upon motion of personal representative; interested party; or the court

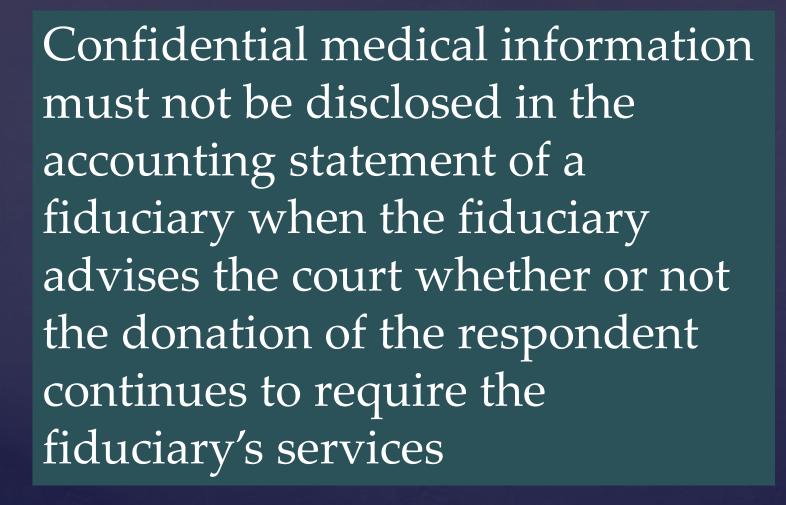
Public receiver shall submit a report of recommendations to the Court

*Effective date: July 1, 2022



TBA Conservatorship Bill

PC945 (Stevens/Garrett)





*Effective date: April 29, 2022

Full-Time Special Master

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PC864 (Johnson/Whitson)

- ☐ Any county upon 2/3 vote by County Commission may appoint a full time master to serve as judicial officer;
- ☐ Authorizes chancery court judges to appoint masters; and
- ☐ Specifies that matters related to probate are matters that the appropriate judge may direct a master to hear

Effective date: April 14, 2022

Holographic Will – Suicide Note

PC942 (Lundberg/Beck)

- ☐ Holographic will written within 30 days prior to a testator's suicide
- □Presumption of suspicious circumstances
- □ Proponent of the will has the burden of presenting evidence demonstrating capacity



Court Reporter Representation

PC 853 (Hensley/Ogles)

Contracted court reporter is considered a state employee when he/she is named in a civil action for damages alleged during the course of performing his/her official duties (so AG can represent them)





Effective date: 4/20/2022

Salary Disputes

PC1079 (Rose/Todd)



- ☐ Salary disputes of clerks, county trustees, registers of deeds, and sheriffs
- ☐ Receives priority and must be resolved within 120 days of petition
- Mediation required within 30 days of petition
- ☐ Court must schedule preliminary conference within 20 days of Answer

Effective date: July 1, 2022

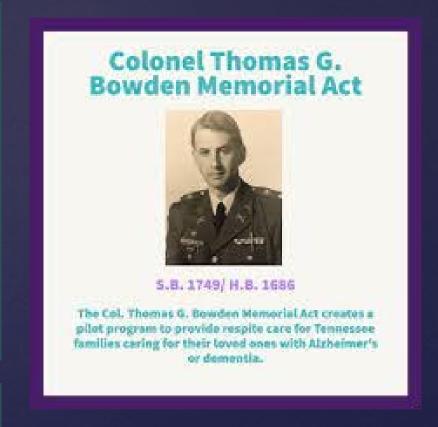
Colonel Thomas G. Bowden Memorial Act



PC1049 (Reeves/Williams)

Creates a pilot program to provide home and community based services for those living alone or are being cared for by a family member or upaid caregiver

Respite care for care-givers



*Effective date: May 25, 2022



Part V

Bills that didn't pass



- o Bail overhaul
- o BJC appeals process
- New, unlimited post-conviction relief process
- Abusive pro-se litigant database
- o Aunt/Uncle visitation
- o Criminal Forfeiture Process Act
- o GPS required for domestic assault
- Special hearings to determine justification of use-of-force
- Appellate Court Improvement Act







Thanks for listening!

If you have questions or comments, please contact us.

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