

Feb. 5, 2026



## Legislative Update

The legislative session is off with a bang, yet it is still quite early. THEA continues to work with bill sponsors in order to advocate for homeschoolers, for their protection and furtherance of their freedoms.

Visit our website and social media page for current updates on all that THEA is doing as well as what YOU can do.

**Read more** about the analysis of HB 1729 and view a side-by-side comparison of current law vs HB 1729.

God Bless.



*Claiborne Thornton*  
THEA President

## BILLS TO WATCH

	HB 1729- Slater
	SB 1968- Lowe
	HB 1823- Raper
	HB 1889- Hemmer
	SB 1978- Akbar
	HB 1889- Hemmer
	SB 1978- Akbar
	HB 1896- Mayberry
	SB 2090- Crowe
	HB 1976- White
	HB 1740- Glynn
	SB 1975- Akbari

## HB 1729 by Rep. Slater & SB 2636 by Sen. Roberts



### Summary:

Education - As introduced, allows student performance on the Classic Learning Test to be used alongside the ACT and SAT for various purposes; makes various changes to home school testing requirements and opportunities available to home school students. - Amends TCA Title 49.

### Status:

HB 1729 by \*Slater

**01/22/2026**

Assigned to s/c K-12 Subcommittee

**01/22/2026**

P2C, ref. to Education Committee

**01/21/2026**

Intro., P1C.

**01/20/2026**

Filed for introduction



(SB 2636) by \*Roberts

Introduced, Passed on First Consideration

**02/02/2026**

Filed for introduction

**02/02/2026**

**\*\*THEA and HSLDA are in active discussion regarding this bill.\*\***



## SB 1968 by Lowe & HB 1823 Raper



### Summary:

Local Education Agencies - As introduced, requires a director of schools to refer to juvenile court a student who was formerly enrolled in the LEA, who was receiving truancy interventions, who withdrew from the LEA, and who did not transfer to another LEA; establishes that unexcused absences accumulated by a transfer student at their former school or LEA during the school year in which they transfer follow the student to the receiving school or LEA to determine habitual truancy, to implement a progressive truancy plan, and to identify cases of educational neglect. - Amends TCA Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 1; Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 6.



### Status:

SB 1968 by \*Lowe

Filed for introduction

**01/22/2026**

Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Education Committee

**02/05/2026**

Introduced, Passed on First Consideration

**02/02/2026**

HB 1823) by \*Raper

Assigned to s/c Education Administration Subcommittee

**02/02/2026**

P2C, ref. to Education Committee

**02/02/2026**

## HB 1889 by Hemmer & SB 1978 Akbari



### Summary:

School Vouchers - As introduced, establishes various audit and reporting requirements for the department of education and private schools that enroll recipients of an education freedom scholarship; limits eligibility for the scholarship program to students who are members of a family with an annual household income that does not exceed 300 percent of the amount required for a student to qualify for free or reduced lunch; requires scholarship recipients to be administered the same TCAP tests administered to public school students enrolled in the same grade level or course subject. - Amends TCA Title 4, Chapter 29; Title 8, Chapter 44; Title 10, Chapter 7 and Title 49, Chapter 6.

### Status:

HB 1889 by \*Hemmer

Assigned to s/c K-12 Subcommittee

**02/04/2026**

P2C, ref. to Education Committee

**02/04/2026**

Intro., P1C.

**02/02/2026**

Filed for introduction

**01/22/2026**

(SB 1978) by \*Akbari

Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Education Committee

**02/05/2026**

Introduced, Passed on First Consideration

**02/02/2026**

Filed for introduction

**01/22/2026**



## HB 1896 by Mayberry



### Summary:

Schools, Private - As introduced, prohibits the state board of education from requiring a private school that provides a fully online, self-paced educational program to annually administer a nationally standardized achievement test in English language arts and mathematics to each student each year; directs the state board to require such private schools that provide a high school program to administer a nationally standardized achievement test in English language arts and mathematics to certain students based on the percentage of their high school program that the student has completed. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1 and Title 49, Chapter 50.

### Status:

[HB 1896 by \\*Maberry](#)

Filed for introduction

**01/22/2026**

**OPPOSING Current state of bill but**  
**continue to attempt to work with sponsors**



## SB 2090 Crowe & HB 1796 White



### Summary:

Education - As introduced, requires a private school that participates in the Individualized Education Act or the Tennessee Education Savings Account Pilot Program to comply with certain requirements in order to receive public funds through the program; prohibits a student from receiving an education freedom scholarship if the student is enrolled in a private school that doesn't comply with certain requirements. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 10, Part 14; Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 26 and Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 35.



### Status:

#### SB 2090 by \*Crowe

Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Education Committee

**02/05/2026**

Introduced, Passed on First Consideration

**02/02/2026**

#### HB 1976) by \*White

Assigned to s/c K-12 Subcommittee

**02/04/2026**

P2C, ref. to Education Committee

**02/04/2026**

Intro., P1C.

**02/02/2026**

---

## HB 1740 by Glynn & SB 1975 Akbari



### Summary:

School Vouchers - As introduced, allows a child with a medical condition that inhibits the child from attending school in person to receive an individualized education account to enroll in a home school program. - Amends TCA Title 49.

### Status:

HB 1740 by \*Glynn

Assigned to s/c K-12 Subcommittee

**01/22/2026**

P2C, ref. to Education Committee

**01/22/2026**

Intro., P1C.

**01/21/2026**

Filed for introduction

**01/20/2026**



### (SB 1975) by \*Akbari

Passed on Second Consideration, refer to Senate Education Committee

**02/05/2026**

Introduced, Passed on First Consideration

**02/02/2026**



## Who is THEA?

THEA was formed to assist families who want to home school their children. Any family in the State of Tennessee that wants to homeschool their children is eligible for help and encouragement by THEA.

We assist in the starting of groups, of tutorials, of church related school umbrella programs, of co ops, of sports teams, of graduations, of parties, and of focused learning groups. Local homeschool leaders (see tnhea.org) will tell you about the local resources that are available.

THEA works with other pro family leaders to find and then we monitor bills that are being introduced into our state legislature that will affect families and homeschoolers.

We use our THEA Observer to communicate the progress of bills working their way through the legislature, so that you can be effectively involved and not surprised.

A small group of home schooling families got together in 1984 and formed THEA, because there were five families in court in Tennessee. They were home schooling. Home education was not legal.

Today, our freedoms are widely expanded and the educational successes of homeschoolers is universally recognized and receives acclamation.

Each member of this board serves and cares for not only their own family but also ministers to and care for home schoolers all across the state, offering them hope for a better education and a better future for their children. If God is willing to entrust a mother and father with a child, THEA is committed to help you home school if you wish.

Get involved with the volunteers of Tennessee home educating families all across the state.

*Preserving Freedom, Advancing freedom for Home Educating Families*

 <b>THEA</b> TENNESSEE HOME EDUCATION ASSOCIATION	TNHEA.ORG
THEA Reporter- Chelsea Eichel	reporter@tnhea.org