
THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 44th General Assembly

Today's Schedule

1:30: 6th Legislative Session

2:45-3:15: Polls

3:15: Leg. Session Continues

4:30-5: Run-offs

5:00: Leg. Session Continues

6:00: Adjourn



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Planned-Parenthood Bill Threatens Free Speech

The House Chambers erupted in controversy over an act created to introduce the topic of Planned-Parenthood into schools in effort to increase awareness of the subject.

The House debated TISL Bill 50, which provides students with seminars, brochures, and marketing techniques surrounding the topic of Planned-Parenthood.

Immediately, debate began around section 2c, which states that any student caught speaking negatively of Planned-Parenthood would be punished according to campus law.

Several representatives cited this as a direct violation of the free speech, inherently granted to all U.S. citizens under the first amendment.

Multiple representatives stood up in opposition of this bill, stating its unconstitutionality.

After approving multiple amendments, the bill was ultimately tabled after much debate.

-Ali Swee

House Approves Extension of Victims of Crimes Act

The TISL House of Representative approved TISL Bill 44 with a vote of 64-9 in their fourth legislative session last night. Madeleine McGrady from Rhodes College authored the bill, which expands the rights granted to Tennessee residents under the Victims Bill of Rights to undocumented immigrants.

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Election Ballot Released

Polls Open at 2:45

SENATE

Lt. Gov/Senate Speaker

Brandon Chrisman, UT Knoxville

Speaker Pro Tempore

Olivia O'Brien, University of the South

HOUSE

Speaker

Logan Brasher, Union

Nathan Cole, TN Tech

Speaker Pro Tempore

Jolie-Grace Wareham, Rhodes

Adrienne Doodley, UT Chattanooga

Jacob Wheeler, Memphis

Isaiah Braggs, Jackson State CC (withdrawn)

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Secretary of State

Heath Simpson, TN Tech

Caleb Butler, Bethel

Treasurer

Morgan Kroeger, Union

David Snapp, UT Knoxville

GOVERNOR

Jamie Arnett, UT Martin

Amended Alcohol Policy Bill Passes Senate

The Senate began with a tempestuous session Friday morning over TISL Bill 4 which stated that cases of "alcohol misconduct allegations are considered under a policy of the TISL Board of Directors."

The conflict rested in Section 1 which said that all alcohol misconduct cases "will be referred to the Executive Director."

The first session was adjourned during a debate over an amendment to section 1 presented by Thomas Choate, senator from Vanderbilt University.

"As it's presently written, it gives all authority over alcohol misconduct matters, a student disciplinary matter, to a single person," said Choate after the first session.

The Senate sponsor for the bill, John Domanski, stood firm in keeping the bill as it was originally written.

"Last year we had a huge problem with an alcohol misconduct case," Domanski said, "The Supreme Court was not equipped to be able to handle the case."

The amendment was passed in the next session of the Senate.

-Brandy D. Nicholson

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In her opening statement, McGrady called the lack of protection under the Victims of Crimes Act "a human rights issue" and referenced the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights assertion that all people have the "right to life, liberty, and security of person."

Numerous representatives rose in support of the bill. One representative stated his belief that "even if they're not citizens, they're still humans and we need to be concerned about their welfare just as much as we would a citizen...It's the right thing to do."

Another delegate supported the bill because he "support[s] humanity," in spite of the fact that these humans were illegal immigrants.

