

THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 45th General Assembly

Today's Schedule

- 3:15: 6th Legislative Session
- 4:30: Run-Off Polls Open
- 5:00: Run-Off Polls Close
6th Legislative Session Cont.
- 6:00: Adjourn



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Minimum Wage Bill Creates a “Red” Bloodbath in the Senate

The Sixth Legislative Session started off smoothly, with the Senate passing or rolling through bills at a rapid rate. It seemed as though this trend would continue through the rest of the session, setting the tone for a quick and easy session. Then Bill 42 – An Act to Provide the Necessary Socio-Economic Benefits Needed to Restore Prosperity to the Great State of Tennessee came to the floor.



While the title of the bill does not specify what the socio-economic benefits are, the body of the bill elaborates on a plan to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour to tie it to the cost of

living. Bill 42 initially passed through the Commerce Committee with approval. While the bill faced significant debate in the House on Friday, it eventually passed there as well, with an attached amendment.

However, several senators proved to be incredibly unhappy with Bill 42. As Senator James deMoss pointed out, almost everyone is in agreement that being poor is generally a bad thing. Many senators’ problems with the bill lay with the impact of raising minimum wage on small businesses. Senator Thomas Parhem went so far as to say that “all the bill would do would slit the throats of small businesses.”

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The most vocally impressive speech came from Senator demos, who proclaimed that “raising minimum wage will not solve the problem... It is up to us to solve the problem.” Finally, the bill was declared unconstitutional on the grounds of its vague title, and before an overwhelming nay vote of 30-4, the sponsor of the bill Senator David Claunch sniped at the impending nays, noting that the board would soon be filled with “the red blood of Republican pride.”

-Page Forrest

Suggestions to Improve TISL Scoring

An Editorial

I love TISL. I joined the Rhodes delegation on a whim my sophomore year and have since been simultaneously incredibly proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization and delegation and humbled by the professionalism, intelligence, and respect on display by my fellow delegates. That said, the scoring system in TISL has a large amount of room for improvement.

The current scoring system awards too many points simply for bringing people with a pulse to the conference. Looking at the self-evaluation section of the score sheet, a total of thirty-six points are up for grabs for sitting people in a seat (“Active Senator for the full session” and “Full delegation in the House of Representatives”) and registering people for certain positions (up to eight points for simply registering lobbyists and media). In other words, as a media participant, I earn my delegation points regardless of what I actually do. A lobbyist could theoretically earn his or her delegation five points for simply showing up, getting their nametag, and watching Netflix all weekend.

Now this is not to say that the scoring system is completely broken – the Executive Council Evaluation section of the score sheet is hugely helpful in rewarding success, rewarding large quantities of points for awards such as the Carlisle Award, Best Lobbyist, and Best Journalist, among others.

But in looking at the two sections, I find a distinct lack of reward for those in the middle. On one hand, delegates earn their delegations points simply for existing. On the other, additional points are earned by the best of the best. But why not add in points for individuals accomplishing goals, even if they aren’t the very best person in their subsection of TISL. For example, a lobbying firm (or individual lobbyist) could easily submit a form marking certain bills as favorable and unfavorable, essentially announcing what they are targeting. Then, if a bill that was marked favorable passes, that firm or lobbyist gets points.

The same system could apply to legislators. If one’s bill receives a favorable vote in committee, give it a small number of points. If it passes in one chamber, more points. Both chambers, give it even more points. These are only examples, but such measures would directly connect the effort of legislators and lobbyists on various bills to measurable points for their delegation, which, in my personal opinion, would only improve the already fantastic event that is the TISL General Assembly.

-Chandler Schneider