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Secretary of State
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STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long supported education in this state through unprecedented investments in public education, such as a record \$2 billion annually in additional state dollars over the past six years and the expansion of education freedom, including the successful education savings account program and individualized education account program; and

WHEREAS, the time is now to provide Tennessee parents with further choices to meet the educational needs specific to their children and family, while continuing Tennessee's historic investments in K-12 public education; and

WHEREAS, severe flooding recently affected numerous counties across East Tennessee, causing loss of life and substantial property damage, and leading to major economic challenges for residents, businesses, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, in response to the severe flooding, Tennessee acted swiftly, using all available State resources; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Tennessee that state and local authorities be prepared to assist the incoming Trump Administration's immigration enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Modernization Act of 2023 fundamentally changed how the Department of Transportation delivers projects by authorizing the expanded use of alternate delivery models and public-private partnerships, and to fulfill the purposes of the Act, it is appropriate to establish the Tennessee Transportation Financing Authority to assist in these efforts, including serving as a public conduit issuer to support public and private entity financing of transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Tennessee that the General Assembly convene to expeditiously address these concerns.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 9 of the Tennessee Constitution, do hereby call the One Hundred Fourteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to meet and convene in extraordinary session at the Capitol in Nashville on January 27, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., Central Time, to consider and act upon legislation that:

- (1) Creates an education freedom scholarship program for K-12 students to attend nonpublic schools and ensures TISA funding amounts do not decrease for local education agencies (LEAs) due to disenrollment of students;
- (2) Provides financial benefits for teachers employed in K-12 public schools;
- (3) Allocates funds for the construction and maintenance of public school facilities throughout the state;
- (4) Provides financial incentives for high-performing LEAs;
- (5) Authorizes the modification of requirements for unemployment benefits for Tennessee residents and workers in counties for which the state has requested a federal major disaster declaration;

- (6) Grants specific authority to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency to assist political subdivisions and local emergency management agencies in the recovery from emergencies and disasters on public property;
- (7) Creates the Tennessee Transportation Financing Authority to support public and private entity financing of transportation projects;
- (8) Provides relief to property owners whose properties are damaged by a disaster, including Hurricane Helene, and designates authority for the sharing of personnel and resources between local governmental entities during a disaster or emergency;
- (9) Provides financial support to local governments in areas impacted by a disaster, such as Hurricane Helene;
- (10) Creates funds to assist in the recovery and response to an emergency or disaster, including Hurricane Helene;
- (11) Creates a centralized immigration enforcement entity, creates an immigration enforcement fund, and may create penalties against government officials for adopting or enacting a sanctuary policy;
- (12) Revises certain forms of identification issued by the state in order to better determine a person's status for purposes of exercising rights and accessing privileges and services that are available to United States' citizens;
- (13) Strengthens immigration enforcement concerning agreements under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g); and
- (14) Makes appropriations sufficient:
- (A) To provide financial incentives for high-performing LEAs;
 - (B) To increase grant funds for LEAs located in counties with an active tourism development zone that were adversely impacted by Hurricane Helene;
 - (C) To address cost share obligations for the non-federal share of eligible disaster recovery costs related to Hurricane Helene;
 - (D) For the construction of a public high school facility in Carter County following the effects of Hurricane Helene on Hampton High School;
 - (E) To provide funding for any legislation that receives final passage during the extraordinary session; and
 - (F) To pay the expenses of the extraordinary session, including the expenses of carrying out any actions taken pursuant to this proclamation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 17th day of January, 2025.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

