
THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 45th General Assembly

Today's Schedule

2:45: Polls Open

3:15: Polls Close,
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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Nashville Postal Workers Deliver Timely Strike Outside the Capitol

On Friday, November 14th, 2014, postal workers from the Nashville area picketed changes slated for January 5th, 2015 by the Postmaster General and United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors that would eliminate all overnight delivery and close 82 mail processing facilities across the country.



With the implementation of the changes, most mail would be trucked an extra 250 miles to be properly processed before backtracking in order to reach its destination, and parcels shipped within a single city could take multiple days to be delivered, even when sent with the highest level of priority.

“Right now, if I’m mailing a letter down the street, I know it’s going to get there the next day. With these changes, it might take a week,” Kerry Scates, another protestor who works for USPS reports.

The United States Postal Service relies solely on the cost of postage to keep its facilities running, and has only recently struggled after the passing of a bill in 2006 that mandates that postal workers pre-fund future retiree health benefits 75 years in advance.

The group huddled outside the capitol building to get the attention of the public and inform Nashville residents of the proposals. “If the voters aren’t happy, there’s a whole lot of change, you just have to inform the public,” Don Eggers, a protestor from the Nashville postal sorting facility, believes.

Fourteen-Year-Old Legislator Passes Education Bill

Bill 99, which was passed in the Senate, faced its final obstacle to being laid on Governor Jamie Arnett's desk today in the House of Representatives. Bill 99 – An Act To Amend TCA § 49-4-930(D)(t) To Make Available The Dual Enrollment Grant To Dual Enrollment Students Who Are High School Freshman Or Sophomores – experienced an worthy debate in the House.

Sponsor Ethan Willis from Southwest Tennessee Community College handled himself with a manner of professionalism that made it easy to forget that he is only fourteen years old. As a freshman in high school participating in a dual enrollment program, he created the bill to extend the dual enrollment grant, which is currently only available to high school juniors and seniors, to freshmen and sophomores.

Several objections were raised, such as concerns over the students' maturity, transportation to classes, whether there were certain criteria for the students to meet, and if it would affect the students' access to Hope Scholarship money in the future.

Representative Willis made sure to remind the Representatives, after answering each of their questions that he himself is a fourteen year old mature enough for dual enrollment and here at TISL.

After fifteen minutes of questioning, TISL Bill 99 passed, and fourteen year-old Ethan Willis will see his bill cross the Governor's desk.

-Cassie Richardson

Volunteering As Tribute

A Lobbyist Joins AMC3 Team Last Minute

It is a well-known fact that AMC3 requires weeks of intricate research, hours of detailed briefs, and plenty of oral prep time. So when delegate James Ekenstedt moved from lobbying to AMC3 the same day the delegation left for General Assembly, the challenge of learning a full case in a few short hours took effect.

But why the last minute change? As Ekenstedt explains, "One of our AMC3 people was diagnosed with Mono the



day before we left." The delegate was initially determined to attend the G.A., but when the time came to head to Nashville, the sickness proved to be too much.

This medical diagnosis posed a threat to the AMC3 team because two petitioners and two respondents traditionally perform each side of the argument. The team's only options were to either let one member represent both positions, which would mean making two huge jobs in one, or substitute someone else into the competition.

So with two years of experience with AMC3, Ekenstedt sacrificed himself for the substitution. "It's not like I'm special or anything," said Ekenstedt. "I've had some experience in this area."

But he would not prescribe this endeavor for anyone else because cramming weeks worth of work into a few short hours is mind-numbing to say the least. Between presenting his argument and memorizing his oral argument, Ekenstedt seems to be handling the pressure well.

-Toshya Leonard