

ACLU-TN Legislative Highlights: Religious Freedom

110th Tennessee General Assembly – 2017



Bill	Bill Description	Bill Status	Position
SB 0127 (Green) HB 0054 (Zachary)	As introduced, prohibits state and local governments from taking discriminatory action against a business based on the business's internal policies.	Current Status	Oppose
SB0161 (Kelsey) HB0126 (Brooks H)	As amended, establishes a five-year pilot “voucher program” for eligible students in Shelby County to attend participating private K-12 schools, including religious schools. If a scholarship student would have been entitled to receive special education services in the public school system, the parent must agree in writing to refuse services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and accept only services available to the non-public school. Participating schools are not considered state or government actors and are not subject to any additional regulations. For the 2018-2019 school year, no more than 2,500 scholarships will be awarded. For the 2019-2020 through the 2022-2023 school years, no more than 5,000 scholarships will be awarded. The program terminates at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year	Current Status	Oppose
SB 0403 (Gresham) HB 0609 (Gant)	As introduced, exempts churches and other religious organizations from campaign finance disclosures when expending funds in favor of or in opposition to single or multiple issue measures related to public or private morality, including, but not limited to, alcohol, drugs, abortion, marriage, or gambling.	Current Status	Oppose
SB 0786 (Dickerson) HB 1369 (Sargent)	As introduced, requires the state board of equalization to include a statement of the reason for its initial determination denying a property tax exemption for property of any religious, charitable, scientific, or nonprofit educational institution.	Current Status	Support
SB 1152 (Hensley) HB 0287 (Byrd)	As introduced, designates the week of September 17 as "Celebrate Freedom Week" in public schools; requires the state board of education to adopt rules in regard to Celebrate Freedom Week.	Current Status	

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SB 1355 (Bailey) HB 0026 (Sanderson)	As introduced, requires all license plates to bear the language "In God We Trust."	Current Status	Oppose
HJR 0037 (VanHuss)	As introduced, proposes an amendment of Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee to recognize God as the source of our liberties.	Current Status	Oppose