



Bills Sponsored by the Comptroller's Office in 2025 Legislative Session

Presented by Comptroller Jason Mumpower on 1/16/2025

Legislative Director- Caroline Grasse (caroline.grasse@cot.tn.gov)

In his opening remarks, Comptroller Mumpower stated a release would be coming from the Governor's Office on Friday, January 17 regarding a Special Session being called for the week of January 27. The items targeted for the special session include the Education Freedom Act focusing on every child being able to attend the school that meets their needs best; Flood Relief/Disaster Relief as it relates to the needs of those in East Tennessee as a result of the impact from Hurricane Helene and providing immediate assistance to these property owners; and Public Safety measures related to illegal immigration to be prepared for federal policy implementation.

The Comptroller's Office is sponsoring 8 bills in the 2025 Session. All Freshman Legislators are carrying and supporting along with Comptroller. Below is a summation along with the division area taking the lead:

1. Local Government Audit - Contracted CMFO hours is requesting to be reduced to less than 16 hours per month to be worked.
2. Local Government Audit- Human Resource Agent audit requirements – considers HRA working papers to be reviewed prior to the payment of audit fees.
3. Local Government Audit- Penalty for late municipal audits that have 2 or more late audits. State shared revenues may be withheld until audit is completed. Currently there are 7 cities that have been habitually late.
4. Local Government Finance- Debt reporting – report deficits of debt and credit reduction. Requirements regarding defaulting on debt and drop in credit reporting.
5. Local Government Finance – High Risk Debt – clarifies information regarding debt balloon indebtedness and the requirements regarding reporting of high risk debt.
6. Local Government Finance- Utilities – Emergency Operating Loans as in the case of the floods. Removes requirement for RFP over \$50 million in these emergency situations.
7. Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) - Literacy Success Act – clarifies that the report is due every three (3) years.
8. State Audit & OREA - Survey responses become part of the public aggregate data within the audit under OREA and this information can be reported to legislative bodies.

Other legislative discussion by those in attendance:

- Trustees – Commercial appeals on property assessment – undisputed portion – having statutes to interpret
- Mutual aid bill for county clerk's offices to assist in times of disaster (again came about during the East Tennessee floods for county clerks to assist with purchase of tags and other processes handled by county court clerks)
- County Court Clerks – to move for higher rates related to postage bill to help better control costs of mailing license plates
- County Court Clerks – must present and have drivers' license at the time you register a vehicle
- School Boards – moving for legislation related to capital project investments and also maintenance of effort

- Opioid Settlement Funds – 30% of settlement funds have been allocated to counties – if not spent by the counties these funds go back to the State.
- County Commission Association has over 300 bills that they are preparing to present
- Lots of discussion regarding the real estate transfer tax – new stream of revenue – undesignated going to general fund and stay in their counties
- Leverage state, local, and federal money to transfer from general fund to help support infrastructure development
- Measures to be presented to adequately reimburse rates to local governments for the housing of inmates for the state
- County Mayors Association – requesting funding for local government to match TDOT funds for road improvements
- Education – wants their fair share of the lottery funds
- Sex Offender Registry – reduce county liability
- Utility districts – presenting bill seeking reduction in continuing education required for officials from 12 hours to 6 hours
- Prohibit fluoride in public water systems
- Clean up of the Affordable Housing Bill
- 911 Associations – stable in funding – rate adjustment needed for inflation
- Request for reimbursements from TDOT for moving utilities due to inflationary costs – reimburse utilities for these costs incurred
- Related to flood relief – what can be exempted and what can be tax relief; having the ability to pay the property tax; legislation to provide assistance to property owners – local governments to be made whole; counties/cities – flood reassessments to be done
- Carter County – had 629 homes affected
- Counties impacted by the floods – Johnson, Carter, Unicoi, Greene, and Cocke

Other data provided related to series of Comptroller reports:

- Legislative mandated report - State of crime in Shelby County
- Legislative mandated report – Insurance Pools – to be released in February
- Legislative mandated report – TISA – to be released in February
- Legislative Memorandum – Regarding fluoride in water – this has already been released

Information related to bills filed:

- Currently house members have a 12 bill limit and it may possibly drop to 10 during the next legislative session
- Governor Administration – 75 bills to be presented – these do not count towards the 12 limit bill presentation
- Each constitutional officer is allowed to present 5 bills – these do not count towards the 12 limit bill presentation
- This does not include private or local acts that will be presented