

TICUA Policy Update

February 12, 2016

Firearms Bills

Representative Tillman Goins presented House Bill 1644 (SB1559 – Bell) to the House Civil Justice Subcommittee this past Wednesday. The bill allows private K-12 and higher education institutions to create firearm policies that allow Tennessee conceal and carry permit holders to carry weapons on campus. The bill is permissive, thus allowing campuses to either maintain a ban on weapons, allow restricted carry, or allow unrestricted carry while on campus. The Haslam administration is seeking to amend this bill to require campus' Board of Trustee approval of any policy allowing weapons on campus.

Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Jeremy Faison are sponsoring another bill (SB1736/HB2033), however, that would make property owners who elect to ban guns to “assume absolute custodial responsibility for the safety and defense of the permit holder” while they are on property. Currently, under state law TICUA member campuses are required to post signs banning weapons on campus and would be exempt from the bill. If the Goins/Bell bill is passed, however, it would put our campuses in a permissive position on banning conceal and carry thus possibly making those member campuses banning weapons liable for the safety of conceal and carry permit holders while they are on campus. TICUA has expressed this concern to all the bill sponsors and is working on a solution to maintain institutional autonomy while removing liability.

Haslam and Alexander to Address the TICUA 60th Annual Meeting

TICUA is celebrating its 60th anniversary at the TICUA Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 16 and 17, 2016. This year's policy focus will include sessions with Education Chairs Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks, Finance Chairs Senator Randy McNally and Representative Charles Sargent, House Speaker Beth Harwell, and Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey, Governor Bill Haslam, and US Senator Lamar Alexander. The TICUA Legislative Reception will conclude the events on the 16th. The morning of the 17th will include the President's Open Forum Breakfast. Once again, this year's events will be held in the conference facilities of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis in the Nashville City Center.