



Tennessee Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

MEMO

To: TAR Governmental Affairs Committee

From: Chris Sexton, Director of Governmental Affairs

Date: February 15, 2010

Re: State Legislative Update

Despite the ice and snow across much of the state, legislative activities are heating up in Nashville. Much of the session continues to be focused on budgetary matters as the state grapples with a \$1.5 million budget shortfall.

Your state association's Governmental Affairs team, particularly its Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, has been hard at work reviewing hundreds of pieces of legislation that have been introduced in the General Assembly. They've been working to identify those issues important to protecting the interests of Realtors and property owners across Tennessee.

The subcommittee will be making final recommendations on legislative positions to the full committee at the upcoming Governmental Affairs Committee meeting during the TAR Spring Conference in March. While some changes may occur, the subcommittee has released its preliminary recommendations. These can be found for both bills held over from 2009 and the recently introduced 2010 bills by visiting the Realtor Focused Legislation section of <http://www.tarnet.com/govaff/legaffsub.php>. The site also features a way to submit any questions or concerns about legislation to Pat Beech, our Legislative Affairs Subcommittee Chair.

In other news, one legislative area of concern we've heard about from Realtors has to do with potential changes to the County Powers Relief Act. Thanks to behind the scenes efforts by lobbyists and grassroots leaders, the General Assembly is not looking to review the measure, instead expressing a desire to leave the act in place, unaltered. Also defeated the other week were bills that would have required sellers and landlords to provide an energy audit that estimates the property's energy usage. It's a legislative victory as these energy audits would be highly subjective and only add to the costs to buy or rent property in Tennessee.

We will continue to monitor legislation as it works its way through the legislative process. Your continued support through RPAC and political advocacy are helping us strengthen the Realtor Party and protect our industry!

