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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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Esther Helton

Tennessee

Representative, HD-030 (R)

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65

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

TN Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
★				YES
1. SB263 Global Entities Ban (Passed 73 to 24 on 4/17/2025). Bans Tennessee state and local government entities from enforcing or recognizing any mandates or requirements from the World Health Organization, United Nations, or World Economic Forum.				
			-\$9.38	YES
	✗			
2. SB207 Conservation Easements (Passed 84 to 8 on 4/16/2025). Creates a \$25 million Farmland Preservation Fund managed by the Department of Agriculture.				
				YES
				★
3. HB1237 Race-based Membership Ban (Passed 73 to 22 on 4/7/2025). Ends the ability of state regulatory and health-related boards to use race, color, ethnicity, or national origin as factors in their membership decisions.				
				YES
				★
4. HB749 Illegal Immigrant Driver's License Enforcement (Passed 68 to 21 on 4/3/2025). Makes it a Class B misdemeanor to drive in Tennessee using an out-of-state driver's license issued exclusively to illegal aliens.				
			-\$1.88	YES
	✗			
5. SB734 Privilege Tax Extension (Passed 58 to 22 on 3/24/2025). Extends by six years the authority for Nashville-Davidson County to continue collecting a hotel occupancy tax of up to \$2.50 per room, instead of \$2.00. The extra \$0.50 will continue to fund the county's Event and Marketing Fund				
			-\$154.00	YES
	✗			
6. HB6004 Government Private School Vouchers (Passed 54 to 43 on 1/30/2025). Creates a state-funded scholarship program offering up to 20,000 K-12 vouchers for private-school tuition and related expenses				

Scorecard Votes: 50%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Global Entities Ban

SB263 bans Tennessee state and local government entities from enforcing any mandates or requirements from the WHO, UN, or WEF. It ensures that international organizations cannot impose policies—such as mask mandates, vaccination rules, medical testing, or data collection—within the state.

The Tennessee State House of Representatives passed SB263 on April 17, 2025 by a vote of 73 to 24. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the U.S. Constitution, under Article VI, is the supreme law of the land, and international bodies such as the WHO, UN, or WEF have no lawful authority over the American people. These globalist entities promote policies—such as Agenda 2030—that undermine U.S. and state sovereignty.

2. Conservation Easements

SB207 creates a Farmland Preservation Fund managed by the Department of Agriculture. It provides \$25 million in grants to help landowners—including farmers and forest owners—place their property under permanent conservation easements.

The Tennessee State House of Representatives passed SB207 on April 16, 2025 by a vote of 84 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the bill expands government control over land use through taxpayer-funded grants that violate property rights, distort the free market, and surrender land decisions to nonprofit groups aligned with global agendas like the UN's Agenda 2030—undermining national sovereignty.

3. Race-based Membership Ban

HB1237 ends the ability of state regulatory and health-related boards to use race, color, ethnicity, or national origin as factors in their membership decisions. It bans race-based policies such as quotas and affirmative action on these boards.

The Tennessee State House of Representatives passed HB1237 on April 7, 2025 by a vote of 73 to 22. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because, while many of these regulatory and health-related boards are unconstitutional to begin with, state governments should not prop up one group over another based on race or ethnicity. Such policies embrace equity over equality—undermining the foundational American principle that all individuals are to be treated equally under the law.

4. Illegal Immigrant Driver's License Enforcement

HB749 makes it a Class B misdemeanor to drive in Tennessee using an out-of-state driver's license issued exclusively to illegal aliens.

The Tennessee State House of Representatives passed HB749 on April 3, 2025 by a vote of 68 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill reinforces the rule of law and affirms Tennessee's sovereign authority—affirmed by the Tenth Amendment—to determine which forms of identification are valid within its borders. Allowing out-of-state licenses issued solely to illegal aliens undermines state and national sovereignty, blurs the line between legal and illegal residency, and weakens public safety.

5. Privilege Tax Extension

SB734 extends by six years the authority for Nashville-Davidson County to continue collecting a hotel occupancy tax of up to \$2.50 per room, instead of \$2.00. The extra \$0.50 will continue to fund the county's Event and Marketing Fund, which brings in about \$5 million annually.

The Tennessee State House of Representatives passed SB734 on March 24, 2025 by a vote of 58 to 22. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill extends a local tax increase and continues funneling millions in taxpayer-generated revenue into government-controlled marketing efforts. Instead of letting the free market determine tourism and event success, SB734 expands the role of government in promoting private industry, embracing corporate welfare, distorting market forces, and encouraging cronyism.

6. Government Private School Vouchers

HB6004 creates a state-funded scholarship program offering up to 20,000 K–12 vouchers for private-school tuition and related expenses. Half are reserved for low-income or otherwise eligible students, while the rest are open to all qualifying applicants. Participating private schools must give annual standardized tests in grades 3–11, with results reported to the General Assembly. The bill also includes a one-time \$2,000 bonus for public school teachers (with local approval).

The Tennessee State House of Representatives passed HB6004 on January 30, 2025 by a vote of 54 to 43. We have assigned pluses to the nays because, while private and home education are better options, this bill expands government control by funding private schooling with taxpayer dollars—propping up people and institutions the free market would otherwise hold accountable. Government funding always comes with strings, and HB6004 proves this by requiring participating private schools to administer annual standardized tests and report results to the state. This undermines the independence of private education and sets a dangerous precedent.