

April 29, 2022



Summary of the Second Session of the 112th General Assembly

The 112th General Assembly adjourned *sine die* on April 28th following weeks of particularly dense legislative work. The legislature, in addition to passing the state's largest budget of \$52.8 billion, focused on a new K-12 funding formula, sentencing reform for specified violent crimes, and funding for the proposed new Titans' stadium. 2022 marked the final legislative session of Governor Bill Lee's first term before his reelection campaign formally begins. Additionally, announced legislator retirements and resignations will result in a higher-than-normal turnover rate before reconvening in January 2023.

For the TPFPA, we had significant wins to add to our 2021 accomplishments. We passed and secured state funding for our expansion of cancer presumption bill to add leukemia and testicular cancer to the existing list in statute from 2019. The residency bill removing restrictions on where firefighters are required to live to work in a community (with the exception of Chattanooga) also passed after extensive work and negotiation. Additionally, there is an opportunity over the summer to increase the representation of firefighters on the EMS board.

Our loss this session was a disappointing delay in passing the Dustin Samples Act to recognize PTSD as a job-related injury for firefighters. Although we had incredible momentum and a majority of the General Assembly signed on as cosponsors, local governments were successful in creating enough legislative hesitation to pass an "unfunded mandate" that we will need to bring this initiative back again next year. We have gotten feedback and constructive advice from influential lawmakers on making changes and a successful path forward is still very much within reach.

A link to the list of all tracked bills for the TPFPA for the two-year session can be found [here](#).

Campaign Season Officially Begins

With the end of session comes the beginning of campaign season. For a full listing of candidates that have qualified for the ballot, you may visit the Secretary of State's website [here](#). Redistricting was one of the first matters taken up the General Assembly this year. For several legislators, the updated districts include new communities, and they are anxious to introduce themselves.