



The Weekly Update

Tennessee General Assembly

House of Representatives

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On Thursday members of the Tennessee House of Representatives passed legislation to help schools combat a potentially deadly infection known as Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA.

House Bill 3814 was named in honor of Kristin Hunter, a local Tennessee student who lost her life to complications from contracting MRSA. Kristen Hunter was only 11 years old and a fifth grader at North Sumner Elementary School when she died tragically from the often fatal staph infection that is difficult to treat and often diagnosed too late to prevent death.

The bill now requires the Tennessee Department of Health to issue an annual advisory to the Tennessee Department of Education explaining the risks of community associated MRSA infections and providing guidance on the most current methods on recognizing and preventing such infections. In addition, the departments will be required to post links to the information contained in the advisory and the advisory will be distributed to primary and secondary schools and early childhood programs. Having passed both chambers unanimously, the bill now moves on to Governor Bredesen for signing.

On a different matter, on Tuesday House Agriculture Committee Chairman Stratton Bone and Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens led the 10th Annual Agriculture Day on the Hill celebration.

Statistics released by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture show that over 18% of the state's economy (over \$60 billion) is generated by agriculture and forestry. Agriculture alone accounts for more than 200,000 Tennessee jobs, with over 11 million Tennessee acres being used as farmland.

In addition to livestock displays including mules, pigs and sheep; a cow milking and goat milking contest was held. Senator Charlotte Burks (D-Monterey) and Rep. Dale Ford (R-Jonesborough) competed in the cow milking contest, while Rep. Mike Turner (D-Old Hickory) and Rep. Ty Cobb (D-Columbia) battled in the goat milking contest. Ford and Cobb emerged victorious in this year's competitions.

Please contact me if I may assist you in any matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

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