To review the previous scorecards, go to www.inconervationstiner.org/scorecard

Scorecard Key
- pro-environment vote or sponsorship
- anti-environment vote or sponsorship
- Two votes, no actions = Neutral

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Scored Legislation
Throughout the session, TCV tracks and takes positions on priority legislation. After the session we examine the votes and determine a selection of bills that best illustrates where legislators stand on environmental issues. Do your legislators support environmental protections? Review their votes in the chart.

SB295/SB362 – Water Quality: Allows the General Assembly to meddle with technical postconstruction stormwater regulations. Proper postconstruction stormwater regulations ensure that pollutants don’t rush into our water supply and also limit the risk of property damage after rains. Enacted as Public Chapter 977 effective January 1, 2019. Positive points for sponsorship and anti-environment vote.

SB06/SB571 – Coal Mining: Removes direct federal supervision and enforcement of coal mine protective standards currently referred to in the Primary Bill. Enacted as Public Chapter 830 effective April 25, 2018. Negative points for sponsorship and pro-environment vote on floor and committee. Positive points for no vote on floor and committee.

SB491/HR1545 – Open Records: Exempts information concerning low level radioactive waste from being classified and not open for public inspection. Did not pass. A similar bill did pass which is positive from a purely open records viewpoint. We did not include that bill as last minute changes broadened this bill’s focus in questionable ways unrelated to radioactive waste. See SB239/HR1818 below in “Worth Noting” section. Positive points for sponsorship.

SB573/HB2437 – Public Hearings: Requires agencies, when statutorily required to hold a public hearing as part of their rulemaking process, to make copies of the rule available in readable form to persons in attendance at the hearing. Enacted as Public Chapter 611 effective July 1, 2018. Positive points for sponsorship.


SB265/HR1846 – Drinking Water in Schools: Requires a school and any local governmental entity conducting a water sample test to notify parents, guardians, etc. of children attending the school when water sample test indicates that specified levels for lead have been exceeded. Did not pass. Positive points for sponsorship and pro-environment vote in House Ed. Administration & Planning. Negative points for no vote in House Ed. Administration & Planning.

SB2354/HR226 – Alternative Fuel: Urges General Services Department to submit a report that contains the number of purchases and leases of government owned operated vehicles capable of using alternative fuels and other relevant data. Did not pass. Positive points for sponsorship and pro-environment vote in committees. Negative points for no vote in committees.

SB2597/HR2432 – Report On Utilizing Energy Savings Performance Contracting: Asks the economic agency to enter into an energy performance or guaranteed energy savings contract using alternative procurement or contracting vehicles for purposes of developing and implementing pilot projects for state owned buildings and facilities. As Enacted in Public Chapter 735 effective July 1, 2018. Positive points for sponsorship.

SB240/HR1816 – Water Reuse: Authorizes DHCR commissioner to expend funds from the Infrastructure & Economic Development Fund to give Commissioners’ authority to make expenditures from the fund for certain management and administrative expenses. Impact is to allow continued recreational use of the (Ouse). Enacted as Public Chapter 753 effective April 18, 2018. Positive points for sponsorship.

SB267/HR2074 – Mass Transit: Requires community engagement in development of a regional plan or initiatives to increase public transportation system access and service to economically disadvantaged areas within a transportation authority, requires municipalities to reassess certain delayed projects and prioritize completion if in the best interest of the community, Bill did not pass. Positive points for sponsorship and pro-environment vote in committees. Negative points for no vote in committees.

SJ061 – Harpeth River: Encourages stakeholders to work collaboratively to restore impaired waters of Harpeth River. Resolution was withdrawn. Positive points for sponsorship.

Worth Noting:
SB1355/HR0785 – Recreational Paddling: Directs TRWA to develop regulations for vessels for nonmotorized vessels including canoes, kayaks, standup paddle boards, tires, and any other vessels. (Does not directly impact paddlers.) There have been problems on certain rivers between private property owners and some users of those rivers which caught the attention of sponsors. Enacted as Public Chapter 969 effective July 1, 2018.

SB2239/HR1815 – Open Records: Records regarding radioactive materials as confidential. Narrows the public records exception for records of the Department of Environment and Conservation concerning radioactive materials to those records that are confidential under federal law, regulation, or guidance. Classifies as confidential records relating to the location of a historical site or artifact when necessary to prevent damage to the site, artifact, or private property. Enacted as Public Chapter 600 effective April 2, 2018.

SB2606/HR1782 – Air Quality: Abolishes certain vehicle inspection and maintenance programs to maintain compatibility with national ambient air quality standards and enacts related provisions. Introduced the bill for obvious reasons. A helpful amendment was adopted to allow some local control. Enacted as Public Chapter 953 effective May 15, 2018.

Contemplated resolution on “Park and Float”: Would have required that TDEC and DOT meet with Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and others to reauthorize a “Park and Float” program to facilitate cooperation in allowing construction and repair roads to be left as “access” roads to facilitate use of waterways for paddling, fishing, etc. Resolution was not filed as a legislative bill but an informal meeting with relevant groups and obtained informal but clear commitments from the two departments to proceed.

*For more information on these bills and to find legislators in your district, visit www.capitol.tn.gov.