

## Plans in works to stiffen penalties for DUI

Representative Johnson is a proponent of a comprehensive DUI package that was turned back in 2008 due to budget constraints.



Proposed changes include:

- Ignition interlocks for DUI violators
- Lowering the blood alcohol threshold for repeat offenders
- Administrative License Revocation
- Tough penalties for refusing a breathalyzer test
- Prohibiting open containers of alcohol by passengers

In addition to making Tennessee roads safer, passing the open container law will provide our state with an additional \$15 million in federal highway funds.



*Contact Phillip Johnson with questions  
or for help with state services:*

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# Representative Phillip Johnson



## 2008 Legislative Wrap Up Report



### Representative Johnson votes to increase cable TV competition

The Tennessee General Assembly this year approved a law to increase competition in the cable TV industry. Representative Phillip Johnson voted for the law saying the real winners are the consumers. The law will increase competition, jobs, choice for consumers, and investment in Tennessee with broadband infrastructure.

New cable competitors can obtain a 10 year franchise but must pay for access permits to rights of way for cable lines. Existing cable companies must continue to serve unprofitable areas. All cable firms must meet FCC mandated customer service standards and provide access to public, education, and government channels. The Tennessee Regulatory Authority has the power to enforce the law by requiring cable providers to credit accounts if they fail to remedy complaints.

### Fair elections promoted by new laws

Representative Johnson supported several laws to improve election integrity. Sensitive voter information contained on laptop computers and storage devices is now safeguarded. This follows a 2007 incident in Nashville where a laptop was stolen containing information on over 300,000 registered voters.

Social Security numbers are now prohibited from appearing on voter registration cards. Another new law requires the state election coordinator to compare voter data with election officials in other states to identify duplicate registrations. Kentucky officials found over 8,000 voters registered in their state and other states.

#### Inside...

learn about Tennessee's new long-term care law and legislation aimed at cracking down on criminal behavior.

#### Back...

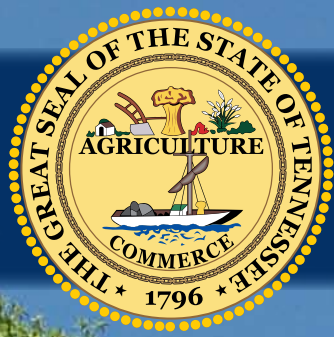
more information about other legislation from this year's session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

#### Contact Representative Johnson...

On the back of this newsletter, you'll find information on how to contact Representative Johnson for more details on new laws, how these laws impact you, or other questions.

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# Phillip Johnson 2008 Legislative Update

## Representative Johnson supports new health care choices for seniors

The Tennessee General Assembly this year approved a multi-faceted effort overhauling the state's long-term care services. Representative Johnson voted for this law designed to help seniors "age in place".

The new long-term care law promotes independence, choice, and dignity for the elderly and disabled. Seniors can choose what types of long-term care they need, where these services are provided, and who will deliver the services.



## Expanding options for seniors and the disabled

Representative Johnson voted to fund expanded access to in-home care services for seniors and disabled persons who do not qualify for TennCare. This new funding will significantly reduce waiting lists for these services. Services funded include:

- Personal care services
- Homemaker services
- Home-delivered meals



## Taking action against sexual predators

Representative Johnson voted to require sexual offenders to obtain and carry a driver's license or photo identification card allowing law enforcement officers to determine that person is a registered sex predator.



## Prohibiting "sanctuary cities" in Tennessee

Representative Johnson was the prime sponsor of a bill prohibiting local governments from enacting sanctuary policies toward illegal immigrants. So-called "sanctuary cities" have sprung up in other states and encourage illegal aliens to flock to these communities. Johnson's bill would require local governments and law enforcement officers to cooperate with federal officials on the immigration status of persons in question.



## Denying benefits to convicted state lawmakers

Legislation was introduced this year denying health insurance benefits to state legislators convicted of felonies related to their office. Unfortunately, this bill was killed in committee. Representative Johnson is opposed to providing any taxpayer-funded benefits to disgraced lawmakers. He will continue to advocate for this legislation.

