

STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

NO. 2

AN ORDER CONCERNING OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, this Administration recognizes, understands and appreciates the right of its citizens to be informed, to have access to government and to governmental records, and to have the proper checks and balances in place to assure government's accountability to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recognizes the recent actions by the General Assembly and the Judicial Branch emphasizing the importance of these issues, policies and measures, and accentuating the recent and increased concerns of Tennesseans for disclosure and accountability; and

WHEREAS, this Administration intends to set a high standard for openness, transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Administration further recognizes that the character of those holding government positions is the cornerstone on which the effectiveness of such policies is based.

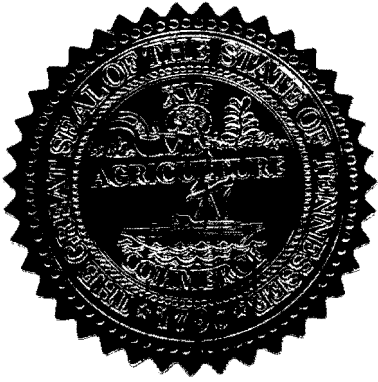
NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby declare that it is the unwavering policy of the Executive Branch to facilitate the right of Tennesseans to know and have access to information with which they may hold state government accountable.

Accordingly, I direct the Deputy Governor and Chief of Staff and my Counsel to arrange for extensive training for all members and employees of my Cabinet and the Departments of the Executive Branch in regard to the statutory and other legal requirements related to open meetings, open records, and applicable ethics and disclosure requirements, and all other matters related to and affecting these issues. In particular, I direct the Commissioners of each of the Departments of the Executive Branch and other members of my Cabinet to take the steps in their respective areas of responsibility necessary to not only comply with legal requirements related to openness and transparency, but also to foster a prevailing mindset of inclusiveness in governmental processes and a recurrent pattern of explaining the basis for decisions made by the Executive Branch at appropriate times.

This Executive Order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Executive Branch of the State of Tennessee and does not create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any other right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the State of Tennessee, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Executive Order No. 2 supercedes any and all other executive orders and implementing directives and memoranda on the same subject.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 15th day of January, 2011.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Haslam", written above a horizontal line.

Bill Haslam, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "He [unclear]", written above a horizontal line.

Secretary of State