

2024 Kentucky General Assembly

Legislative Update #4

Through week of January 26, 2024

Every week, Kentucky Resources Council publishes its summary of environmental, conservation, energy, and general government bills and resolutions. This legislative update of bills we are tracking, supporting, or opposing is complete through the end of January 26, 2024 (legislative day 18). This year is a “long” 60-legislative day session, which began on January 2, 2024, with an anticipated final day on April 15, 2024. There are 42 legislative days remaining in the 2024 Regular Session.

Please note KRC does not have a formal position on each bill or resolution listed. Some are outside our scope of expertise; others tracked for general interest or concern (including many important social and racial justice bills); or to assure they do not become vehicles for mischievous amendments. The first section highlights those bills on which KRC has taken a position, indicating our **support (+)** or **opposition (-)**. The primary bill sponsor is listed first, followed by the current status of the bill (noted by Committee or chamber, as abbreviated below).

Bills, if passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor, become binding law and part of Kentucky’s statutes. Resolutions are expressions of opinion or request by both houses of a legislature, without the force of law (concurrent resolutions); expressions by one house (simple resolutions); or matters of law not to be made a portion of the statutes (joint resolutions). A glossary of other legislative terms can be found [here](#).

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Bills & Resolutions We’re Supporting or Opposing

House Bills

HB 37 (Rep. K. King)(H. CC)(+)

Would require that a “greenhouse gas emissions reduction agreement” be recorded for it to be binding on subsequent purchasers or creditors. This is typical for easements and other constraints running with land during land transfers.

HB 40 (Rep. B. McCool)(H. CC)(+)

Would amend existing statutes to require the board of certification for water treatment and distribution system operators to submit to the Energy and Environment Cabinet recommendations for the establishment of a voluntary certification program for supervisors of certified operators in primary responsible charge of water treatment plants or distribution systems, as well as recommendations for the establishment of a program or strategy for recruiting applicants to work in the operation of water treatment plants or distribution systems who are not currently participating in apprenticeships or certification programs administered by the cabinet.

HB 70 (Rep. Kulkarni)(H. CC)(+)

Would establish a Healthy Soils Program and Fund in the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Conservation to provide technical advice and assistance and to assist with soil health assessments and soil health plans; and require the Agriculture Water Quality Authority to promote soil restoration and include an organic agriculture organization among appointments to the authority.

HB 74 (Rep Kulkarni)(H. CC)(+)

Would establish the Kentucky Urban Farming Youth Initiative to promote farming to youth in urban counties in urban University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service offices.

HB 85 (Rep. Wesley)(H. NR Energy)(-)

Would reduce the number of emergency medical or mine emergency technicians required to be on shift from two to one, if the number of employees on the shift if 10 or less. KRC disagrees with the proposal. Reducing the required medical personnel compromises the ability to ensure swift and effective emergency medical care in the event of accidents or health crises.

HB 91 (Roberts)(H. CC)(+)

Would require the Energy and Environment Cabinet to promulgate administrative regulations to implement a comprehensive program to control explosions and combustion events at metal recycling facilities.

HB 93 (Dossett)(H. CC)(+/-)

This bill would establish the Kentucky Healthy Farm and Food Innovation Board. KRC supports creating opportunities for direct farm impact food access programs, but believes Healthy Farm and Food Innovation should include environmentally sustainable agricultural processes in the board mission, in addition to integrating farm initiatives and nutritional programs.

HB 94 (Lockett) (H. CC)(-)

This proposed Kentucky Constitutional Amendment would eliminate the existing date by which the General Assembly must adjourn in any regular session provided that no session shall extend beyond December 31st of that year. KRC opposes this movement towards a continuous rather than part-time legislature. The voters have already recently rejected a proposal to extend the calendar of the General Assembly.

HB 116 (Kulkarni, Bratcher)(H. CC)(+)

This bill would establish a PFAS Working Group to research the effect that exposure to PFAS has on health outcomes in the Commonwealth; and establish a reporting requirement for manufacturers that intentionally include PFAS in products manufactured for sale or distribution in the Commonwealth; and for PFAS releases in the Commonwealth by

manufacturers.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are synthetic chemicals used in consumer and industrial goods since the 1940s. They are known for breaking down very slowly over time, meaning they endure in the environment. Studies suggest that exposure to some types of PFAS causes harmful health effects in humans and animals. For more information, see: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>.

HB 136 (Bauman)(S. State Local Govt)(-, needs significant revision):

Would extend the statutory evidentiary environmental audit privilege currently available for state environmental regulatory programs under KRS 224.01-040 to the air pollution program of the Jefferson County Air Pollution Control District. KRC has concerns regarding the drafting of the bill, as well as underlying concerns that the current state law may be inconsistent with Kentucky's obligations under the Clean Air Act regarding state regulatory authority over violations.

KRC staff attorney and lobbyist Audrey Ernstberger presented testimony before the House Natural Resources Committee on January 18 regarding these concerns. A copy of the written testimony and video of the committee meeting can be viewed [here](#).

HB 141 (Hart)(H. CC)(-)

Would make water fluoridation programs optional and allow the governing bodies of water systems subject to regulation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to decide whether they participate in water fluoridation programs. Consistent with our historic position, KRC believes that fluoridation meeting state and federal standards, as a tool for advancing oral hygiene, is recognized as an important and effective public health initiative. Further, any issues pertaining to state water fluoridation should be addressed administratively through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

HB 180 (Willner, J. Nemes)(H. CC)(+)

Would create standards prohibiting the disconnection of service by retail electric and gas utilities at certain times, for example, during extreme-weather seasons and during holidays.

HB 197 (Roberts)(H.CC)(+)

Would require the Energy and Environment Cabinet to send notice of a violation issued to a recycling facility to the local governing body where a recycling facility is located.

HB 255 (Pratt)(H. Eco Dev)(-)

Would prohibit the department of workplace standards from promulgating regulations on child labor that are more restrictive than those promulgated by the United States Secretary of Labor. KRC believes that Kentucky regulatory policy should not be shackled to the minimum standards adopted by any federal agency, but instead should be free to adopt those standards deemed advisable and necessary to assure a safe and healthy workplace for all Kentuckians.

HB 283 (Camuel, Stevenson)(H. CC)(+)

Would require any owner, operator, lessee, or licensee of a coal mine holding a license under KRS 337.200 that has been doing business in the Commonwealth for fewer than five consecutive years to submit a certification from the commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards that the licensee is compliant with or exempt from the performance bonding requirements of KRS 337.200.

HB 302 (Raymond)(H. CC)(+)

Would place on the ballot a state constitutional amendment to establish a right of the people to have a healthy environment, including a right to clean air, pure water, and ecologically healthy habitats; declare the Commonwealth's natural resources, among them its air, water, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all people, including generations yet to come; and establish that as trustee of the environment and its natural resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.

HB 305 (Calloway)(H. CC)(-)

Would narrowly define violations of Uniform State Building Code as only immediate threats to personal safety or building stability, and risk weakening compliance with the state's uniform building code. This could encourage inefficient construction practices by eliminating the cause of action for noncompliance with uniform building code Chapter 13, which mandates energy-efficient construction. Chapter 13 also requires adherence to the International Energy Conservation Code, a model that balances economic principles with energy conservation, resource usage, and environmental impact principles. Limiting violations to imminent dangers may undermine consumer protections and incentivize substandard work, allowing harmful conditions to persist until they cause serious harm to individuals and property.

HB 355 (Gentry and others)(H. CC)(+)

Would repeal current law capping state occupational safety and health standards at federal minimum standards.

HB 368 (Aull, Burke)(H. CC)(+)

Would require public middle and high school curriculum to include instruction on the history of racism, including residential segregation and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (a precursor to the environmental justice movement).

House Resolutions

HR2 (Osborne and Rudy)(Adopted)(-)

This resolution, adopted by the House on January 2, 2024, outlines the rules for legislative procedure in during the 2024 Regular Session. KRC is concerned that these rules frustrate transparent government operation, consolidating power in the hands of majority leadership, waiving bill readings, and adopting other provisions that result in legislators and

the general public having little opportunity to review and comment on the proposed legislation. Transparency and accountability should be the rule, and not the exception.

HR 5 (Roberts)(H. CC)(+)

This proposed rule changes would establish a more transparent, more accountable, and therefore more just, system for management of bills and resolutions in the House.

HRs 6-20 (Rabourn)(H. CC)(+)

These proposed rule changes would establish a more transparent, more accountable, and therefore more just, system for management of bills and resolutions in the House.

HJR 40 (McCool)(H. CC)(-)

Would have Kentucky apply for a Title V Constitutional convention to consider amendments to the U.S. Constitution to impose fiscal constraints, limit federal power, and impose term limits. KRC opposes a Title V constitutional convention as what constitutional scholars consider an open-ended venue for potential amendments to the constitution that could adversely affect the bill of rights and other constitutional protections for individuals and minority populations. There are already term limits, which are called “elections,” and no current constitutional impediment to fiscal responsibility.

Senate Bills

SB 16 (Schickel)(S. Ag)(-)

Would criminalize as “agricultural operation interference” the nongovernmental operation of unmanned aircraft, video or audio recording devices, or photography equipment on or above a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) or commercial food manufacturing or processing facility without written consent of the owner or authorized representative of the facility. If enacted, would criminalize citizen monitoring of compliance by regulated CAFO and food processing operations, with applicable environmental and other laws. Premise that overflying and photographing or otherwise documenting visual compliance of commercial or regulated animal feedlot operation is in any way “interfering” with the operation is, proverbially, hogwash.

SB 35 (Deneen)(S. A&R)(+)

Would establish the Trail Town operations grant fund to assist in maintaining, renovating, and marketing trails, fund to be managed by the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.

SB 37 (Southworth)(S. State Local Govt)(+)

Would create open records training requirements for custodians of open records in state government agencies.

SB 59 (Boswell)(S. NR Energy)(-)

Would exempt the illegal taking of Cooper’s Hawks and Red-Tailed Hawks from state fines

or penalties. Both species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and selectively exempting these two hawk species from penalties that would otherwise be available to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is arbitrary and contrary to public policy. Taking either species would still be a federal crime and should be so in Kentucky. Furthermore, passage of this statute might result in confusion and result in individuals violating and being prosecuted under federal law.

SB 60 (Boswell)(S. NR Energy)(-)

Would prohibit the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife from imposing a hunter education requirement for a person to obtain a hunting or fishing license or permit. KRC supports hunter education, and believes the bill is not needed since there is no current requirement for showing education proof before obtaining a license.

SB 101 (Webb and others)(S. L&O)(+/-)

Would prohibit a city, town, county, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth from restricting a person from engaging in an agritourism activity and expand the definition “agritourism activity” to include horseback riding; horse-drawn carriage rides; livestock or poultry shows; petting farms; rodeos; or any activity that has historically involved the utilization of working animals. Local planning and zoning decisions significantly impact environmental health, including language that balances conservation principles and agritourism development would improve the bill.

Senate Resolutions

SJR 84 (Mills and others)(S. State Local Govt)(-)

Would apply to Congress under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraint on the federal government, limit the powers and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress.

Constitutional scholars doubt that a constitutional convention can be so limited. Nothing in the current constitution prevents the Congress from acting with fiscal restraint, and there are already term limits for members of Congress and the executive branch, which are elections.

Other Bills and Resolutions of Note or Concern

Listed below are bills and resolutions on which KRC has not taken a position, but which we believe **are of public interest or concern, and which affect one or more facets of social and racial justice, personal freedom, and social responsibility**. Some may be outside our scope of work, some we are continuing to analyze. They are presented for your information and consideration. Each week, we also highlight action alerts and analysis from allied groups, who are working for **equitable and healthy policies** for all Kentuckians, and news articles discussing legislation.

House Bills

HB 1 (Petrie and others)(H. CC)

Would appropriate general fund monies from budget reserve trust fund account to fund drinking water, wastewater, pension accounts, labs, riverports, and other identified priorities.

HB 5 (Bauman and others)(To Senate)

Dubbed the "Safer Kentucky Act," would reinstate Kentucky's "Three Strikes Law" where the third "strike" triggers a mandatory life sentence, stiffen penalties for many criminal offenses, and place new new limits on charitable bail funds, among other provisions. Read KY-ACLU's analysis [here](#) on why the bill "is an extremely bloated collection of regressive policies and regurgitated ideas that have proven ineffective in the past."

HB 6 (Petrie and others)(H. CC)

House leadership proposal for Executive Branch Budget 2024-2026.

HB 9 (Decker and others)(H. Ed)

Would impose restraints and bans on promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher educational institutions.

HB 10 (Moser and others)(H. HS)

Adds pregnancy to the list of qualifying life events for the purpose of health insurance coverage; addresses other maternal health issues.

HB 18 (Dotson)(S. State Local Govt)

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 65 to prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances that prohibit owners of housing accommodations from refusing to lease or rent the housing accommodation to a person when the person's source of income to pay rent includes funding from a federal housing assistance program. KRC believes that discrimination against potential renters receiving federal housing assistance is inappropriate. (See also SB 25)

HB 23 (Pratt)(H. Rules)

Would require a working smoke detector to be present in any existing residence sold.

HB 24 (Pratt)(H. CC)

Establish consumer rights relating to personal data, including the rights to confirm whether data is being processed, to delete personal data provided by the consumer.

HB 27 (Fister)(H. Ag)

Would exempt soil and water conservation districts from the audits required of a "special

purpose government entity.”

HB 38 (Tipton)(H. CC)

Would abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for existing prisoners.

HB 41 (Callaway)(H. CC)

Would prohibit provision of monetary or in-kind incentives to any institution to encourage immunization.

HB 44 (Hodgston)(H. Elections)

Would require each circuit clerk to prepare a weekly list of all persons who were excused from jury duty for not being a United States citizen.

HB 47 (Rawlings)(H. CC)

Would revise law concerning government substantially burdening exercise of religion.

HB 59 (Massaroni)(H. CC)

Propose to amend Section 170 of the Constitution of KY to provide the General Assembly the authority to exempt all or a portion of any tax and the related provisions of that tax.

HB 72 (Kulkarni)(H.CC)

Would decriminalize possession of cannabis for personal use.

HB 75 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)

Would amend current law to specify duties of landlord with respect to abandoned personal property.

HB 76 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)

Would update the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act.

HB 89 (Brown)(H. CC)

Would prohibit employers from considering or requiring disclosure of prior criminal history as part of the initial job application.

HB 90 (Roberts)(H. CC)

Would license, tax, and regulate production of cannabis.

HB 96 (Fister)(H. Rules)

Would require moments of silence of reflection at the start of each school day and establish guidelines.

HB 100 (Witten)(To Senate)

Would provide that a homeless individual does not have to pay a fee to get a copy of his or her birth certificate.

HB 102 (Doan)(H. Local Govt)

Would amend planning and zoning laws to require local governments to prioritize housing within applicable zones by easing minimum square footage requirements and aesthetic design requirements; facilitating the location of multifamily housing, accessory dwelling units, tiny homes, and manufactured housing; facilitating the permitting and variance process; easing minimum parking requirements, and standards for home occupations; and requiring that zoning laws have a substantial connection to protection of public safety, health, and usage of property.

HB 104 (Frazier Gordon)(H. CC)

Would increase juror pay to \$50 per day.

HB 106 (Maddox)(H. CC)

Similar to SB 5 and 55, would remove the requirement that resident landowners must own five or more acres of farmland to be exempt from sport hunting license requirements when hunting on their own lands, and that the farmland owner sport fishing license exemption and allows any person fishing on private property with the permission of the landowner to do so without procuring a sport fishing license.

HB 110 (Graham)(H.C C)

Beshear Administration's Proposed Transportation Cabinet Budget.

HB 111 (Huff)(H. CC)

Proposed Kentucky Constitution amendment would include in the homestead exemption for owners who are 65 years of age or older any increase in the valuation of the real property that is assessed after the later of the year the owner turned 65 or the year the owner purchased the property.

HB 114 (Graham)(H. CC)

Beshear Administration proposed Executive Branch Budget.

HB 121 (Flannery)(H. CC)

Would create pilot program for allowing Off-Highway Vehicles to use roadways, and to require registration and proof of insurance.

HB 128 (Herron, Brown)(H. CC)

Would require any employer in Kentucky that receives government incentives or does business with the state, federal or local government to pay a living wage.

HB 130 (McPherson)(H. Ag)

Would create process for discontinuance of watershed conservancy districts that fail to meet for over a year or to adopt budgets.

HB 135 (Bauman)(H. CC)

Would provide that no solid waste management district could compel the production or submission of confidential business information, defined as a customer price or service list, from a solid waste management service company.

HB 140 (Hart)(H. CC)

Would remove the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands. KRC does not oppose the concept people being allowed to hunt or fish in ponds or lakes on their own property. Fishing in a stream or river should, KRC believes, still require a license however, the bill would now create an exemption. It is also a concern that "farmland" is not defined in KRS 150 or any other KRS for that matter which would lead to some enforcement issues as to what constitutes a farm. KRC will speak with the sponsor about clean-up language. (see also: SB 5)

HB 151 (Aull)(H. CC)

Would extend voting hours from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

HB 152 (Aull)(H. CC)

Would remove straight-ticket voting as a ballot option in an election.

HB 153 (Aull)(H. CC)

Would adopt interstate compact to elect the president by national popular vote.

HB 160 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)

Would propose Kentucky constitutional amendment to guarantee the right of an individual 21 years of age or older to possess, use, buy, or sell one ounce or less of cannabis and to cultivate, harvest, and store up to 5 cannabis plants for personal use; and for the production, processing, and sale of cannabis and cannabis-derived products to be controlled by the General Assembly.

HB 171 (Hale)(H. State Govt)

Would create a process for installing and removing statues, monuments, or objects of art

on permanent display in the New State Capitol or on New State Capitol campus grounds and require approval by the General Assembly.

HB 172 (Doan)(H. CC)

Would require that property owners who must relocate as a result of a condemnation be compensated for discount points necessary to maintain the interest rate.

HB 175 (Flannery)(H. CC)

Would require the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to obtain approval from the General Assembly before acquiring a hospital that is licensed to provide abortions.

HB 176 (Flannery)(H. Rules, recommitted to H. A&R)

Would increase the pay to jurors from \$5 per day to \$25 per day.

HB 178 (J. Nemes)(H. Judiciary, recommitted to H. A&R)

Would create a cause of action for a person who was wrongfully convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth.

HB 183 (Tate)(H. CC)

Would prohibit the denial of a petition for adoption by an applicant with a disability and require the Cabinet to make reasonable effort to accommodate individuals with a disability in adoption programs.

HB 185 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)

Would establish a coal-country paramedic scholarship that would be administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

HB 187 (Aull, Burke)(H. CC)

Would establish the Kentucky Indigent Persons' Burial Program.

HB 190 (Sharp)(H. CC)

Would prohibit insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, and other pharmacy benefit administrators from requiring or incentivizing the use of mail-order pharmaceutical distributor.

HB 206 (Dietz)(H. CC)

Would create a "collaborative law participation agreement" system and make it an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for disputes involving family or domestic relations laws that would typically be heard in Family Court.

HB 208 (Calloway)(H. CC)(House Floor Amendment 1)

Would amend Kentucky's Constitution to authorize the General Assembly to provide parents of limited financial means a portion of their child's educational costs to attend a school outside of the public school system.

HB 209 (Laferty, Gentry)(H. CC) (reviewing)

Would amend KRS 342.125 to remove the requirement that an affected employee previously diagnosed with occupational pneumoconiosis resulting from exposure to coal dust must have an additional two years of employment in the Commonwealth wherein the employee was continuously exposed to the hazards of the disease in order to reopen a claim.

HB 211 (Herron)(H. CC)

Would establish a program for harm reduction centers, which would offer a variety of health-related services tailored reduce the harm of substance use.

HB 212 (Wesley)(H. CC)

Would allow rescue squad members to participate in the Alan "Chip" Terry Professional Development and Wellness Program.

HB 214 (Hart)(H. CC)

Would codify the rights of individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability and establish a cause of action for the Attorney General to institute a civil action for a violation of this right.

HB 216 (Graham and others)(H.CC)

Would appropriate \$95 million from the budget reserve trust fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to fund one-time supplemental payments to recipients of a retirement allowance from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS) and the State Police Retirement System (SPRS).

HB 217 (Hale and others)(S. NR Energy)

Would remove the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres of land in order to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands.

HB 240 (Burke and others)(H. CC)

Would require an owner or custodian of a firearm to store the firearm in a safe storage depository or to render the firearm incapable of being fired using a gun-locking device and require an owner or other person lawfully in possession of a firearm or any person who sells ammunition to report the loss or theft of the firearm or ammunition to a law enforcement agency.

HB 242 (Maddox)(H. CC)

Would allow certain USDA-exempted poultry processors to sell to end consumers on a farm, at a farmers market, or at a roadside stand.

HB 253 (Witten)(H. CC)

Would require animal control officers to receive training on identifying and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect.

HB 256 (Pollock)(H. B&I)

Would create a grant program "Strengthen Kentucky Homes Program," to help individuals and other entities mitigate wind and hailstorm related damage to their property by adopting "Fortified" construction standards published by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. It further requires insurers for wind and hail coverage to offer a premium discount or rate reduction if a property owner presents a qualifying certificate of compliance with the "Fortified" construction standards.

HB 258 (Witten and others)(H. CC)

Would amend current law to provide that torture of a dog or cat is a Class D felony in every instance and that each act may constitute a separate offense. Rep. Susan Witten sponsored the bill, noting that "Kentucky ranks among the nation's worst states for animal abuse," and "We can do better and we should." See <https://wchstv.com/news/local/kentucky-lawmakers-proposing-stricter-animal-cruelty-laws>

HB 259 (Maddox)(H. CC)

Would lower the age requirement for carrying a concealed and deadly weapon from 21 to 18.

HB 260 (Osborne)(H. CC)

KRC Director's proposed legislative budget for 2024-2026.

HB 261 (Osborne)(H. CC)

The Chief Justice's recommended Judicial Branch Budget for 2024-2026.

HB 262 (Petrie)(H. CC)

Would amend the 2022-2024 State/Executive Branch biennial budget to implement a cap of \$50 million dollars for disaster or emergency funds under the Military Affairs Budget unit in fiscal year 2023-2024.

HB 263 (Petrie and others)(H. CC)

House budget chair's proposal for legislative budget for 2024-2026.

HB 264 (Petrie and others)(H. CC)

The Budget Chair's proposed Judicial Branch Budget for 2024-2026.

HB 287 (Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

Would allow enumerated persons to petition a District Court to issue an order prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm if the person is or has been diagnosed with or treated for a mental condition that causes or is likely to cause impairment in judgment, perception, or impulse control to an extent that presents an unreasonable risk to public health, safety, or welfare if the person were in possession or control of a firearm.

HB 288 (Maddox)(H. CC)

Would eliminate ability of postsecondary facilities, local governments, and units of state government to limit concealed carry in governmental buildings and amend law to no longer prohibit the carrying of concealed deadly weapons in schools and specify that the prohibition of carrying concealed deadly weapons in airports is limited to areas controlled by TSA and make technical corrections.

HB 291 (Raymond)(H. CC)

Would amend current laws to add protections against discrimination based on weight.

HB 295 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

Would eliminate “except as a punishment for crime” from Kentucky’s constitutional prohibition on slavery and involuntary servitude. As Louisville Public Media explains, “Kentucky is one of several states that amended its constitution to ban slavery and indentured servitude. But one group of people are explicitly left out of that ban — people convicted of a crime.” <https://www.lpm.org/news/2023-12-05/ky-constitution-still-allows-slavery-some-lawmakers-want-to-ban-it-completely>

HB 297 (Aull, Burke)(H. CC)

Would allow local governments to pass an ordinance setting employees' minimum wages at a rate higher than that found in state law for employers located within that government's jurisdiction.

HB 303 (Graham)(H. CC)

The Governor's recommended 2024-2026 Biennial Highway Construction Plan.

HB 309 (Rabourn and others)(H. CC)

Would revise existing laws on legislative and executive branch lobbying to prohibit a public agency or any other entity created by an act of the General Assembly from using public funds for lobbying activity or to employ or enter into a contract with a lobbyist; exempt

public agency employees who perform lobbying activities as part of their fiduciary duties; permit a person to file a complaint with the Legislative Ethics Commission if a public agency or entity created by an act of the General Assembly is using public funds to hire a lobbyist or for lobbying activity; transfer a complaint to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission if the alleged violator is an employee of the executive branch of state government; require reporting to the Legislative Ethics Commission if the agency procures a contract with a legislative agent to engage in federal lobbying or uses federal funds to employ or procure a contract with a legislative agent or as part of compensation or salary of an employee to engage in lobbying activity on behalf of the agency, and make other conforming changes.

HB 311 (C. Stevenson)(H.CC)(+)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 411 to define "passenger compartment"; provide civil immunity for damaging a car or truck if a person enters it with a reasonable, good faith belief that a dog or cat is in imminent danger of death if not removed.

HB 312 (C. Stevenson)(H. CC)

Would prohibit an employer from conditioning employment or employment benefits on an employee signing types of nondisclosure agreements related to unlawful acts in the workplace.

HB 313 (C. Stevenson)(H. CC)

Would prohibit retail pet shops from selling dogs, cats, or rabbits.

HB 315 (Tate)(H. CC)

Would require railroad companies to destroy or remove obstructive vegetation upon and within the geographical bounds of its right-of-way at each intersection with a public road or highway; require the Transportation Cabinet to destroy or remove obstructive vegetation when a railroad company fails to do so.

HB 320 (Elliot)(H. CC)

Would establish a statute of limitations of two years for wage and hour violations, and three years in the case of willful violations; and establish a statute of limitations of two years for a violation of KRS Chapter 344, relating to civil rights, and for actions against an employer for wrongful discharge in violation of public policy.

HB 326 (Blanton)(H. CC)

Would require that state and local contracts contain a provision that any iron, steel, aluminum, or manufactured goods used in all state and local projects be manufactured in the United States unless a waiver is granted.

HB 331 (Willner, Herron)(H. CC)

Would allow law enforcement officers to petition a court to issue an extreme risk protection

order when a respondent poses a present danger of causing serious physical injury to themselves or others through purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm, and direct the Kentucky State Police to establish the Kentucky Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearms List to prohibit the possession, sale, or transfer of firearms to individuals who voluntarily request to be added the list; prescribe procedures for application for entry and removal from the list.

HB 332 (Aull)(H.CC)

Would ensure that earned wage advance transactions are considered a loan and codify maximum consideration for such transactions - any violations would be considered an unfair, false, or misleading trade practice.

HB 335 (Massaroni)(H.CC)

Would distinguish between assistance dogs and emotional support animals and limit certain accommodations if certain requirements are unmet. It would specify that emotional support animals are not required where assistance dogs are allowed.

HB 336 (Raymond)(H. CC)

Would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to create an initiative power of the people to propose laws and to enact or reject proposed initiatives at an election; establish procedures for initiatives, effect of adopted initiatives, and parameters for the subject of any initiative.

HB 337 (Raymond)(H. CC)

Would allow a city to establish a mandatory preference for awarding public construction project contracts to unions through a negotiated project labor agreement and permit cities to negotiate wages that are higher than the state or federal minimum wage as a condition of the project labor agreement.

HB 338 (Bratcher)(H. CC)

Would amend existing zoning statutes to require planning commissions to receive complaints and hold public meetings regarding a public nuisance located at a cellular antenna tower site; and require owners of a cellular antenna to attend the public meeting and take all necessary actions to address the public nuisance.

HB 341 (Meredith and numerous others)(H. Rules)

Would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to prohibit persons who are not citizens of the United States from being allowed to vote in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HB 342 (Bray)(H.CC)

Would allow certain USDA-exempted poultry processors to sell to end consumers on a farm, at a farmers market, or at a roadside stand.

HB 344 (Burke and others)(H.CC)

Would prohibit housing discrimination based on an individual's source of income.

HB 358 (Wesley)(H. CC)

Would require the biological sex designation on a birth certificate to be either male or female and prohibit a nonbinary or any symbol representing a nonbinary designation including the letter "X."

HB 362 (Burke and others)(H. CC)

Would prohibit employers from discharging or retaliating against an employee who is a crime victim when the employee takes leave to attend proceedings associated with the prosecution of a crime.

HB 367 (Williams)(H.CC)

Would restructure the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program to, among other things, prohibit the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from granting noncash, in-kind, or other benefits to individuals in the program unless individuals are eligible for those benefits under a different program and amend existing law to require the Cabinet to obtain authorization from the General Assembly before waiving work requirements.

HB 369 (Aull)(H. CC)

Would remove Robert E. Lee Day, Confederate Memorial Day, and Jefferson Davis Day from the list of public holidays.

HB 371 (Williams and others)(H. CC)

Would amend laws concerning mine subsidence insurance coverage to require the administrator to establish the maximum total insured value reinsured per structure; increase the coverage amount for living expenses from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

HB 373 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

Would prohibit unlawful storage of a firearm and establish elements of the crime as recklessly allowing access to an unsecured firearm by a minor.

HB 376 (Stalker and others)(H. CC)

Would remove provisions related to parental rights and courses, curriculums, or programs on human sexuality, provide for a process for parents to opt out of their child receiving instruction on the subject of human sexuality; remove provisions requiring a school obtain parental consent prior to providing health services or mental health services to students; remove language concerning policies to encourage or facilitate conversations between parents and students; remove language limiting Kentucky Board of Education or

Department of Education policies regarding student confidential information and the use of pronouns; and require a local school district to use pronouns for students that the student requests; and require a school to provide an accommodation to a students who asserts to school officials that their gender is different from their biological sex that includes the use of facilities designated for the gender of which the students identify.

HB 378 (Gentry and numerous others)(H. CC)

Would name and designate coal as the official rock of Kentucky; and name and designate chalcedony agate as the official mineral of Kentucky.

HB 381 (Willner and others)(H. CC)

Would require each local school board to include at least one student representative.

House Resolutions

HJR 28 (Doan)(H. CC)

Simple resolution would direct Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to study the cost and benefits of increasing the maximum interstate highway speed limit.

HJR 29 (Doan)(H. CC)

Appropriate \$100k in General Fund moneys in the fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Forest Stewardship Incentives Fund.

HJR 44 (Rawlings and others)(H. CC)

Would claim the right of Kentucky to nullify unconstitutional acts of the federal government; direct the Attorney General to challenge all unconstitutional acts of the federal government that usurp or diminish the sovereignty of Kentucky; provide that the General Assembly may enact legislation nullifying unconstitutional acts that undermine Kentucky's sovereignty.

HJR 48 (Graham)(H. CC)

Provide that the General Assembly shall adopt the last four years of the Governor's recommended six-year road plan as a joint resolution.

HR 53 (Grossberg)(Adopted)

Recognize January 27, 2024, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. As we are witnessing an alarming rise of antisemitism around the globe, read here on why it is more important than ever for us to recognize the critical lessons of Holocaust history as we commemorate the victims and honor the survivors.

<https://www.ushmm.org/remember/international-holocaust-remembrance-day>

Senate Bills

SB 5 (G. Williams, Thayer)(To House)(H. CC)

Would remove the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands. KRC does not oppose the concept people being allowed to hunt or fish in ponds or lakes on their own property. Fishing in a stream or river should, KRC believes, still require a license. However, the bill would now create an exemption. It is also a concern that “farmland” is not defined in KRS 150 or any other KRS for that matter which would lead to some enforcement issues as to what constitutes a farm. KRC will speak with the sponsor about clean-up language.

SB 6 (Wilson and others)(S. Ed.)

Seeks to limit diversity, equity, and inclusion practices at Kentucky's public colleges and universities.

SB 10 (McDaniel)(To House)(H. CC)

Proposed Kentucky constitutional amendment would change state constitutional officer elections to even-numbered years beginning after the November 2027 election.

SB 13 (Westerfield and others)(S. CC)

Would allow law enforcement officers to petition a court to issue orders when a respondent presents an immediate and present danger of causing serious physical injury to themselves or others through purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm; and establish procedures for the surrender, storage, transfer, and return of firearms.

SB 15 (Westerfield)(S. Eco Dev)

Would define various consumer rights related to personal data collection and empower office of Attorney General to enforce.

SB 22 (Westerfield)(S. A&R)

Would increase juror compensation to \$125 per day.

SB 23 (M. Nemes)(S. Rules)

Proposed Kentucky constitutional amendment to include in the homestead exemption for owners who are 65 years of age or older any increase in the valuation of the real property that is assessed after the later of the year the owner turned 65 or the year the owner purchased the property.

SB 25 (West and others)(To House)

Would prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances requiring landlords to accept Section 8 HUD support for lessees. KRC opposes discrimination against persons with low and limited incomes based on source of income. Read coverage of the bill by the Kentucky Lantern [here](#) and Herald-Leader [here](#).

SB 39 (Southworth)(S. State Local Govt)

Would prohibit legislative agents or employers of legislative agents from making campaign contributions to legislators, candidates, campaign committees for legislators or candidates, caucus campaign committees, or permanent committees that donate to or make independent expenditures for legislators at any time.

SB 41 (Harper Angel)(S. Ag)

Would prohibit retail pet shops from selling dogs or cats; and prohibit the sale or transfer of ownership of a dog or cat in a publicly accessible space.

SB 42 (R. Thomas)(S. A&R)

Would incrementally raise minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour increase for employers of \$500,000 average annual gross volume of sales for the employer and include anti-preemption language permitting local governments to establish higher minimum wages.

SB 54 (R. Thomas)(S. A&R)

Would adopt the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act.

SB 55 (Boswell, Douglass)(S. NR Energy)

Would allow a bona fide resident landowner and other authorized persons to take fish from any lake or pond located on the owner's property without procuring a sport fishing license. The bill is similar to SB 5 but applies to the landowner rather than "farmland." In regard to creating a license exemption for fishing, it only applies to lakes and ponds so a license would still be required for fishing in a stream or river. It also allows a landowner to give permission to fish on his property and that person would be license exempt as well. The bill goes further and completely exempts the lakes or ponds on private property from any limits on method, bag, creel, or size as well as any applicable season date which could cause regulatory issues with commercial pay lakes.

An aspect of this bill of concern is that it could be read to allow a landowner to stock their pond with anything but invasive species, yet invasive is not defined anywhere in statute or regulation and the only "invasive" species on the prohibited list is carp. There are non-native species that the Department prohibits that could be detrimental to native populations but would not be considered "invasive." KRC will discuss with the sponsor possible amendment to address this last concern.

SB 56 (Neal)(S. Veterans)

Would require an owner or custodian of a firearm to store the firearm in a safe storage depository or render the firearm incapable of being fired using a gun-locking device and require an owner or other person lawfully in possession of a firearm or any person who sells ammunition to report the loss or theft of the firearm or ammunition to a law enforcement agency.

SB 61 (Schickel)(S. State Local Govt)

Would eliminate no-excuse in-person absentee voting and provide that excused in-person absentee voting shall be conducted during normal business hours for at least 13 working days before an election.

SB 65 (West)(S. State Local Govt)

Would nullify three emergency medical regulations found deficient during 2023 interim.

SB 66 (Southworth)(S. Veterans)

Would repeal KRS 237.115, which interprets the application of the license to carry concealed deadly weapon statute as permitting post-secondary facilities and state and local governments to limit concealed carry in governmental buildings.

SB 70 (Wheeler and others)(S. L&O, reassigned to S. Judiciary)

Would provide that charitable organizations that accept contributions pursuant to an endowment agreement must abide by the terms of the endowment agreement; allow civil action by donor against a charitable organization that violates the terms of the endowment agreement.

SB 72 (Yates)(S. Judiciary)

Would prohibit driving under the influence of intoxicating hemp products.

SB 74 (Yates)(S. FC)

Would retroactively decriminalize possession, cultivation, or trafficking of marijuana up to 8 ounces or 5 plants.

SB 76 (West)(S. State Local Govt)

Would prohibit local government from adopting or enforcing landlord – tenant ordinances conflicting with state law.

SB 78 (Southworth, Tichenor)(S. State Local Govt)

Would require that voting systems contain components and subcomponents that are only manufactured, integrated, and assembled in the United States.

SB 80 (Southworth, Tichenor)(S. Rules)

Would remove student or employee identification document as proof of voter's identity; and remove a credit or debit card as a secondary form of identification to confirm a voter's identity.

SB 83 (Southworth)(S. State Local Govt)

Would remove straight-party voting as a ballot option in a regular election.

SB 93 (Meredith and others)(S. Ed)

Would prohibit public school districts and schools from engaging in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging or political or social activism except as necessary to provide for state or federal law. And eliminates references to a trauma-informed approach. Read the Action Alert by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth [here](#).

SB 96 (Armstrong)(S. Judiciary)

Would create a process to automatically expunge misdemeanors, violations, and traffic infractions after five years, beginning in August 2025.

SB 99 (Yates, Angel)(S. CC)

Provides exceptions for rape and incest to Kentucky's near-total abortion ban.

SB 106 (Tichenor)(S. FC)

Would create requirement for animal control officers to be trained in identifying, and reporting, suspected child abuse or neglect.

SB 114 (Southworth)(S. CC)

Would modify the types of school facilities where weapons are prohibited; state that the prohibition of weapons on school grounds only applies when entrances to the school buildings display a sign indicating that unlawfully possessing a weapon in a school is a felony; remove the requirement that signs be prominently displayed indicating possessing a weapon in a school is prohibited; remove the provision that failure to post the signs indicating weapons are prohibited in schools shall not relieve a person of liability.

SB 117 (Neal, Givens)(S. CC)

Would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances. (See HB295)

SB 119 (Adams)(S. Ag)

Would require peace officers and animal control officers to serve notice of seizure of an animal subjected to cruelty and allow seizing agencies to petition a court to order payment of animal care costs by owner.

SB 120 (Williams)(S. CC)

Similar to House Bill 309, would amend numerous sections of existing lobbying laws to prohibit a public agency or any other entity created by an act of the General Assembly from using public funds for lobbying activity or to employ or enter into a contract with a lobbyist; prohibit a public agency from using public funds for lobbying activity or to employ or contract with a lobbyist; require a public agency to report to the Legislative Ethics Commission if the agency procures a contract with a legislative agent to engage in federal

lobbying or uses federal funds to employ or procure a contract with a legislative agent or as part of compensation or salary of an employee to engage in lobbying activity on behalf of the agency.

SB 125 (Wheeler, Turner)(S. Rules)

Would extend deadline for local governments to start off-highway vehicle pilot programs to July 1, 2027 and expand the definition of local government to include any local government that operates a public OHV trail system.

SB 126 (McDaniel)(S. State Local Govt)

Would amend the KY Constitution to prohibit the Governor's ability to grant pardons or commute sentences beginning 30 days prior to a gubernational election and ending at the gubernational inauguration.

SB 130 (Southworth and others)(S. CC)

Would make it unlawful for a state agency to discriminate against a person based on his or her access to electronic means to obtain benefits or gain access to public buildings.

SB 133 (Southworth)(S. CC)

Would amend existing law to narrow the powers of the emergency management system and the emergency powers of the Governor, and to limit the effect of any promulgated administrative regulation issued by the Governor related to an emergency or disaster that restricts in-person meeting or imposes mandatory quarantine or isolation requirements to 30 days.

Senate Resolutions

SR 5 (Thayer)(Adopted)

Resolution adopting the Rules of the Senate for 2024 Session.

SR 28 (Neal)(S. Floor)

Memorial resolution honoring late Governor Carroll.

SR 29 (Thayer)(S. Floor)

Memorial resolution honoring late Governor Brereton Jones. Read KRC's tribute to Gov. Brereton Jones in our October newsletter [here](#), noting Kentucky is a better place for his many years of government and civic service to the people of the Commonwealth and in his support for conservation, environmental, and other areas affecting the public interest.

SCR 47 (Southworth)(S. Transp)

Urge the United States Congress to repeal the REAL ID Act of 2005.

SR 93 (Neal)(S. Floor)

Simple resolution to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the civil rights movement, the 60th Anniversary of the March on Frankfort, and Kentucky's historic involvement therein, and to urge support and participation in the commemorative March on Frankfort. Learn more and join the Frazier History Museum, Louisville Metro Government Office of Equity, and the Courier Journal as they present *March on Frankfort: The 60th Anniversary*: [here](#).

SR 97 (Southworth)(Adopted)

Recognize January 27, 2024, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. (See HR 53).

SHARE THESE NOTICES

Feel free to utilize, reprint, or quote from our bill analyses! We ask only that you attribute KRC as the source when you use our analytical material (so we can take all the blame for anything we've gotten wrong!). If you know someone who would like to be added to this list, they can sign up for newsletters [here](#). Our legislative update will be refreshed and republished each Friday afternoon when the General Assembly is in session.



Find copies of bills, votes, and more information:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/24rs/record.html>

To find out bill status by phone, call 1-866-840-2835

Leave a message for a legislator on the message line:

Call 1-800-372-7181 to leave a message for a legislator or an entire committee.

En Espanol, el nombre es 1-866-840-6574.

Schedules and calendars:

The **2024 legislative calendar is found [here](#)** and the **standing committee schedule is found [here](#)**. There is also **[daily schedule](#)** published on the preceding day, which may alter the committee schedule to cancel a meeting, or to propose a special meeting.

Stay updated:

Livestreams of legislative action can be viewed through feeds provided by Kentucky Educational Television (KET) and the Legislative Research Commission (LRC). For links to the livestreams, go to:

<https://legislature.ky.gov/Public%20Services/PIO/Pages/Live-Streams.aspx>.

The **[online Legislative Record](#)** has information on every piece of legislation introduced in the Senate and House. You can read summaries, the full text of bills, resolutions,

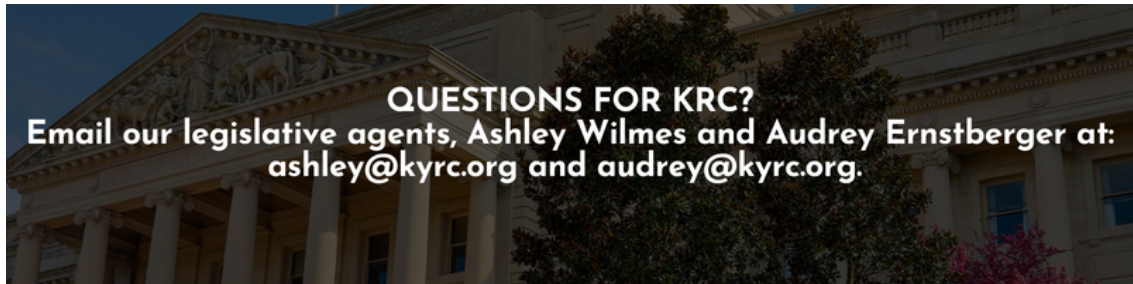
amendments and see exactly how far each piece of legislation has advanced in the process. Bills can be looked up according to bill number, sponsor or topic. If a bill has been voted on in a chamber, you can see how each lawmaker voted by clicking “Vote History” on a bill’s summary page.

Bill Watch, a bill tracking service, provided through a partnership of Kentucky.gov and LRC, sends users email notifications each time a bill they are interested in takes a step forward. To sign up for Bill Watch, go to:

<https://www.kentucky.gov/services/pages/billwatch.aspx>

If you have a question about the lawmaking process or legislative resources, the LRC Public Information Office can be reached by calling 502-564-8100 ext. 59105.

Key to understanding where a bill is in the process:	
H. Ag	House Agriculture
H. A&R	House Appropriations and Revenue Committee
H. B&I	House Banking and Insurance Committee
H. CC	House Committee On Committees (This is the “first stop” for all new bills, from which the bills are assigned to a committee for consideration.)
H. Eco Dev	House Economic Development & Workforce Investment Committee
H. Ed	House Education Committee
H. Elections	House Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
H. FC	House Family and Children Committee
H. HS	House Health Services Committee
H. Judiciary	House Judiciary Committee
H. L&O	House Licensing, Occupations And Adm. Regulations Committee
H. Local Govt	House Local Government Committee
H. Nat Res Energy	House Natural Resources and Energy Committee
H. Rules	House Rules Committee
H. Sm Bus	House Small Business and Information Technology Committee
H. State Govt	House State Government Committee
H. Tourism	House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee
H. Transp	House Transportation Committee
H. Veterans	House Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee
S. Ag	Senate Agriculture Committee
S. A&R	Senate Appropriations and Revenue
S. B&I	Senate Banking and Insurance Committee
S. CC	Senate Committee on Committees
S. Eco Devee	Senate Economic Development, Tourism and Labor Committee
S. Ed	Senate Education Committee
S. FC	Senate Family and Children Committee
S. HS	Senate Health Services Committee
S. Judiciary	Senate Judiciary Committee
S. L&O	Senate Licensing and Occupations Committee
S. NR Energy	Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
S. Rules	Senate Rules Committee
S. State Local Govt	Senate State and Local Government Committee
S. Transp	Senate Transportation
S. Veterans	Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee



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