

KENTUCKY RESOURCES COUNCIL
2024 General Assembly Regular Session
Bills We're Watching: 8th Edition

The 2024 General Assembly has passed the halfway mark and Kentucky Resources Council is again tracking environmental, conservation, consumer, energy, and general government bills and resolutions. We update this analysis weekly of the bills we are supporting, opposing, or tracking, and supplement it with action alerts. This summary is complete through end of legislative day 37, February 23, 2024. There are 23 legislative days remaining before adjournment.

This year is a “long” 60-legislative day session and began on January 2, 2024, with an anticipated final day on April 15, 2024. March 27th and 28th are set aside as “concurrence” days, and there is a “veto” recess from March 29th through April 9th before the General Assembly reconvenes on April 12th and 15th to consider any vetoes of bills and to finish work on bills and resolutions prior to adjournment *sine die*.

Feel free to forward this to anyone you feel might be interested, and to utilize, reprint or quote from the 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, tell them to write us at hello@kyrc.org. The legislative update will be refreshed and republished each Friday afternoon when the General Assembly is in session.

Please note that the Council *does not* have a position on each bill or resolution listed. Some bills are tracked for general interest; others simply to assure that they do not become vehicles for mischievous amendments. We have formatted this update to highlight in the first section, those bills on which KRC has taken a position.

- Where KRC has taken a position concerning a bill it is indicated with a plus (+) for support, or minus (-) for oppose.
- The primary bill sponsor is then listed, followed by the current status of the bill (noted by Committee or chamber).
- If there is no indication of assignment to a committee, the bill has not yet been assigned and remains in the Committee on Committees, where introduced bills and resolutions are initially sent.

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).

Here's the 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 & 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 Dev = Senate Economic Development, Tourism and Labor Committee

S. Ed = Senate Education Committee

S. FC = House Family and Children Committee

- S. HS = House 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

Bills & Resolutions On Which KRC Has Taken a Position

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. Rules)(-)

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 is 15 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. KRC is working with allies to address the concerns with the bill. We recommend, at the very least, a provision that states mines with multiple reportable accidents or with one serious or fatal accident on record in a calendar year are excluded from this provision and must have two emergency medical or mine emergency technicians on shift.

See our joint letter with ally Appalachian Citizens' Law Center in opposition to the bill [here](#).

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 135 (Bauman)(S. 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. KRC has concerns, which we have shared with the Sponsor, regarding citizen access to information, and the broad wording of this statute may impose barriers to citizen oversight of waste management. KRC is also concerned that the county or waste district be able to request such information as is needed to allow completion of solid waste management plans.

HB 136 (Bauman)(S. State Local Govt)(-, needs 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. Rules)(-)

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 209 (Laferty, Gentry)(H. CC) (+)

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 255 (Pratt)(S. CC)(-)

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 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 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 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).

HB 427 (Rabourn and Doan)(H. CC)(+)

Would prohibit a sanitation district from imposing any fee, tax, surcharge, or other charge for the provision of service to a property unless the property is connected to a sanitary sewer owned or maintained by the sanitation district or there is an approved plan to connect the property to a sanitary sewer owned or maintained by the sanitation district within two years, the property discharges storm water to a storm sewer or storm water improvement owned or operated by the sanitation district and if it discharges to a new improvement or facility that it not be more than one mile from the nearest property boundary, the person responsible for the charge has agreed to the charges in writing with the sanitation district that provides the service.

Centralized sanitation systems play a crucial role in reducing environmental contamination, safeguarding natural ecosystems, and maintaining high water quality. KRC supports removing prohibitive barriers for property owners whose property is

not currently connected to a sanitation district but has the potential to do so.

HB 445 (Smith, Blanton, Dotson)(H. CC)(-)

Would prohibit the Public Service Commission from approving the retirement of a fossil fuel-fired electric generating unit unless the commission finds that the utility has no undepreciated investment in the unit and that the costs to operate the unit are greater than the revenue that it generates.

This bill would mark the second session in which the General Assembly has attempted to skew the regulatory process at the Public Service Commission by imposing standards and presumptions in order to extend the life of uneconomic coal-fired power plants. Tying retirement of electric generating units to full depreciation of the assets ignores that historically depreciation has been extended beyond the useful life of assets to spread the costs and lower rate impacts to ratepayers. Enactment of the law would require ratepayers to pay significant money through higher electricity rates to pay for operation and maintenance of regulated electric generating units beyond their useful life. Additionally, tying retirement of units to the revenue that they generate could be read to require continued use of units that are uneconomic for ratepayers, as long as the generated power could be sold into the market.

HB 478 (Dixon, Bentley)(H. NR Energy)(-)

Would allow the doubling of size of a less-than-one-acre construction and demolition debris landfill to two acres. The construction standards for less than one acre CD&D landfills are significantly more lax and less protective of the environment than for landfills of 1 acre or greater in size accepting the same types of wastes. This bill would allow a doubling of the size of the less than one acre CD&D landfill without any upper limit on the number of such landfills that would be allowed on a property.

The current distinction between one acre and greater-than-one-acre CD&D landfills is arbitrary, with the smaller landfills allowed to be operated without the sort of protections such as leachate collection systems and surface and groundwater monitoring, that are required for larger landfills disposing of the same types of waste. Expanding this arbitrary distinction allows the undermanagement of CD&D wastes in two-acre sites rather than the current one-acre sites. As it has in past

sessions when this bill was filed, KRC opposes the expansion of the less-than-one-acre landfill sizes, and believes that instead the distinction should be eliminated and all CD&D landfills should be required to install liner, leachate collection, and groundwater monitoring.

HB 501 (Dossett)(H. CC)(-)

Would require Senate confirmation for all appointments or reappointments made by the Governor to boards, commissions, committees, and councils. KRC is concerned that requiring Senate confirmation for all boards, commissions, committees and councils, could further politicize a number of nonpartisan appointments that are currently made on advice and consultation with technical and subject-matter organizations and groups.

HB 506 (Rawlings and others)(H. CC)(+/-)

Would make findings and declarations regarding the dangers of atmospheric polluting activities and the Commonwealth's authority to prohibit geoengineering; define terms; and prohibit geoengineering. Geoengineering, which is under study by some researchers as a potential strategy for offsetting climate change, can include both direct ground-based carbon scouring from the ambient air, and dispersing particles into the air to deflect sun rays or to modify weather or climate.

Although KRC is unaware of any proposal to use geoengineering as a strategy for climate change mitigation that would necessitate consideration of this bill at this time, KRC does appreciate that (probably unintentionally) the bill recognizes that air pollution is a significant public health and environmental concern, since it notes that “atmospheric polluting activities involving the intentional release of polluting emissions” is a danger to human health and safety and the environment; threatens air, water, soil, and wildlife resources; and disrupt agricultural operations. These same findings that animate this bill seeking to prevent intentional manipulation of the atmosphere, make a strong argument against other forms of air pollution that cause the same harmful effects due to the intentional use by pollution sources of the public air as their waste disposal strategy.

HB 509 (Hodgson, Osborne, Nemes)(H. CC)(-)

Would require a public agency to furnish an officer, employee, board member, or

commission member an agency email account; and prohibit an employee or a member of a board, commission, or public agency from using an email account other than an agency-furnished or agency-designated email account under pain of discipline or removal.

KRC takes no issue with requiring these employees to use an agency-issued email. However, the bill would also place new limits on what the law defines as a public records by excluding from the definition of public records, "preliminary drafts; notes; correspondence with private individuals, other than correspondence which is intended to give notice of a transaction or a final action; preliminary recommendations or discussions;" and other items. Read [here](#) (Hoptown Chronicle) on why the Kentucky Press Association and Kentucky Open Government Coalition (read their statement [here](#)) oppose this bill as "unprecedented attack on the public's right to know."

HB 526 (Grossberg)(H. CC)(+)

Would establish a civil cause of action for a tenant against a landlord who receives a citation for a violation of a local housing code and does not remedy the violation within 90 days. Common violations include inadequate plumbing or electrical systems, improper waste disposal, structural issues, lack of proper ventilation, nuisance odors, and failure to maintain a safe and habitable environment, all of which may impact both the health of residents and the environment.

HB 555 (Rawlings)(H. CC)(-)

Would rewrite rules for the construction of statutes by reviewing courts in several ways that would create new barriers to judicial challenges to laws that overreach, including mandating that courts give no weight to the legislative history of an enacted law. The bill would likely be construed as an unconstitutional intrusion into the province of the judiciary under Ky. Constitution Sections 27 and 28. By removing the rule that strictly construes legislative actions in derogation of common law, the bill also encroaches on the jural rights of Kentuckians that are preserved against legislative incursion under Sections 2 and 14 of the Kentucky Constitution.

HB 563 (Bray and others)(H. A&R)(-)

Bill would provide loan assistance through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority to

troubled or economically restrained water and wastewater systems. Would create a “partnership” role for the Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA) in aspects of the implementation of the program, including the processing, evaluation, and scoring of applications for recommendations for financial assistance. KRC supports the provision of assistance to struggling water and wastewater systems, but believes that such a function, and any determinations regarding financial assistance using public monies, should be undertaken by a state agency rather than being delegated in whole or in part to any non-governmental entity, including the KRWA, whose membership includes rural water districts, and which may include districts that are among those seeking financial loan assistance through the program. At a minimum, no monies loaned through such a program should be able to be used to retire any debt owed to the KRWA’s finance corporation, to prevent any structural conflict of interest.

HB 579 (Dossett)(H. CC)(+)

Would amend eminent domain laws to require that before a condemnor exercises the right of eminent domain with regard to private property, the condemnor shall engage in good faith negotiations with the property owner, seek written consent from the property owner to make an audio or video recording of the good faith negotiations and to submit the recording to the Attorney General, refrain from making any materially false or misleading statements, and not enter into any legally binding agreement with the property owner until a survey of the property has been completed at the expense of the condemnor.

KRC supports providing protections for landowners when government or entities to whom government has delegated the power of condemnation, is proposed to be exercised. KRC would support a revision to this bill to preclude would-be condemnors from accessing private property for surveys absent consent of the landowner.

HB 581 (Upchurch and others)(H. CC)(Under review)

Would prohibit local governments from using the zoning process or adopting any measure that prohibits or restricts the ability of a retail filling station from locating in areas in which similar businesses may locate, discriminates against the use or location of a retail filling station, or treats retail filling stations differently than electric vehicle charging stations; allow restrictions on retail filling stations provided

they are similar to those for other businesses, do not prohibit their operation, and are not in conflict with state or federal law.

HB 582 (Palumbo)(H. CC)(Under review)

Would exclude hybrid vehicles from the ownership fee paid annually when registering an electric or hybrid vehicle.

KRC believes that all vehicles using Kentucky's roadways should pay a fair share of the costs of highway maintenance, and will be reviewing this and other bills affecting annual registration fees to assure fair treatment of hybrid and EVs.

HB 583 (Lawrence and others)(H. CC)(+)

Would require that the chief executive officers of all forms of local government and mayors receive notification of a declaration of an environmental emergency in their jurisdiction.

HB 607 (Gooch)(H. CC)(+)

Would amend existing law to expressly require that each public utility regulated by the Public Service Commission furnish affordable and reliable utility service, thus making affordability an explicit consideration in Commission determination of the reasonableness of utility rates and adequacy of service.

HB 626 (Blanton)(H. CC)(-)

Would create a new crime of "interference with a legislative proceeding" which is defined as engaging in disorderly or disruptive conduct in any legislative building that interrupts or impedes or prevents the General Assembly from conducting business, or who enters in or remains in a part of the building reserved for legislators or obstructs or impedes a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative staff member's ingress, egress, or movement within a legislative building.

The criminalization of a number of activities that would fall squarely within the first amendment right to peaceful demonstration and assembly is of significant concern to KRC. The mere blocking of an entrance, mere presence in a chamber of the legislature, or in the gallery, could be considered a criminal activity. The bill also

criminalizes conspiring to engage in and facilitating another person engaging in such interference, reaching an even broader swath of conduct, which may chill speech as to the organization of peaceful and lawful demonstrations. And legislative building is defined broadly enough to cover anywhere that the General Assembly, or any committee, or subcommittee of the legislature, or any task force meets.

HB 628 (W. Williams)(H. CC)(-)

Would impose unworkable deadlines on the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) to issue final orders within six months of the filing of an application by a utility; would subject contractors hired to advise the Commission to cross-examination and discovery requests. Since decisions rendered by the Commission are required to be made on the record developed under oath and subject to full discovery, and the experts hired by the Commission to advise on technical matters stand in the shoes of Commission staff and assist the Commission in reviewing evidence that is subject to full examination and discovery, there is no legitimate justification for or reason to subject those advisors to cross-examination or discovery.

HB 629 (Willner, Nemes)(H. CC)(+)

Would require PSC-regulated electric utilities to require retail electric suppliers to file monthly disconnection reports with the Public Service Commission and would make those filings publicly available on the PSC website.

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.

HJR 66 (Lawrence)(H. CC)(-)

Scaled-back version of HJR 40 would have Kentucky apply for a Title V Constitutional convention to consider amendments to the U.S. Constitution to 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.”

HR 70 (Meade, Osborne)(Adopted)(-)

Simple resolution would urge the United States Congress to enact legislation to reform federal permitting and environmental review processes to expedite the deployment of modern energy infrastructure. While timely review of infrastructure projects is a laudable goal, much of the rhetoric in the resolution presupposes that

thorough environmental review is an obstacle rather than an essential component of sustainable infrastructure development.

HR 96 (Gooch)(H. CC)(-)

Simple resolution would express concern about federal overreach on the chemical industry.

Although KRC concurs that regulation should be grounded in science and promote innovation, we disagree fundamentally that pending regulatory actions addressing chemical manufacture and waste management, including but not limited to PFAs and PFOAs, is in any fashion overreach.

HJR 90 (Raymond)(H. CC)(+)

Would direct the Transportation Cabinet to conduct a study on the environmental impact of road salt and the feasibility of alternative deicing methods.

Senate Bills

SB 16 (Schickel)(H. CC)(-)

Would criminalize as “agricultural operation interference” the nongovernmental operation of unmanned aircraft, or on the ground use of 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 both citizen and government monitoring of compliance of animal feeding operations and food processing operations, with applicable environmental and other laws.

While advocates described the bill as simply preventing drones from overflying factories and animal operations, the committee substitute to the bill does much more, criminalizing the documenting of on-site conditions by state environmental or occupational safety inspectors, and making it illegal for a neighbor, on his own property, to take photos, air samples, or even record pollution from neighboring or nearby factories or confined animal feeding operations.

KRC testified against the bill, and submitted written testimony, which can be read [here](#). KRC will continue to work to defeat or amend the bill to remove the many unintended impacts.

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, reassigned to S. Ag)(+/-)

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.

SB 159 (Armstrong)(S. State Local Govt)(+)

Would establish a voluntary PFAS blood test reimbursement program using moneys from the Firefighters Foundation Program fund and operated by the Kentucky Fire Commission.

SB 186 (Berg)(S. NR Energy)(+)

Would require broadband service providers to give their retail customers notification of planned or unplanned outages; require the broadband service provider notice to include an estimate of when service will be restored; prohibit notification being predicated on enrollment by the customer; require the notification provision be in all customer contracts and franchise agreements with local governments.

SB 198 (Carroll)(S. Rules)(+/-)

Would establish the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority as the nonregulatory state government agency on nuclear energy issues and to support and facilitate the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem across the Commonwealth; with an advisory board to govern the authority and a purpose of assisting interested communities in understanding advanced nuclear opportunities, developing the capacity for nuclear energy development in the Commonwealth, seek clarity on early nuclear site permitting, working with energy communities that have hosted nuclear-related or fossil fuel activities to assist in exploring nuclear energy opportunities, strengthening engagement with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, producing a site suitability study to identify the best potential locations for nuclear facility sites in the Commonwealth, and developing and implementing a nuclear marketing and education plan.

The issue of nuclear energy development in the Commonwealth is one that KRC has

long expressed opposition and caution. The reasons for KRC's concern and opposition are summarized as these: the lack of a long-term strategy for permanent management of wastes associated with nuclear fission; the carbon-heavy footprint of the uranium fuel cycle; the runaway costs associated with nuclear power plant construction (which have been exacerbated rather than resolved through SMRs); and the numerous alternatives available at lower cost, economically and environmentally, to lower-carbon electric generation. KRC is skeptical that even with the substantial financial and liability protection subsidies accorded the nuclear power industry through federal law, the industry will play a significant role in addressing the need for decarbonization of the energy sector.

That said, KRC appreciates that the proposed authority is non-regulatory in nature, and has included in its mission environmental protection and consideration of environmental justice issues. KRC will share with the sponsor the concerns we have regarding the proposed authority and its mission, and will work to assure that Kentucky's utility ratepayers do not bear any of the costs of the expansion of nuclear energy or preparation of potential sites for new generation, unless such new generation meets the reasonable lowest cost standards that govern PSC regulation of new power plant construction.

SB 215 (Carpenter and others)(S. State Govt)(-)

Would prohibit the Transportation Cabinet or any other state agency, department, or political subdivision from adopting or enforcing emissions standards on new motor vehicles, or from requiring purchase or sale of electric vehicles. With the development of emissions standards for transportation still underway at the federal level, it is premature to legislate on the issue at the state level. Also, to the extent that this prohibition would interfere with the continued delegation of Clean Air Act programs to Kentucky, KRC opposes the blanket prohibition.

As noted by EPA, the transportation sector—which includes all modes of travel through land, air, and sea to move people and goods—accounts for a third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions, negatively affecting the health and well-being of millions of Americans, particularly those in disadvantaged communities. Transportation costs are the second largest annual household expense in our country and for the poorest Americans, the financial burden of transportation is disproportionately and unsustainably high. KRC agrees that a well-planned transition to a decarbonized transportation system can address these and other

inequities and provide equitable, affordable, and accessible options for moving people and goods and that further developing and deploying clean-energy technologies such as electric vehicles and green hydrogen and sustainable fuels, while also building out the supporting infrastructure for clean transportation, will create good-paying jobs in all segments of the transportation sector while addressing climate disruption.

SB 217 (Southworth)(S. NR Energy)(+/-)

Senate version of HB 506; would make findings and declarations regarding the dangers of atmospheric polluting activities and the Commonwealth's authority to prohibit geoengineering, define terms, and prohibit geoengineering.

Geoengineering, which is under study by some researchers as a potential strategy for offsetting climate change, can include both direct ground-based carbon scouring from the ambient air, and dispersing particles into the air to deflect sun rays or to modify weather or climate.

Although KRC is unaware of any proposal to use geoengineering as a strategy for climate change mitigation that would necessitate consideration of this bill at this time, KRC does appreciate that (probably unintentionally) the bill recognizes that air pollution is a significant public health and environmental concern, since it notes that “atmospheric polluting activities involving the intentional release of polluting emissions” is a danger to human health and safety and the environment; threatens air, water, soil, and wildlife resources; and disrupt agricultural operations. These same findings that animate this bill seeking to prevent intentional manipulation of the atmosphere, make a strong argument against other forms of air pollution that cause the same harmful effects due to the intentional use by pollution sources of the public air as their waste disposal strategy.

SB 220 (Williams)(S. NR Energy)(-)

Would amend laws governing combined electric and water plant board membership and limit activities of such boards to the provision of water or electric utility services, thereby excluding broadband services. Within the past two sessions, the General Assembly has expanded the ability of electric co-operatives to build out and offer broadband, even allowing the assets of co-op electric customers to be pledged as collateral for loans.

This bill runs contrary to the idea of non-profit electric utility providers (like municipal electric and water plant boards) being able to offer services including telecommunications and broadband, and would result in reduced competition, which would benefit for-profit providers at an increased cost to customers.

SB 229 (Wilson)(S. State and Local Govt)(Under review)

Would increase salaries of municipal utility commission members and replace seats on Blockchain Technology Working Group and the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority for the Kentucky Municipal Utilities Association with a member representing municipal utilities and designated by the Kentucky League of Cities.

SB 233 (West)(S. CC)(-)

Anti-solar bill that seeks to artificially and arbitrarily constrain the development of solar energy in Kentucky by limiting the total area of any county dedicated to solar energy facilities to 1% of the total land area of the county. The bill is quintessentially arbitrary government action seeking to constrain development of one type of renewable energy, and would not survive judicial challenge. It also intrudes selectively into the province of local governments and of the Public Service Commission by seeking to arbitrarily cap the development of solar energy. The artificial and arbitrary 1% limit would constrain the development of solar by municipal utilities, by PSC-regulated public utilities, and by merchant solar plants.

The bill would also require that a merchant power plant certify that no portion of any land on which it would construct a site was acquired through eminent domain – an unnecessary provision since merchant power plants, as non-utilities, don't have the power of eminent domain in Kentucky.

SB 234 (West)(S. CC)(-)

Would amend state planning and zoning laws to mandate that owner-occupied short-term rentals be deemed a permitted residential use and to override local planning and zoning ordinances whose regulations conflict; to limit regulation of non-owner-occupied short-term rentals to conditional use permits or variances; and to otherwise prescribe the manner in which short-term rentals are regulated by local communities.

KRC believes that local communities are best equipped to address where and how short-term rentals, owner-occupied or not, should be allowed in various zones within a community, and to regulate the manner in which such uses are permitted, are restricted, and are allowed as conditional uses, and that the General Assembly, (which too often professes to favor local control yet demonstrates in bills like this how it doesn't), should not be selectively determining and preempting local community decisions on which types of commercial rental activities should be deemed of right and which should be subject to zoning regulation.

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.

SJR 140 (Carroll)(S. Rules)(+/-)

Would direct the Public Service Commission to make all staffing, organizational, and administrative preparations necessary to be ready to discharge its regulatory duties relating to applications for the siting and construction of nuclear energy facilities in the Commonwealth, including but limited to conducting a survey of nuclear regulatory staff in other states, contracting with personnel with expertise in nuclear regulatory matters to be available to assist immediately with any nuclear siting or construction applications that may be filed with the commission, providing for the training of existing staff on nuclear siting and construction issues, amending the administrative regulations promulgated by the commission to require that electric utilities consider all generation resources, including nuclear resources, when developing their triennial integrated resource plans, and reviewing all other administrative regulations promulgated by the commission to ensure that there are

no impediments to the effective regulation of nuclear facilities or any obstructions to the development of the nuclear ecosystem in the Commonwealth.

KRC questions whether the resolution is needed, since the Commission has no provisions in its practices or procedures that preclude consideration of nuclear power as a generation option for addressing the energy needs of ratepayers of regulated utilities. That said, KRC accepts that it is not inappropriate to underscore that no source of generation, should be excluded from consideration in doing integrated resource planning for addressing ratepayer energy needs, including nuclear energy. KRC would expand that list to include battery storage, renewables, or nuclear energy, and load or demand management, including energy efficiency and virtual power plants, and appreciates that there is nothing in the current regulation that precludes all of these options from being considered and evaluated.

KRC does have a concern that the additional actions required in this resolution, as well as the additional infrastructure investment that other bills may support in the water and wastewater plants, will necessitate additional Commission staffing, and looks to the Senate and House budget conferees to increase the Commission staffing to accommodate these new tasks.

SJR 149 (Smith, Elkins, West)(S. NR Energy)(+)

Would direct the Energy and Environment Cabinet to provide guidance and consult with entities that discharge into the waters of the Commonwealth on the best management practice for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Other Bills and Resolutions of Note, Concern, or Interest

Listed below are bills and resolutions on which KRC has not taken a formal 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.** 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)(S. A&R)

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 2 (Miles and others)(H. CC)

Would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to provide for a financial support for the education of students outside of the public school system.

HB 4 (Osborne and Rudy)(H. CC)(Under review)

Would place on the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment allowing the General Assembly to determine when a regular session shall end and allowing the General Assembly to call itself into session for another 12 legislative days annually.

HB 5 (Bauman and others)(S. Judiciary)

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." As explained by the Coalition for the Homeless, HB 5 would also criminalize homelessness for people who have no place to go—even families sleeping in their cars for an extended period of time. See their digital toolkit [here](#).

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

House leadership proposal for Executive Branch Budget 2024-2026. KRC continues to analyze the budget bill and will provide analysis in our next legislative update.

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

Would impose restraints and bans on promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in higher educational institutions. Read the KY-ACLU's analysis [here](#) on its opposition to this and other DEI bills this session.

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)(To House Rules for concurrence with senate amendments)

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 unfair, inappropriate, and unconstitutional. Read coverage from the Kentucky Lantern [here](#). (See also SB 25)

HB 23 (Pratt)(S. CC)

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)(S. CC)

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)(S. CC)

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. Rules)

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 96 (Fister)(S. Ed)

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

HB 100 (Witten)(S. State Local Govt)

Would provide that a homeless individual does not have to pay a fee to get a copy of his or her birth certificate. Birth certificates are critical to establishing identity and applying for housing, as explained by the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky in their 2024 State Advocacy Agenda, [here](#).

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. CC)

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)(S. Ag)

Would create process for discontinuance of watershed conservancy districts that fail

to meet for over a year or to adopt budgets.

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 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. HS)

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)

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 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. Rules)

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. Rules, recommitted to H. A&R)

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. Rules)

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.

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)(S. A&R)

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)(S. A&R)

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

HB 264 (Petrie and others)(S. A&R)

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

HB 265 (Petrie)(H. A&R)

The proposed Transportation Cabinet Budget bill.

HB 266 (Petrie and others)(H. A&R)

The proposed 2024-2026 Biennial Highway Construction Plan.

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 [here](#), “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.”

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 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. Judiciary)

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)(S. State Local Govt)

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)(S. 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)(S. B&I)

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. Rules)

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.

HB 390 (Hale and others)(H. CC)

Would prohibit any state or local law, regulation, ordinance, or policy from treating males or females unfairly from similarly situated members of the opposite sex, and require any entity that collects vital statistics to identify each person as either male or female.

HB 391 (Herron and others)(H. CC)

Would prohibit various forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

HB 394 (Burke and others)(H. CC)

Would place on ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to create a new process for redistricting consisting of a Citizens Redistricting Commission of 13 members to adopt redistricting plans every 10 years.

HB 395 (Burke and others)(H. CC)

Would establish a Citizens Redistricting Commission to draft redistricting plans for legislative and congressional districts.

HB 398 (Huff, Smith)(H. A&R)

Would exclude from the electric vehicle power tax any electric vehicle power dealer with a charging station having a charging capacity of less than 50 kilowatts.

HB 404 (Willner and Herron)(H. CC)

Would enumerate rights of incarcerated children.

HB 411 (P. Stevenson)(H. CC)

Would require the governing authority of a city to mandate the proper care of a burial ground.

HB 417 (Grossberg and others)(H. CC)

Would raise minimum wage for employers to \$9.50 an hour on the effective date of this Act and incrementally thereafter to \$15.00 an hour on July 1, 2028; raise the state minimum wage for tipped employees to \$5.00 an hour on the effective date of this Act.

HB 418 (Pollock)(S. Ag)

Would decrease the minimum number of acres to qualify as an agricultural district from 250 acres to 50 acres; add cities that are within one mile of the agricultural district to the list of entities to be notified of the proposal, approval, and withdrawal of property from, an agricultural district; allow a district board of supervisors of supervisors to consider possible dissolution of an agricultural district if an owner's withdrawal of property results in the remaining land no longer qualifying as agricultural land.

HB 420 (Roberts, Herron)(H. CC)

Would legalize, regulate, and tax cannabis cultivation and use.

HB 423 (Raymond)(H. CC)

Would define "outdoor nature-based child-care center" and establish standards and criteria for such programs.

HB 424 (Raymond)(H. CC)

Would require school districts to provide a full-day preschool education program for eligible three and four-year-olds.

HB 428 (Burke and Aull)(H. CC)

Would establish reproductive rights, remove the prohibition of insurance coverage for abortion; allow the Governor to suspend statutes related to abortion during a declared emergency; allow a school district to operate a family resource center that provides abortion counseling; amend KRS 205.010 to permit financial aid for an abortion; amend KRS 205.510 to include abortions or induced miscarriages as medical care, and make other conforming amendments to current law.

HB 443 (Rudy)(To Senate)

Would amend Chapter 100 to require that local laws dealing with subdivision plats and development plans are to be set out by objective standards and applied ministerially.

HB 457 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

Would amend numerous laws relating to firearms storage, carry, and criminal offenses involving firearms.

HB 486 (Grossberg)(H. CC)

Would prohibit candidates, slates of candidates, committees, contributing organizations, or anyone on their behalf from making an expenditure to an intermediary, including subcontractors, for the purpose of making a payment to another person.

HB 487 (Grossberg)(H. CC)

Would establish the registration process for campaign consultants.

HB 494 (C. Stevenson)(H. CC)

Would name and designate as the official pets of Kentucky domestic cats and dogs that reside in or have been adopted from Kentucky animal shelters or rescue organizations.

HB 500 (Pratt)(H. CC)

Would provide for certain employment activities to be exempt from minimum wage and overtime wage requirements; specify activities and instances that do not require an employer to pay minimum wage or overtime wage.

HB 507 (Camuel and others)(H. CC)

Would delete references restricting rights of public employees to organize, associate collectively, or strike; and allow governments to make an agreement with a labor organization to require membership in the organization as a condition of employment.

HB 508 (Camuel and others)(H. CC)

Would establish a prevailing wage law for all public works projects.

HB 511 (Riley)(H. CC)

Would require professional land surveyors to provide seven days' written notice of a survey to the landowner; inform landowner regarding corners that lie on the land or affect its boundaries, and provide a copy of the survey to the landowner without charge upon request.

HB 513 (Hale)(H. Rules)

Would create a process for submission of plans for installation or removal of statues, monuments, or objects of art on permanent display in the rotunda of the New State Capitol and require approval by the General Assembly.

HB 517 (Meade)(H. CC)

Would revise the rules for inquiry and issuance of findings by the Legislative Ethics

Commission.

HB 518 (Herron)(H. CC)

Would require the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to produce and distribute educational materials, and firearm sellers to display the materials related to firearm safety, suicide prevention, and conflict resolution.

HB 519 (Herron)(H CC)

Would place on the ballot a state constitutional amendment to lower the minimum age requirements for members of the General Assembly to 21 for House and 24 for Senate and the residency requirement for Senators from six to three years.

HB 520 (Herron)(H. CC)

Would allow consolidated local governments to destroy firearms abandoned, confiscated, or forfeited under the Kentucky Penal Code.

HB 522 (Calloway, Massaroni, Rawlings)(H. CC)

Would prohibit the siting of cellular towers capable of fifth generation mobile communication service within 1,640 feet of any residentially zoned area; create a registry for wireless radiation exposure; require cellular antenna tower owners to register annually with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services; require the cabinet to establish a registry of cellular antenna tower owners.

HB 531 (Doan, Maddox)(H. A&R)

Would exclude hybrid vehicles and hybrid motorcycles from the ownership fee paid annually when registering an electric or hybrid vehicle.

HB 531 (Doan, Maddox)(S. CC)

Would establish a statutory right to obtain contraceptives, provide rights related to access to contraception, and other provisions related to increased and continued access to contraception.

HB 542 (Roarx)(H. CC)

Would include solid waste management services enforcement officers employed by a consolidated local government as hazardous positions for the purpose of determining benefits of the County Employees Retirement System.

HB 545 (Roarx)(H. CC)

Would amend KRS 67C.103 to provide that a runoff election shall be held if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the total votes cast and the candidates receiving the two highest number of votes are of separate political parties; provide that the candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be elected to fill the vacancy when no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the total votes cast and the candidates receiving the two highest number of votes are of the same political party; provide that a runoff election shall be held 45 days after the special election, but shall not occur on a weekend or on a recognized holiday.

HB 546 (Roarx)(H. CC)

Would place on the ballot a state constitutional amendment to lower the minimum age requirement to be a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from 24 years of age to 18 years of age.

HB 547 (Camuel and others)(H. CC)

Would create a new section of KRS Chapter 162 to define "single-user toilet facilities"; require the chief state school officer not approve plans for new school buildings or alterations to school buildings unless the plans provide sufficient single-user toilet facilities; require the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations regarding the required number of single-user toilet facilities in school buildings, with a minimum requirement of one.

HB 548 (Camuel and others)(H. CC)

Would repeal KRS 510.100, relating to sodomy in the fourth degree; amend KRS 194A.380 and 532.031 to conform. It has been 20 years since the Supreme Court invalidated sodomy laws with its decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, but legal codes inherited from colonial laws and used to prosecute L.G.B.T.Q. people by banning

some sexual acts remain in place across the country, including in Kentucky. “After Roe v. Wade was overturned last year, some feared that other court rulings, including the 2003 decision that invalidated sodomy laws, could be revisited.” Read more from the NYTimes [here](#).

HB 565 (Callaway and others)(H. CC)

Would amend KRS 158.196 to require social studies instruction, materials, and academic standards to include the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of the United States and the Commonwealth.

HB 565 (Callaway and others)(H. CC)

Would amend KRS Chapter 109 to allow a director on a waste management district board to serve until his or her successor is appointed, not to exceed 60 days after the expiration of his or her term; require that the board director's position be vacated after the 60-day period.

HB 566 (Herron)(H. CC)

Would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to automatically restore the voting rights of persons convicted of certain felonies upon completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole and automatically restore their civil rights five years after completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

HB 569 (Bratcher)(H. CC)

Would establish an automatic expungement process for specific eligible misdemeanor and felony convictions; allow the Commonwealth's and county attorney to object and halt the automatic expungement of certain offenses.

HB 570 (Chester-Burton, Brown)(H. CC)

Would require county governments to operate at least one emergency shelter for persons experiencing homelessness or to otherwise contract with an operator of an emergency shelter; require an adequate number of beds in the emergency shelter.

HB 573 (Chester-Burton, Brown)(H. CC)

Would designate January 15 to April 4 of each year as Black History Season and require the Governor to proclaim Black History Season and to encourage Kentuckians to acknowledge its significance.

HB 575 (Heath and numerous others)(H. CC)

Would prohibit a nonresident alien, foreign business, foreign agent, trustee, or fiduciary associated with the government of any proscribed country referenced in 22 C.F.R. sec. 126.1 from the purchase, lease, or acquisition of agricultural land in Kentucky or participation in programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Development Board, and Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation, with certain exceptions.

HB 576 (Raymond)(H. CC)

Would require all employers to pay all employees, including workers with a disability, a minimum wage and increase the state minimum wage over the next three years to no less than 100 percent of the municipality, county, or state minimum wage or the prevailing wage.

HB 586 (Hale, Dotson)(H. CC)

Would remove water safety enforcement from the duties of the Department of Kentucky State Police and allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to regulate water safety enforcement.

HB 587 (Stevenson and others)(H. CC)

Would remove state statutory references to and authorization for establishment of charter schools.

HB 595 (Johnson and Bratcher)(H. CC)(Under review)

Would make numerous changes to laws governing election campaign contributions and reporting, and would remove the Registry of Election Finance from the list of agencies that are exempt from conducting administrative hearings pursuant to

chapter 13B.

HB 600 (Palumbo)(H. CC)

Would require voting places to have safe and healthy conditions, including functional indoor bathrooms, heat, and air conditioning.

HB 603 (Stalker, Lewis)(H. CC)

Would eliminate fees for obtaining a personal identification card.

HB 622 (Rudy)(H. CC)

Would require the Governor to sign a proclamation for an election to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator and extend the term of the candidate who wins special election to the remainder of the term.

HB 627 (Miles)(H. CC)

Would waive the sovereign immunity of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and establish the department's liability when the operations of commission-managed lands results in damages to property of an adjacent landowner.

HB 652 (Calloway and others)(H. CC)

Would prohibit the Kentucky Department of Education and Council on Postsecondary education from complying with a provision of any administrative regulation or guidance issued by the United States Department of Education concerning Title IX that equates gender identity to biological sex.

HB 656 (Gooch)(H. CC)

Would amend current law to remove an outdated reporting requirement on the Energy and Environment Cabinet relating to the costs, personnel requirements, and statutory or regulatory changes needed to support state assumption of the permitting program required by the federal Water Pollution Control Act. KRC will be tracking this bill in case it is used as a “mule” bill that has been filed solely to provide

a vehicle for another bill that will replace it in a committee substitute.

HB 665 (Herron and Aull)(H. CC)

Would establish, fund, and place the Office of Safer Communities under the oversight of the Cabinet for General Government.

HB 674 (Doan)(H. CC)

Would exempt the Commonwealth of Kentucky from the advancement of time known as daylight saving time.

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.

HCR 68 (Bridges and others)(H. Rules)

Would establish the Kentucky Housing Task Force to study, review, and provide policy recommendations on how to address the housing shortage in the Commonwealth.

HCR 77 (P. Stevenson)(H. CC)

Concurrent resolution would declare support for the admission of Washington, D.C., as a state and urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation authorizing statehood.

HJR 91 (Petrie and others)(H. A&R)

Would set out the last four years of the six-year road plan.

HJR 92 (Petrie and others)(H. A&R)

Sets out the County Priority Projects portion of the Six-Year Road Plan.

Senate Bills

SB 5 (G. Williams, Thayer)(H. Rules)

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)(H. CC)

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

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

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)(H. CC)

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 Louisville Public Media [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)(H. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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 73 (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)(H. CC)

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. Ed)

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. A&R)

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)(H. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. State Local Govt)

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. State Local Govt)

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.

SB 134 (Neal)(S. Judiciary)

Would amend civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity

SB 135 (Southworth and others)(S. CC)

Would require that any postsecondary education institution, health facility, long-term care facility, or employer that requires a person to receive an immunization for disease shall allow exemptions.

SB 143 (Howell)(H. CC)

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

SB 144 (Meredith)(S. CC)

Would abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for inmates presently sentenced to death.

SB 152 (Yates)(S. Veterans)

Would abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for inmates presently sentenced to death.

SB 156 (Southworth)(S. Ag)

Would exempt poultry producers that slaughter and process less than 20,000 birds per year from permit and processing requirements.

SB 157 (Howell)(S. Rules)

Would prohibit retail pet shops from selling dogs or cats unless the animal was obtained from an animal shelter or qualified breeder; prohibit retail pet shops from

selling a dog or cat that is less than eight weeks old, or selling a dog or cat to anyone under the age of eighteen.

SB 161 (Southworth)(S. NR Energy)

Would prohibit a planning unit, legislative body, or fiscal court that has adopted planning and zoning regulations, or PSC in other counties, from approving the siting of a cellular antenna tower capable of providing fifth generation mobile communications service if it is within 1,640 feet of any inhabitable building or any outdoor space where 10 or more people gather.

SB 172 (Southworth)(S. State Local Govt)

Would require employers to grant employees reasonable leave from work to vote; prohibit employers from discriminating against employees who request leave to vote; and require employers to post relevant provisions of this Act on workplace premises.

SB 174 (Carpenter and Girdler)(S. Rules)

Would require that if damage is done to an underground gas or hazardous liquid facility and no attempt to locate the underground facility was made, the operator shall include in its report to the Public Service Commission the distance from the communications terminal that the damage occurred; exempt from the underground facility damage prevention requirements nonintrusive excavating of a depth not greater than 12 inches and within 12 inches of a communication service provider's own communications network.

SB 178 (Berg and Adams)(S. Veterans)

Would permit the destruction of confiscated firearms and require destruction of firearm used in the commission of a violent offense.

SB 181 (Adams and Tichenor)(S. Veterans)

Would establish the crime of sexual extortion as a felony; provide for enhancements to penalties; establish a civil cause of action for sexual extortion; and amend KRS 17.500 to include sexual extortion in the definition of "sex crime," among other

provisions. Read [here](#) on why "sextortion" is a form of child sexual exploitation.

SB 182 (West and others)(S. Health Services)

Would require employers that mandate employee immunization to allow exceptions based on religious belief or medical contraindication.

SB 185 (Armstrong and others)(S. Eco Dev)

Would create a prevailing wage law for all public works projects.

SB 187 (Carroll)(S. Veterans)

Would provide that a licensed dealer may not deliver a modified weapon until seven days have elapsed from the date of the purchase application; and that no person shall knowingly sell or transfer a modified weapon to a person who is under 21 years old.

SB 190 (Carroll)(S. Veterans)

Would establish requirements for individuals to voluntarily request inclusion on a list that prohibits the purchase or possession of firearms for specified periods and to voluntarily commit their firearms to law enforcement for safe storage or permanent surrender.

SB 195 (Storm, Webb)(S. State Local Govt)

Would place on the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to restore the voting rights of persons convicted of certain felonies three years after completion of imprisonment, probation, or parole; provide ballot language.

SB 197 (Deneen)(S. Ag)

Would exempt holders of wildlife rehabilitation permits from administrative regulations regarding exhibition and display restrictions and release requirements with regard to "ambassador animals"; and exempt volunteers from non-permit-holder restrictions with regard to wildlife rehabilitation provided they are under the supervision of the permit holder and have received training in wildlife rehabilitation.

SB 209 (Berg)(S. Veterans)

Would require law enforcement agencies to transmit information to national law enforcement databases about firearms collected during criminal investigations.

SB 218 (Storm)(S. Judiciary)

Would establish an automatic expungement process for specific eligible misdemeanor and felony convictions; allow the Commonwealth's and county attorney to object and halt the automatic expungement of certain offenses.

SB 230 (Westerfield)(S. CC)

Amend KRS 344.010 to provide definitions of "protective hairstyle" and "race" that include traits historically associated with race and which are protected from discrimination.

SB 231 (Westerfield)(S. State and Local Govt)

Would place on the ballot a state constitutional amendment to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

SB 243 (Elkins)(S. Judiciary)

Would provide that a person is guilty of cruelty to animals in the first degree when he or she knowingly causes an animal to engage in an animal fight, participates in the organization or operation of an animal fight, is present at an animal fight, or allows a minor to attend an animal fight; provide that falconry authorized by a valid permit and hunting license shall not constitute a violation of this section.

SB 245 (Southworth)(S. CC)

Would prohibit a public agency from spending public funds to employ or contract with a lobbyist or from using public funds to pay a nonprofit association or organization that primarily represents one or more public agencies or hires or contracts with an individual who is required to register as a lobbyist and would prohibit a public servant from attempting to use his or her influence in any matter

that would be under the purview of the legislative branch of state government; permit a public servant to respond to requests or information and to provide information and opinions about matters affecting the agency.

SB 256 (Armstrong, Mays Bledsoe)(S. CC)

Would establish the Kentucky Proud School Match Program fund; establish the Kentucky Proud School Match Program; direct the Department of Education to reimburse an eligible school district \$0.33 for every meal reimbursed by the community eligibility provision at the paid rate; require a school district that receives a reimbursement to develop and implement a Kentucky Proud school plan to identify and purchase available Kentucky-grown agricultural products and to optimize food usage.

SB 257 (Neal)(S. CC)

Would place on the ballot a state constitutional amendment to automatically restore the voting rights of persons convicted of certain felonies three years after completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

SB 258 (Neal)(S. CC)

Would provide additional free speech protections for student journalists; provide that student speech not be considered school speech.

SB 262 (Neal)(S. CC)

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

SB 264 (Neal)(S. CC)

Would add the nineteenth day of June as a state holiday commemorating Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

Senate Resolutions

SR 5 (Thayer)(Adopted)

Resolution adopting the Rules of the Senate for 2024 Session.

SR 28 (Neal)(Adopted)

Memorial resolution honoring late Governor Carroll.

SR 29 (Thayer)(Adopted)

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. Martin Luther King Jr. was the featured speaker at a March on Frankfort in 1964, where an estimated 10,000 people gathered in a peaceful protest for civil rights. Learn more [here](#).

SR 97 (Southworth)(Adopted)

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

SJR 175 (Thayer)(S. CC)

Would direct the Public Service Commission to promulgate emergency administrative regulations on utility pole attachments for broadband service providers that will address the backlog of pole attachment requests and establish

parameters for preventing delays and backlogs of requests in the future.

SR 180 (Thomas)(S. CC)

Recognize the impact Native Americans have made and continue to make in Kentucky's history.