



# Kentucky Resources Council

## **2025 General Assembly In Regular Session: *The Sine Die Edition***

The 2025 Kentucky General Assembly has adjourned *sine die*! Kentucky Resources Council tracked environmental, conservation, consumer, energy, and general government bills and resolutions, and this edition includes the final legislative action for bills we've been monitoring, supporting, or opposing. This edition was updated on April 9, 2025 to reflect final the final outcome for the bills that passed on March 27 and 28.

Look for our annual publication of "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly," summarizing the bills we supported and opposed during the 2025 General Assembly in Regular Session.

This year was a "short" 30-legislative day session, which began on January 7, with a final day on March 28, 2025.

Please note that KRC did not have a position on each bill or resolution listed. Some were tracked for general interest or concern; others to assure they did not become vehicles for mischievous amendments. The first section highlights those bills on which KRC took a position, indicating our **support (+)**, **opposition (-)**, or that the bill is a **"mixed bag" (+/-)** of provisions that KRC both supported and opposed. The primary bill sponsor is listed first, followed by the current status of the bill (noted by chamber or Committee, as abbreviated below). If there is no indication of assignment to a committee, the bill remained in the Committee on Committees, where introduced bills and resolutions are initially sent. In recent years, the House has allowed bills to remain in the Committee on Committees indefinitely, assigning them to a committee only where it intends that the bill receive a hearing or committee action.

After listing the bill or resolution and the sponsor(s), the current status of the bill is noted. If the bill caption does not say "became law," "adopted," or "to Governor," and instead references a House or Senate Committee, then that bill did not make it through the legislative process to final passage or adoption. The bills and resolutions that say "To Governor" were those passed initially during these last two days, and the Governor will have 10 days to sign, veto, or to allow the bills or resolutions to become law without signature. Since the General Assembly has adjourned, any veto by the Governor will stand and cannot be overridden.

Feel free to forward this to anyone you feel might be interested, and to utilize, reprint, or quote from our bill analyses. We ask only that you attribute KRC as the source when you use our analytical material (so we can take all the blame for anything we've gotten wrong!).

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).

### 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. **PS Ed** - House Postsecondary Education Committee
- H. **P&S Ed** - House Primary and Secondary 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 AND RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH KRC HAS TAKEN A POSITION**

### **House Bills**

#### **HB 6 (Williams and others)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)(-)**

Would preclude adoption of regulations having a major economic impact (defined as \$500,000 in compliance costs over two years), with certain enumerated exceptions. As written, the bill would preclude adoption by the Energy and Environment Cabinet of regulations with a “major economic impact” regarding air pollution, waste disposal, water pollution, and mining, that are necessary to maintain delegated state authority to implement federal environmental laws, resulting in a loss of authority. Bill also fails to consider benefits in public health, safety, and environmental quality in adopted regulations, focusing only on the compliance costs in a selective manner.

#### **HB 16 (Hart)(S. HS)(-)**

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 to 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 an important and effective public health initiative. KRC supports continued research into health effects of low-dose fluoridation as a public health measure, and believes that any changes to state policy should be grounded in the precautionary principle and sound science, and addressed uniformly through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

#### **HB 18 (Hodgson)(S. State Local Govt)(-)**

Would mandate limits on the development of multi-family housing in areas zoned for “single-family home zones.”

KRC believes that matters of planning and zoning are best left to local communities and that the General Assembly should refrain from attempting to alter the zoning classifications to affect or limit the efforts by local governments to address the affordable housing crisis in many communities. Whether to allow multi-family housing in certain residential zones and under what terms is a matter best left to planning commissions and local elected officials with input from the community.

#### **HB 22 (Hodgson)(H. Judiciary)(-)**

Would prohibit geoen지니어ing and criminalize, as a class D felony, atmospheric pollution which is the “intentional or wanton” engagement in “any atmospheric pollution intervention,” which is defined to include “any manipulation or interference with earth’s natural systems or process by altering atmospheric or environmental conditions.”

KRC opposes this bill due to its vagueness and overbreadth. Notably it fails to define key terms such as “atmospheric” or “atmosphere.” Similarly, the bill doesn’t define “earth’s natural systems” or establish a clear threshold for what constitutes “altering atmospheric or environmental conditions.” This vagueness could unintentionally criminalize otherwise benign activities, such as using snow cannons to create artificial snow at ski resorts. KRC maintains that any activities subject to criminal penalty must be articulated with such clarity and precision to ensure that no reasonable person misunderstands the legality of his or her own acts. As drafted, this bill fails to meet this standard, posing significant risks of misinterpretation and unintended consequences.

Geoengineering as a strategy for tackling climate change presents significant and yet unknown risks, including being a distraction from addressing the root causes of the climate crisis. As a policy matter, KRC believes that such efforts at climate change mitigation need to be carefully thought through to minimize the possibility of unintended consequences.

### **HB 32 (Whittaker)(H. Tourism)(+/-)**

Would create the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry in the Cabinet for Economic Development to coordinate between the business community and the executive and legislative branches on outdoor recreation industry matters.

While KRC supports both economic development and outdoor recreation, the outdoor recreation industry can negatively impact the ecological health of the Commonwealth unless developed in concert with ecological principles and constraints. The Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry should be charged with advancing outdoor recreation that enhances and does not degrade the natural environment. It should also be charged with coordinating with the Office of Nature Preserves and with the Energy and Environment Cabinet, whose staff are in the position to understand and advise on the ecological impacts of outdoor recreational developments.

### **HB 53 (Banta)(H. Judiciary)(+)**

Would criminalize the intentional release of gas-inflated balloons.

Balloon releases can have significant harmful effects on the environment, primarily on wildlife that ingests or becomes entangled in the remains after the balloon deflates, and which contributes to land and waterway pollution.

### **HB 80 (Roarx)(H. State Govt)(+)**

Would allow members of the General Assembly to prefile bills and resolutions to be introduced the next legislative session and require prefiled bills to be published on the Legislative Research Commission Website.

Bringing back prefiled bills would support better public participation and transparency.

### **HB 85 (Roberts)(S. CC)(+/-)**

Would prohibit a sanitation district from charging a fee, tax, or other charge to a property owner for the provision of a service if that property is not connected or to a sanitary sewer owned or maintained by the sanitation district, with notable exceptions that swallow the prohibition.

KRC believes that, in many cases, connection to a sanitary sewer system enhances environmental quality by improving wastewater management. The financing of extensions of sewer infrastructure are matters for local government, and where a sewer district imposes fees to allow for capitalization of sewer extensions, barring imposition of such fees could slow the extension. Requiring extensions within a reasonable period for properties assessed a fee would be a preferable approach. It would be beneficial to allow for on-bill financing of sewer connection for properties to help manage the costs of connection for homeowners, and addressing other barriers for property owners who wish to connect to a sanitation district with capacity to serve.

### **HB 88 (Callaway)(S. NR Energy)(+/-)**

Would allow a member serving a waste management district board in a county containing a consolidated local government to serve until his or her successor is appointed, not to exceed 60 days after the expiration of his or her term; require the board of director's position be vacated after the 60-day period and make this applicable to any current director who has exceeded 60 days on the board after expiration of his or her term.

This bill is applicable to waste management district boards in Louisville-Jefferson County, the only county with a consolidated local government. KRC supports standardized board practices that eliminate unfairness, but we also caution against the loss of institutional knowledge if positions are vacated without prompt replacement appointment, since in Jefferson County the waste management district develops and periodically updates the solid waste plan for the county.

### **HB 102 (Kulkarni)(H. NR Energy)(+)**

Would establish the PFAS Working Group in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services which would be charged with researching PFAS health outcomes, sharing relevant data with working group, consult other agencies, and develop recommendations to be compiled into a report to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission. Would also require a manufacturer to submit to the secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet information about a product that contains PFAS and is being sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the Commonwealth. The Cabinet is charged with publishing a list of PFAS-containing products on its website. Additionally, it would include additional public disclosures when PFAS of certain amounts are released into the environment.

KRC supports this bill because it attempts to introduce transparency to the public about

daily exposure to a family of chemicals, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (known as “forever chemicals”), many of which are linked to adverse human health outcomes. KRC will suggest to the sponsor that the EEC may not have the additional staff necessary to take on some of these duties without additional budgetary support.

### **HB 111 (Kulkarni)(H. Ag)(+)**

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. It would also require the Agriculture Water Quality Authority to promote soil restoration and include an organic agriculture organization among appointments to the authority.

### **HB 137 (Gooch)(Became law)(-)**

Would require, as amended, that any enforcement action taken by the Energy and Environment Cabinet or Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District, for violation of air pollution requirements, be based on a data collection method, emissions test, or monitoring method that has been approved or promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; or a method or test that produces scientifically defensible and quality assured data that is accepted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for enforcement purposes. The House Committee Substitute further prohibits consideration of any data collected by a method other than specified, in any enforcement proceeding initiated by the air pollution control board, an air pollution control officer, or a private citizen.

KRC opposes this bill because it directly contradicts sections 113(a) and (e) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) which governs state programs delegated under the Act. Section 113 (a) allows violations of permits or state implementation plans to be found on the basis of “any information available to the Administrator,” while Section 113(e) allows penalties to be assessed based on “any credible evidence.” It also likely violates the EPA’s Credible Evidence Rule (40 C.F.R Section 51.212), which states: “the plan must not preclude the use, including the exclusive use, of any credible evidence or information, relevant to whether a source should have been in compliance with applicable requirements[...].”

KRC is concerned that this law would undermine Kentucky’s obligations under the CAA and jeopardize the state’s delegated status to administer the CAA programs locally. Furthermore, KRC supports maintaining a methodology-neutral data collection framework consistent with the CAA because it empowers citizens to contribute air monitoring data to supplement government enforcement efforts, deterring polluters and promoting accountability. Citizen monitoring also promotes the use of innovative and non-traditional monitoring technologies that may exceed the capabilities of EPA-approved methods, fostering progress in air quality monitoring and enforcement. Finally, any data used in an enforcement proceeding is already subject to evidentiary challenge regarding methods, accuracy, and provenance, and the bill is unnecessary.

### **HB 165 (Tackett Laferty)(H. Eco Dev)(+)**

Would remove the requirement that an affected employee previously diagnosed with occupational pneumoconiosis (known as black lung disease) 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 to reopen a claim.

### **HB 173 (Dotson, White)(H. Local Govt)(-)**

Would preempt local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances that create a registry of rental properties for any purpose including for safety assessments related to lead exposure. The bill appears to be directed at the Louisville ordinance creating such a registry.

KRC opposes this bill due to the significant public health risks associated with lead exposure, especially in older housing and its severe impact on children. Even minimal lead exposure can lead to developmental delays, learning difficulties, and behavioral problems. The bill undermines tenant rights and restricts local governments from effectively addressing lead paint abatement in rental properties. Without registries and enforcement mechanisms, tenants—often lacking the resources to push for necessary property repairs—may be forced to live in unsafe conditions with limited options for recourse, exacerbating the power imbalance between landlords and tenants.

### **HB 180 (Massaroni)(H. Elections)(-)**

Would remove a credit or debit card as a secondary form of identification to confirm a voter's identity.

KRC opposes this bill because it creates a prohibitive barrier to voting. To obtain a credit card an individual must submit a social security number to the credit card company prior to authorization. This process is enough to make a credit or debit card a viable secondary form of identification for the purposes of voting.

### **HB 186 (Duvall and numerous others)(S. Rules)(+)**

Would exempt from licensing requirements and civil and criminal liability arising from their activities a charitable food donor, i.e. a nonprofit or religious organization that is recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a home-based processor which produces food for distribution to a homeless shelter or to individuals displaced due to a declared natural disaster.

### **HB 196 (Blanton)(Became law)(-)**

Would reduce the number of emergency medical or mine emergency technicians (METs) required to be on shift from two to one, if the number of employees on the shift is 10 or less. We appreciate that the Sponsor filed a committee substitute which retains the provisions of the original bill, but includes an extra MET on shifts with more than

fifty (50) minters. However, there is still some concern that reducing the number of METs on the smaller shifts could pose a threat to miner safety. Reducing the required medical personnel compromises the ability to ensure swift and effective emergency medical care in the event of accidents or health crises. 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. We will continue to work with the Sponsor to find a solution that doesn't compromise miner safety.

**HB 200 (Calloway)(H. L&O)(-)**

Would limit violations of the Uniform State Building Code to those that produces a specific, measurable, and imminent danger to any occupant or results in the instability of a built structure.

KRC disagrees with this bill because the Uniform State Building Code contains criteria that provide for safety, conservation, and numerous other goals that if violated are compromised even if not resulting in imminent danger to occupants. Building a structure that does not achieve these goals would be considered a violation under current law, which is a standard we should keep in place so that consumers will be protected and so that we continue to maintain reasonable energy conservation and housing construction practices.

**HB 295 (Marzian)(H. NR Energy)(+)**

Would prohibit the intentional release of more than 25 plastic balloons; and establish gradual ban on plastic, single-use carryout bags, single-use plastic straws and Styrofoam food and beverage containers by retail food and beverage establishments.

**HB 319 (Holloway)(H. Elections)(+)**

Would place on the ballot a proposal to amend the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances, including as punishment for a crime.

**HB 321 (Johnson)(Became law)(-)**

Would amend current laws to require initial and continuing training and education for planning and zoning commissioners and other officials.

Senate Committee Substitute introduced a new provision limiting the right to judicial review of land use decisions to property owners in the same zone as the property at issue. This attempt to limit judicial review is offensive to the rights of others who may be adversely affected by a zoning, variance, or other land use decision, and is ineffective, since there is an inherent right of judicial review of any arbitrary government action, that the legislature cannot impair or extinguish.



### **HB 326 (Wilner)(H. NR Energy)(+)**

Would create winter and summer temperature standards for disconnection of service by retail electric and gas utilities; establish a certificate of need for persons who are at risk if utility service is disconnected that can be provided by a physician, physician assistant, community-based service organization, or faith-based service organization; prohibit disconnection of service on holidays and weekends, including Friday, and before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; allow for reconnection of service for partial payment with a payment plan; require waiver of termination fees, reconnection fees, and late fees for customers having obtained a certificate of need; require utility to make reasonable effort towards reestablishing service for a customer terminated after having obtained a certificate of need but no more than 24 hours after repayment is commenced; require separate, written notice 14 days prior to a disconnection to residential household; require that notice be distinguishable from the regular billing notices; establish font size and typeset for material to be printed on the notice; require a hardship reconnection order for persons at risk who have had service terminated by the utility after meeting specific repayment requirements; require the Public Service Commission to promulgate administrative regulations and issue an order setting forth any applicable rules and procedures.

### **HB 327 (Wilner)(H. NR Energy)(+)**

Would require electric utilities to file monthly disconnection reports with the Public Service Commission.

### **HB 346 (Lewis)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)(-)**

Would exclude emergency stationary internal combustion engine emissions from consideration in whether a source is subject to emissions fees by the Energy and Environment Cabinet and air pollution control districts.

The Title V program under the Clean Air Act, which imposes permitting and other requirements on major sources of air pollution, is self-funding, and assesses emissions fees based on the amount of regulated pollutant emissions. 87 Percent of the Division for Air Quality's budget comes from these fees. Categorically exempting any source from consideration in calculating those fees, such as this bill proposes, shifts the burden onto other regulated major sources, such as distilleries, power plants, and others, to pay the share of fees for these so-called emergency generators that would be exempted. Also of concern is that while couched as "emergency" engines, the bill allows up to 100 hours of non-emergency use by such engines while retaining the exempt designation, without including important restrictions on those hours of use.

Another concern is that the imposition of this special exemption for emergency engine emissions increases the workload on the Cabinet to verify the emissions for each engine, increasing workload and causing increases on overall program costs to other sources.

KRC opposes special breaks written into the law that shift the costs of pollution controls onto other sources, and for these reasons, opposes HB 346.

A final concern is a new provision which would prohibit the imposition of an upper limit on emissions subject to a fee. This provision would affect utilities, distilleries, and other significant sources of regulated emissions, such as ozone precursors and particulates, and any increase in fees for power plant emissions will eventually be passed on directly to ratepayers, in the form of increased rates for electricity.

### **HB 371 (Raymer)(S. CC)(+)**

Would limit the exception from solid waste planning of landfills that accept only industrial solid waste generated by the generator or by another facility owned by the generator or wholly-owned subsidiary, to those landfills located on or adjacent to the property where the waste is generated. Bill is intended to narrow the current exception that would allow a captive industrial landfill to be located remotely from where the waste was generated.

KRC worked with the sponsor and industrial interests in order to revise the exception for “captive” landfills associated with industrial manufacturing operations, narrowing the existing planning exemption to require that the landfill be located on or adjacent to that manufacturing operation so that the community hosting the landfill and associated burdens would also receive the employment and tax benefits. That revision was incorporated into the bill in the House.

### **HB 388 (Roberts and others)(H. Judiciary)(-)**

Would disallow the business judgment rule as an affirmative defense where the alleged damages suffered by the corporation are the result of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing and providing that a director shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if he or she takes any action to implement or maintain DEI initiatives or ESG investing; provide that actions taken as a director, or failure to take action as a director, regarding the implementation or maintenance of DEI initiatives or ESG investing may provide the basis for monetary damages or injunctive relief; amend KRS 271B.7-400 to require the court to award attorney's fees, costs, and expert witness fees and expenses to a plaintiff who prevails in a derivative action where the damages suffered by the corporation were the result of DEI initiatives or ESG investing; allow the court to award compensatory and punitive damages.

KRC believes that efforts to encourage a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace and corporate culture should not be penalized, and is adamantly opposed to such intrusive efforts to punish or dissuade private business associations and corporations from adopting such policies and goals, as well as sustainability and governance policies. True economic prosperity and sound business management and investing are in harmony

with, and not in conflict, with policies advancing diversity, inclusion, equity, sustainability, and justice.

**HB 398 (Thomas)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)(-)**

Would prohibit the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board or the secretary of the Education Labor Cabinet from enforcing any occupational safety and health administrative regulation more rigorous or protective than a minimum federal standard and would limit who can request a workplace inspection and allow recovery of expenses against the Department of Workplace Standards; and delay time for completion of corrective actions.

**HB 399 (Blanton)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)(-)**

Would create the crime of interference with a legislative proceeding for “disrupting” “impeding” or preventing the General Assembly or any committee of the body from doing business, or engaging in disruptive or disorderly conduct within any “legislative building,” (which is any building used by the General Assembly for doing business).

Any time that an activity potentially touching on legitimate first amendment-protected rights, such as the right to petition government for the redress of grievances, to assemble, and to free speech, is proposed to be criminalized, the conditions under which such activity could be criminalized must be **clearly** delineated and bounded. KRC opposes the bill as written, and will communicate the concerns to the sponsor, due to the lack of any definition of what it means to “disrupt,” to “impede,” or to be engaged in “disruptive conduct,” and whether these activities are criminalized at any time or only when the General Assembly or a committee is actually present and conducting business.

**HB 470 (Stalker, Banta)(H. Elections)(+)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky to establish a right of the people to have a healthy environment, including a right to clean air, pure water, and ecologically healthy habitats.

**HB 519 (Fugate and others)(H. Rules)(-)**

Would prohibit the Public Service Commission from authorizing any decommissioning surcharge or recovery of any retirement or stranded asset costs through rates for a utility that has received approval from the commission to retire a fossil fuel-fired electric generating unit in which the utility has any undepreciated investment.

While in theory, the costs of a generation asset that is constructed by a utility to serve customers load, should be depreciated fully over the course of the useful life of the asset so that those who benefit from the power pay the cost, there are circumstances in which, due to regulatory mandates, or to soften the impact of rate increases on vulnerable and other ratepayers, or because a unit is no longer economic, that depreciation is spread out over a longer period than the lifespan of the asset. The

disallowance of that recovery where an asset is retired or becomes “stranded” because it cannot be utilized, may increase utility rates for customers and may adversely affect the financial stability of the utility. Disallowing recovery of the undepreciated amount, where the retirement has been found by the PSC to be in the best economic interest for customers, gives utilities an incentive to keep the plants open longer and when they are no longer economic, at higher cost to customers than retiring/closing them.

### **HB 568 (Watkins, Stalker)(H. PS Ed)(+)**

Would require postsecondary education institutions to designate at least one employee in an appropriate department to serve as a liaison between the institution and a homeless student or student in care who is enrolled at the institution.

### **HB 583 (Watkins and others)(H. A&R)(+)**

Comprehensive bill on affordable housing would create affordable housing loan pool fund to provide rehabilitation and construction loans to eligible entities; homelessness prevention fund; create affordable housing credit; allow religious institutions to develop affordable housing with only a ministerial submission to review by a planning unit for compliance with the provisions of the section if the development is on land owned by a religious institution, exclusively contains affordable housing for a period of ten years, and contains fewer than 25 units; allow for religious institutions to propose an affordable housing development exceeding 25 units but require a public meeting and approval by the planning commission; allow the Kentucky Housing Corporation to provide technical and advisory resources to a religious developer.

### **HB 616 (McCool, Whitaker)(H. NR Energy)(-)**

Bill would prohibit surcharges for an investor-owned electric utility relating to environmental compliance, demand-side management, and voluntary energy cost assistance. It is unclear whether the intent of the bill is to prevent use of surcharges as an alternative to folding certain costs into the rate base, or whether it is intended to end DSM and low-income assistance, and environmental compliance cost recovery, since the bill also provides that the investor-owned utility shall not collect from the ratepayer any amounts “except for the recovery of those amounts directly and exclusively related to the provision of electric utility service that have been approved by the commission.” The Commission approves all surcharges, and those surcharges are directly and exclusively related to electric service, but the effect of the bill would be to call into question the recovery of costs for environmental compliance, demand management programs and voluntary energy cost assistance for low-income customers. For those reasons, while KRC would agree the certain “surcharges” that are of a longer duration are better analyzed in a base rate case rather than an add-on charge, KRC opposes the bill as written, and also because it is arbitrarily limited to some but not all PSC-regulated electric utilities.

### **HB 630 (Bivens)(H. Judiciary)(+)**

Would strengthen protections for agricultural lands by prohibiting the taking of property subject to an agricultural conservation easement by eminent domain; prohibit land condemned by eminent domain from being used for the construction of solar energy facilities; prohibit the taking of property within the boundaries of an agricultural district by eminent domain; require condemnors to provide a written report at public hearing justifying condemnation due to lack of feasible alternative locations; prohibit the taking of property subject to a conservation easement by eminent domain; require condemnors to provide a written report at public hearing justifying condemnation due to lack of feasible alternative locations; require the condemnor to pay expenses and reasonable attorney's fees in a condemnation proceeding; establish the payment of a premium of 125% for any condemned property used for conservation, farm, or agricultural purposes.

KRC strongly supports restrictions on use of eminent domain to take properties subject to conservation easements. KRC believes the specific language precluding use of eminent domain for solar energy facilities is not needed, since the bill limits the use of eminent domain by utilities, and non-utility merchant companies never had such power under Kentucky law.

### **HB 634 (Decker, Lockett)(H. Elections)(-)**

Would provide for the selection and oversight of Article V commissioners if an Article V Convention is called and the Commonwealth is a participant.

KRC opposes the calling of a constitutional convention under Article V. Constitutional scholars believe that the ability to define and limit a constitutional convention under Article V is questionable. Mechanisms already exist regarding the purposes for which advocates call for such constitutional conventions, to wit, nothing precludes adoption of a balanced budget, and elections are the available mechanism for imposing term limits on elected officials.

### **HB 640 (Gooch)(To Senate)(+)**

Would provide specific authority for the Energy and Environment Cabinet to promulgate administrative regulations to prevent the spread of invasive, non-native plant species.

### **HB 641 (Gooch)(H. Rules)(-)(needs clarification)**

Would amend existing law to allow coal combustion by-products to be beneficially reused at underground or surface coal mines and to allow for the resulting reclaimed land to be used for any suitable purposes, including agricultural purposes.

Current regulations already allow coal combustion by-products to be beneficially reused, including at mine sites, provided that they meet environmental performance

standards. The bill is not needed, and KRC has concerns regarding the sentence referencing uses of reclaimed mine land, for two reasons: first, because changes to land uses post mining are required to have landowner consent and to meet permitting requirements under mining laws, and this new language could conflict with those obligations, and second, because use of coal combustion fly ash in backfill may make the land unsuitable for agricultural use due to uptake of metals into crops, and leaching of metals into groundwater.

#### **HB 741 (Bray, Petrie, Bowling)(S. A&R)(+)**

Would amend funding criteria and evaluation for eligible funding recipients for the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems (WWATERS) Program.

KRC supported the WWATERS program when it originally passed and supports the proposed changes in this bill, which includes reauthorizing the board's scope of consideration of eligible projects to include whether the applicant has received and notice of violation or entered into an agreed order or consent decree and whether the applicant has previously received funding. These changes appear to be aimed at prioritizing funding for applicants with the greatest degree of dysfunction in their water treatment systems.

#### **HB 790 (Gooch, Meade)(S. CC)(+/-)**

The bill would revise the current statutes of the Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting to restrict the ability of the Board to waive setback requirements for a solar merchant electric generating facility after January 1, 2026, to no closer than 350 feet of an adjoining property owner unless consented to in writing and approved by the legislative body of the local government where the adjoining property is located. The bill would also require a construction certificate holder for a solar merchant electric generating facility to file a report with the Energy and Environment Cabinet detailing all federal and state incentives utilized by the construction certificate holder relating to the siting, construction, and operation of the facility.

KRC believes that a waivable minimum setback from adjoining properties for any merchant power facility is appropriate, but believes that 350 feet may be more than needed to fully protect the adjoining property uses, depending on terrain, the intensity of the proposed development, and landscaping. The ability of the adjoining property owner to waive that distance is important, since it creates an opportunity for engagement that KRC believes is appropriate for any development. KRC does believe, however, that requiring approval from the local government body for any waiver is an unnecessary interference with the relationship between private property owners,

particularly when the bill would require approval without providing any standard to bound the discretion of the local government authority.

A House Committee Substitute removed all of the proposed revisions to the statute dealing with setbacks, thus addressing KRC's concern.

### **HB 803 (Gentry and others)(H. Eco Dev)(+)**

Would repeal language precluding adoption of occupational safety and health standards more protective than federal minimum standards.

KRC believes that the state agency should have the authority to adopt any standards deemed necessary to fully protect workers in the workplace, and that federal minimum standards should be the default but not the upper boundary of such protections. KRC opposed the current law and supports its repeal.

### **HB 812 (Osborne)(H. State Govt)(-)**

Would limit the Governor to participating in litigation to defend or vindicate only those matters particular to his or her office; and require all other litigation matters affecting the Commonwealth to be under the purview of the Attorney General.

Bill violates separation of powers by purporting to limit the actions of the Executive Branch with respect to litigation.

## **House Resolutions**

### **HR 2 (Osborne and Rudy)(Adopted)(-)**

This resolution, adopted by the House on January 7, 2025, outlines the rules for legislative procedure in the 2025 Regular Session. KRC opposed the rules because they frustrate transparent government operation, by consolidating power in the hands of majority leadership, waiving bill readings, and adopting other provisions that result in legislators and the public having little opportunity to review and comment on the proposed legislation. Transparency and accountability should be the rule, and not the exception.

### **HR 7 (Burke, Stevenson, Aull)(Defeated)(+)**

Would establish alternative rules of procedure for the 2025 Regular Session of the House of Representatives that support transparent government operation.

### **HR 11 (Grossberg)(Adopted)(+)**

Simple resolution recognizing January 27, 2025, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

### **HCR 22 (Bridges and others)(Became law)(-)**

Concurrent resolution would “declare” that nuclear power generation is a clean and dispatchable means of providing baseload electricity to the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth, and that adding nuclear power to Kentucky's energy portfolio would result in a more resilient and reliable electric grid.

The General Assembly could declare that up was down, and such a declaration would not make it so. Likewise, declaring nuclear energy to be clean does not address the significant environmental and human health costs associated with the mining, milling, and beneficiation of nuclear fuel, the legacy of nuclear wastes with no permanent storage strategy, the cost overruns that have plagued new nuclear generation construction relative to other energy resources, and the fact that the cost of nuclear power generation, even with all of the substantial subsidies that have been provided to cap liability and spur development, is still far more expensive than renewable + storage strategies that are in fact dispatchable and reliable for meeting base load needs.

### **HJR 64 (Osborne)(H. State Govt)(-)**

Would limit the Governor and Lieutenant Governor participation to litigation only pertaining to the interests of his or her office; declare that only the Attorney General may bring or participate in litigation in federal court on behalf of the Commonwealth, and authorize the Attorney General to enforce this Resolution.

Resolution significantly oversteps the separation of powers in attempting to constrain the Executive Branch participation in litigation that the elected chief executive of the Commonwealth believes is in the best interest of the Kentuckians.

### **HR 81 (Wesley and others)(H. CC)(+)**

Urge the United States Congress and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to assist with the prevention and mitigation of flood damage in Kentucky.

Ironically, SB 89 would likely worsen the flooding suffered in Kentucky by removing headwaters from protections against filling and other damage that could accelerate runoff and increase downstream flooding.

## **Senate Bills**

### **SB 8 (Stivers)(S. NR Energy)(+/-)**

Would expand the membership of the Kentucky Public Service Commission from three to five members, and provide that the Auditor of Public Accounts would appoint two of the five, with one of those being a consumer advocate.

The Public Service Commission serves a critical role in regulating electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities in order to assure reliable service at rates that are as reasonable as possible. The workload and complexity of the issues that come before the



Commission have increased significantly in recent years, and the expansion from 3 to 5 members proposed in SB 8 is not out of line with that workload and the range in other states, which is typically from 3 to 7 commissioners.

What is as or perhaps more important, though, is assuring that the Commission has the number of staff needed to respond to the expanded number and complexity of cases, and is authorized to compensate those often technical staff at a rate that attracts and maintains the quality of staff that we have had and need. KRC appreciates that the Senate in recent sessions has included budget language to allow that hiring.

KRC believes it is inappropriate to have the Auditor of Public Accounts appoint the new commissioner positions. To do so creates an unavoidable conflict of interest and function, since under KRS 43:050, the office of the Auditor is to be independent of the state agencies over which it has audit power, and is to be a disinterested entity representing the public's interest in financial accountability in government expenditures. That office cannot maintain the independence and disinterest that the General Assembly has mandated it have, if it is appointing two members of a Commission over which it has oversight responsibility.

Since the Senate has confirmation authority over all appointments to the Commission, KRC believes that all of those appointments should be made by the Governor.

After a committee hearing for discussion, the sponsor indicated that he will not seek to move the bill towards passage during the current legislative session.

### **SB 20 (Nunn and others)(S. Rules)(-)**

Counterpart to House Bill 6, it would preclude adoption of regulations having a major economic impact (defined as \$500,000 in compliance costs over two years), with certain enumerated exceptions.

As written, the bill would preclude adoption by the Energy and Environment Cabinet of regulations with a “major economic impact” regarding air pollution, waste disposal, water pollution, and mining, that are necessary to maintain delegated state authority to implement federal environmental laws, resulting in a loss of authority. Bill also fails to consider benefits in public health, safety, and environmental quality in adopted regulations, focusing only on the compliance costs in a selective manner.

### **SB 23 (West, Adams, Deneen, Wilson)(Became law)(+/-)**

Would amend current laws concerning the legislative review of administrative regulations, to differentiate between “full reviews” of proposed regulations, which is the last step before proposed regulations are assigned to the legislative committee or become effective, and “informational reviews” of existing or proposed regulations. Existing law authorized either the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee or

the legislative committee with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the regulation, to review existing regulations as well as proposed regulations. The changes proposed by SB 23 define the mechanisms for “informational reviews,” and allow that even if full review of a regulation is “deferred” by request of the agency, the legislative committee or ARRS subcommittee could nevertheless request the agency to appear before the committee for “informational review.”

Administrative regulations are the foundation of daily government operations—translating statutory directives into actionable processes. KRC does not oppose the bill as written, but remains vigilant concerning the regulation review process by committees of the General Assembly during the interim between legislative sessions, so as to assure that bills such as this strike the appropriate balance between the Legislative branch and other branches of government. On one hand, this framework could promote greater transparency because it allows for informational reviews of existing and proposed regulations. On the other hand, it raises legitimate concerns about the delegation of power by the General Assembly to a small number of legislative members serving on either the subcommittee or the legislative committee of appropriate jurisdiction, to determine whether a regulation is consistent with the underlying legislative measure. The case of *LRC v. Brown* is clear in defining the outer limits of legislative delegation and the ability of the General Assembly to affect Executive Branch authority to enact regulations, and KRC remains vigilant that those constitutional boundaries be respected when KRS Chapter 13A is revised.

### **SB 25 (Mills)(Became law with line item vetoes, vetoes overridden)**

Original bill would have included multifamily housing developments of forty-eight units or more in the definition of “building” for sections related to industrial revenue bonds. Original bill would have substantially limited who can appeal a final action concerning planning and zoning to those that own real property contiguous to a property whose status would be changed as a result of the final action.

KRC opposed the proposal to limit judicial review of planning and zoning decisions to those owning property adjacent to land that is rezoned, issued a conditional use permit, or otherwise allowed to develop, as both unconstitutional and depriving communities of an important right to seek review of official action affecting their properties and quality of life, as land use changes can often have significant effects on the built and natural environment far beyond the adjoining property. Committee substitute removed the change that had narrowed the scope of judicial review, and KRC is now neutral on the bill.

Later amendments to SB 25 included provisions regarding medicaid oversight and other matters unrelated to planning and zoning.

### **SB 28 (Howell, Richardson)(Vetoed, veto overridden , became law)(+/-)**

Would create a new economic development program within the Department of Agriculture, including an agricultural economic development board that shall coordinate with the Cabinet for Economic Development on a program to encourage projects promoting agricultural economic development projects, agribusiness projects, and alternative fuels projects. The board would be responsible for overseeing selected eligible projects and administering funds to the projects and is subject to reporting requirements.

KRC supports economic development projects that are supported by local communities, and are protective of the environment. To the extent that this initiative supports sustainable practices, specifically alternative fuels projects that are meant to support sustainable aviation fuel, it represents a positive development. However, this bill does not address sustainable agricultural practices, raising concerns that it may inadvertently encourage extractive or production methods that degrade soil health and reduce natural carbon and greenhouse gas sequestration abilities. Including safeguards for sustainability would strengthen this initiative and ensure alignment with long-term environmental goals.

### **SB 29 (Thomas)(S. State Local Govt)(+)**

Would require witnesses appearing before the General Assembly to take an oath prior to giving testimony.

KRS supports this bill. Requiring witnesses to take an oath before testifying ensures accountability, honesty, and integrity in the decision-making process. An oath underscores the seriousness of providing testimony, reminding individuals of their ethical and legal responsibility to speak truthfully. Testimony is a cornerstone of informed legislative policymaking, and this measure strengthens public trust in the General Assembly's deliberations. By formalizing this commitment to truth, we elevate the credibility of the legislative process and reinforce the importance of transparency and fairness in government.

### **SB 59 (Higdon)(H. CC)(-)**

Would allow religious institutions to develop affordable housing without submission to review by a planning unit if the development is approved by local government. Bill was amended to limit scope to properties purchased by religious institutions prior to January 1, 2025, which significantly narrows the scope and effect of the bill if it becomes law.

While KRC appreciates the sponsor's interest in expanding the availability of affordable housing, and supports the involvement of faith-based entities in developing such housing, KRC opposes this bill as written. Planning Commissions are obligated with evaluating and approving developments in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations to assure compatibility with the goals and objectives of the plan and

the regulations adopted for that zoning classification to assure compatibility with other land uses and the environment. Allowing developments to bypass the planning unit could undermine due consideration of how a project may impact the local built and natural environment, as well as limit the public's ability to raise environmental concerns as grounds for objecting to future developments.

Furthermore, this bill appears to grant special exemption to religious developers that is not extended to non-religious entities, including secular non-profit organizations. This preferential treatment of religious entities also raises constitutional concerns.

### **SB 62 (Rawlings and others)(S. A&R)(-)**

Would prohibit geoenvironmental engineering and criminalize, as a class D felony, atmospheric pollution which is the "intentional or wanton" engagement in "any atmospheric pollution intervention."

"Atmospheric pollution intervention", is defined as "any manipulation or interference with earth's natural systems or process by altering atmospheric or environmental conditions." The bill then lists four activities that fall under this definition, but doesn't limit it to those activities.

KRC opposes this bill primarily due to its vagueness and overbreadth. Notably it fails to define key terms such as "atmospheric" or "atmosphere." By common definition "atmosphere" is the mass of air surrounding the Earth, which includes multiple layers including the troposphere (ground level and rises to 6.2 miles above sea level) and the stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, and exosphere which collectively extend 6.2 miles in the air to approximately 120k miles above earth's surface. It is unclear whether the bill applies exclusively to higher atmospheric layers or includes air as close as that between blades of grass.

Similarly, the bill doesn't define "earth's natural systems" or establish a clear threshold for what constitutes "altering atmospheric or environmental conditions." This vagueness could unintentionally criminalize otherwise benign activities, such as using snow cannons to create artificial snow at ski resorts. KRC maintains that activities subject to criminal penalty must be articulated with such clarity and precision to ensure that no reasonable person misunderstands the legality of his or her own acts. As drafted, this bill fails to meet this standard, posing significant risks of misinterpretation and unintended consequences.

Geoengineering as a strategy for tackling climate change presents significant and yet unknown risks, including being a distraction from addressing the root causes of the climate crisis. As a policy matter, KRC believes that such efforts at climate change mitigation need to be carefully thought through to minimize the possibility of unintended consequences.

**SB 64 (Storm, Madon)(Became law)(+/-)**

Would add cable, telephone, and broadband facilities to existing key infrastructure assets that receive statutory protections.

KRC agrees that cable, telephone, and broadband facilities play a crucial role in modern society underpinning critical functions including communication, emergency response, education, and economic activity. And designation as a key infrastructure asset would help ensure resilience and security by deterring bad acts and providing recourse. KRC also cautions against over-expanding key infrastructure designations, which risks diluting the original purpose and could shift towards overregulation. Finally, KRC believes that changes made to the key infrastructure assets bill during the last session are unjustified and constitutionally overbroad, and encourages the General Assembly to correct those problems if this bill is taken up during the 2025 session.

**SB 72 (Boswell)(S. NR Energy)(-)**

Would prohibit the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife from imposing a hunter education requirement for a person over 18 years of age to obtain a hunting or fishing license or permit and remove the requirement relating to live fire exercises.

KRC opposes this bill because hunting licenses are essential for public safety. Obtaining a hunting license in Kentucky requires the completion of safety courses which reduces the risk of accidents and promotes responsible hunting practices.

**SB 84 (Rawlings)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)(-)**

Would amend Kentucky law to prohibit courts reviewing agency decisions from according any deference to agency interpretations of law, regulations, or orders; and directing that any ambiguity in statutory construction be construed against the agency.

KRC opposed the bill as a clear violation of Kentucky's constitutional provisions on separation of powers. The bill intrudes into essential judicial functions in several ways that will not survive judicial scrutiny, and KRC fully intends to make such a challenge.

The standards for judicial review of agency action are well-established in Kentucky, and a legislative attempt to dictate to the courts the degree of deference to accord an agency construction of its own regulations or statute, are matters for judicial determination and are outside of the constitutional powers of the legislative branch of government. The bill is as unnecessary as it is an unconstitutional infringement on the judicial branch under Sections 27 and 28 of the Kentucky Constitution.

The House Committee Substitute removed the original text and replaced it with a mandate to the courts of what standard of review to apply to questions of law as well as mandating that courts give no deference to agency interpretations of law and

regulations. The bill remains, both in its original form and in the House Committee Substitute, a blatantly unconstitutional infringement by the legislature into the judicial function in violation of the Kentucky Constitution. The separation of powers in Kentucky's Constitution does not allow the legislature to dictate to the judiciary the standards of review of executive branch actions, nor the degree of deference (if any) accorded to agency interpretations of law and regulation.

### **SB 86 (Armstrong)(S. NR Energy)(+)**

Would amend the waste tire program to remove the exemption for a person who stores waste tires for resale from the requirements of the program and would require registration by those storing and accumulating used tires for resale.

### **SB 89 (Madon and others)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)(-)**

Would eliminate from pollution protection, all "waters of the Commonwealth" other than those regulated as "Water of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. This bill also seeks to define and limit how the Kentucky Energy & Cabinet calculates bonds for surface coal mining operation discharges of acid and toxic pollution that are subject to long-term treatment.

The effect of this bill would be to eliminate state protections for all groundwater in Kentucky and for ephemeral headwater streams that only flow in response to rainfall and snowmelt, and for off-stream ponds, lakes and impoundments. In *Sackett v. EPA*, decided in 2023, a narrow majority of the U.S. Supreme Court significantly narrowed the definition of "waters of the United States," removing federal protections for a substantial portion of our nation's wetlands, ephemeral streams, and headwaters. Given this setback for the decades-long national effort to restore, protect, and maintain water quality, the ability of Kentucky to protect all of our waters that may now fall outside the scope of the federal Clean Water Act is even more important. KRC opposes this effort to limit our state's ability to protect and restore all "Waters of the Commonwealth," so they are fishable, swimmable, and drinkable.

The House-passed version adds protections for sinkholes and wellhead protection areas, neither of which are waters at all, and still fails to protect tens of thousands of private wells and the groundwater resources they rely on.

Click [here](#) to read our fact sheets and learn more about why SB 89 put polluters over Kentucky's people and industries that rely on clean, safe water.

### **SB 108 (West)(S. NR Energy)(-)**

Would selectively prohibit utilities from constructing a solar facility if it would cause more than 1 percent of the county acreage being used for solar energy; prohibit use of eminent domain for siting such facilities. KRC believes that such an arbitrary limit on the use of land for construction by electric utilities for solar energy generation is

unnecessary and discriminatory. The footprint, both in terms of land use and environmental impact, of renewable energy (including utility-scale solar) is small in comparison with other energy sources, and matters of land use should be left to local communities in consultation with regulated utilities and the Public Service Commission, where those utilities are PSC-regulated, or with local governments for municipal utilities. Both utility and merchant power plant licensing processes in Kentucky require siting assessments, and strengthening such assessments where needed (such as protection of prime and high quality farmland) to fully account for impacts on the built and natural environment, is the approach that should be used rather than arbitrary caps on land dedication.

**SB 110 (West)(S. Eco Dev)(-)**

Would amend KRS Chapter 100 to prohibit a local government from requiring the operator of a short-term rental to obtain a conditional use permit or imposing density-based restrictions on short-term rentals.

KRC believes that land use planning and zoning decisions should be made at the community level, and that selective legislative intrusion into such decisions in order to pick winners (usually development interests) and losers (existing communities wanting appropriate land use planning) should not occur.

**SB 112 (Boswell)(S. NR Energy)(+/-)**

Would allow a 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; exempt the resident landowner and other authorized persons from certain statutory and regulatory limits, restrictions.

**SB 115 (Berg and others)(S. State Local Govt)(+)**

Proposed constitutional amendment would place on the ballot the question of whether to amend Section 29 of the Constitution of Kentucky to establish the initiative power of the people to propose laws and to enact or reject proposed initiatives at an election.

**SB 137 (Armstrong)(S. NR Energy)(+)**

Would prohibit a Public Service Commission-regulated utility from suspending residential service during extreme weather conditions or natural disasters.

**SB 138 (Armstrong)(S. NR Energy)(+)**

Would prohibit evictions of residential tenants during extreme weather conditions.

**SB 163 (Neal, Givens)(S. State Local Govt)(+)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

### **SB 171 (West)(S. Ag)(+)**

Would strengthen protections for agricultural lands by prohibiting the taking of property subject to an agricultural conservation easement by eminent domain; prohibit land condemned by eminent domain from being used for the construction of solar energy facilities; prohibit the taking of property within the boundaries of an agricultural district by eminent domain; require condemnors to provide a written report at public hearing justifying condemnation due to lack of feasible alternative locations; prohibit the taking of property subject to a conservation easement by eminent domain; require condemnors to provide a written report at public hearing justifying condemnation due to lack of feasible alternative locations; require the condemnor to pay expenses and reasonable attorney's fees in a condemnation proceeding; establish the payment of a premium of 125% for any condemned property used for conservation, farm, or agricultural purposes.

KRC strongly supports restrictions on use of eminent domain to take properties subject to conservation easements. KRC believes the specific language precluding use of eminent domain for solar energy facilities is not needed, since the bill limits the use of eminent domain by utilities, and non-utility merchant companies never had such power under Kentucky law.

### **SB 179 (Carroll)(Became law)(-)**

Would establish the Nuclear Energy Development Grant Program to be administered by the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority; limit individual grant awards from the Nuclear Energy Development Grant Program to \$2,000,000 per grant. Grants could be made for a broad array of nuclear-related issues, including nuclear energy-related projects regarding the nuclear fuel cycle, which includes fuel conversion, enrichment, and fabrication, as well as potential future spent fuel recycling and reprocessing; Reactor design and component manufacturing; Component supply chain manufacturing and distribution; Facility siting and development; Radioisotope production; Facility operation and maintenance; Decommissioning waste storage, transport, and management; and End uses of nuclear energy and co-products.

While the bill provides some objective scoring criteria to evaluate grant applications, including the likelihood that the proposed project funded by the grant will cause further investment, economic impact of the grant funding on the community and region, additional investment that would be made in the proposed project by the grant applicant and other sources; no provision is made for recouping the grants or requiring a certain level of economic development or financial commitments from the applicant or other sources towards a project. Rather than providing matching monies for private investment, requiring a minimum amount of employment or economic development, or otherwise assuring that the money will generate positive outcomes for the Commonwealth and communities, the bill represents yet another form of subsidy to an



industry that has shown itself incapable of producing electricity at a competitive levelized cost.

**SB 180 (Tichenor and others)(S. HS)(-)**

Would make water fluoridation programs optional; 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; provide that a water fluoridation program in place on the effective date of the Act continues until action is taken by its governing body to end its participation; provide that any decision regarding participation in a water fluoridation program made by the governing body of a water system shall be binding on all water systems it supplies.

Consistent with our historic position, KRC believes that fluoridation meeting state and federal standards, as a tool for advancing oral hygiene, is an important and effective public health initiative. KRC supports continued research into health effects of low-dose fluoridation as a public health measure, and believes that any changes to state policy should be grounded in the precautionary principle and sound science, and addressed uniformly through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

**SB 223 (Berg)(S. Veterans)(+)**

Would amend radon safety laws to direct nine members to be appointed to the board; require two members to represent a public health organization; require one member to be a citizen at large that is not associated with or financially interested in the practice of radon measurement, mitigation, or laboratory analysis; and direct the board to promote the safety of radon measurement, mitigation, and laboratory analysis professionals in the Commonwealth.

**SB 229 (Yates)(S. State Local Govt)(+)**

Would allow owners of buildings to offer temporary shelter in times of emergency; require local governments to put notification procedures in place.

**Senate Resolutions**

**SR 2 (Wise)(Adopted)**

Establishes the Rules of Procedure for the 2025 Regular Session of the Senate.

**SJR 28 (Adams)(H. CC)(+/-)**

Joint resolution would request the Governor petition the EPA to remove the reformulated gas requirement in Jefferson County and parts of Oldham and Bullitt Counties, and direct the Energy and Environment Cabinet to adopt revisions to the state air quality implementation plan to remove the reformulated gas requirement for Jefferson County and applicable parts of Oldham and Bullitt Counties.

While KRC believes that decisions concerning the strategy adopted in a State Implementation Plan for Jefferson County should be left in the first instance to the Air Pollution Control District, KRC, and the District, recognize that RFG is a pollution control strategy that is no longer a necessary or cost-effective component of an ozone pollution reduction strategy, and APCD has already requested the Governor to propose elimination of RFG for Jefferson County.

KRC's moderate support for the resolution is in appreciation of the sponsor's recognition of the vital role that the Jefferson County APCD plays in air quality and pollution prevention and recognizing also that a pollution control strategy that is part of an implementation plan cannot simply be eliminated without replacement (if needed) of another measure providing equivalent or better reductions of pollution.

### **SCR 223 (Funke Frommeyer and others)(S. Floor)(+)**

Recognize America's River Roots Festival as an official 250th celebration event for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. KRC notes the irony that the sponsors of this resolution all voted to support SB 89, Kentucky's "Dirty Water Act" that weakens protections for the headwaters of several tributaries, and the alluvial groundwater resources, that drain into the Ohio River.

### **SR 238 (Funke Frommeyer and Rawlings)(Adopted)**

A resolution urging the Energy and Environment Cabinet to explore and implement strategies to remove waste tires from Kentucky's streams and waterways. Another irony that both of the sponsors supported SB 89, which should make it easier to remove waste tires from Kentucky's streams by significantly reducing the miles of protected streams in the state.

## **Other Bills and Resolutions of Note That We're Tracking**

*KRC lists below a number of bills on which we have taken no position, but which we believe are of public interest or concern, and which affect one or more facets of justice, personal freedom, and social responsibility. They are presented for your consideration.*

### **House Bills**

#### **HB 1 (Petrie)(Became Law)**

Would reduce the individual income tax rate from 4% to 3.5% of a person's net income beginning in 2026.

#### **HB 4 (Decker and others)(Became Law)**

Would eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at Kentucky public universities, among other provisions.

**HB 7 (Petrie and others)(H. Local Govt)**

Would permit a local government to establish a housing development district and allow a local government to exempt housing developments within the district from planning and zoning following a public hearing.

**HB 10 (Proctor and others)(Became law)**

Would allow a property owner or his or her authorized agent to request a law enforcement officer immediately remove a person unlawfully occupying real property under certain circumstances and provide criminal and civil immunity to law enforcement officers and property owners acting in good faith.

**HB 12 (Lockett)(H. Sm Bus)**

Would prohibit a minor under 14 years old from contracting with a social media platform to become an account holder; require social media platforms to terminate any account held by an account holder younger than 14 years old; prohibit minors who are 14 or 15 years old from contracting with a social media platform to become an account holder without parental consent.

**HB 19 (Hodgson)(Became law)**

Would criminalize the operation of an unmanned aircraft system to record the owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of privately owned real property with the intent to surveil or publish unauthorized images and would create a presumption of a reasonable expectation of privacy for the owner of real property while on his or her land.

**HB 24 (Fister)(To House for concurrence)**

Would exempt soil and water conservation districts and watershed conservancy districts from the audit requirements in KRS 65A.030 and make them instead subject to the audit requirements in KRS Chapter 262.

**HB 26 (Flannery)(H. A&R)**

Would exclude tips and wages from gross income for tax purposes, include tips and overtime compensation amounts on an employee withholding statement, and allow the Department of Revenue to report on the exclusions.

**HB 27 (Osborne)(Became law)**

Would amend existing law that prohibits planned communities in the Commonwealth from prohibiting political yard signs, to clarify that any such provisions in existing governing documents of planned communities are void.

**HB 29 (Lewis)(H. L&O)**

Would update and expand model codes that may be used as a source for the standards required for electrical system construction, repair, and inspection in the Uniform State Building Code.

**HB 31 (Hodgson)(H. Transp)**

Would require a hauler of building materials constructing more than ten homes in one mile to apply for a permit from the Transportation Cabinet and pay incremental costs associated with the impact to the state road.

**HB 37 (Tipton and others)(H. A&R)**

Would exempt purchases and sales of tangible personal property, digital property, or services made by qualifying resident nonprofit educational, charitable, or religious institutions from state sales and use taxes.

**HB 38 (Tipton) (Became law)**

Would enhance criminal penalties for repeated violation of an order of protection.

**HB 43 (Chester-Burton)(H. F&C)**

Would require licensed health facilities under KRS Chapter 216B to provide each patient with written information regarding the patient's rights and implement an evidence based maternal health disparities program for all health providers involved in the perinatal care of patients within those facilities.

**HB 45 (Hodgson)(Became law)**

Would amend existing campaign finance laws to address political issues committee expenditures and reporting.

**HB 55 (Banta)(H. Judiciary)**

Would establish a cause of action against a parent or guardian of a minor who causes the injury or death of another using a firearm, explosive, or other deadly weapon.

**HB 58 (Willner)(H. Local Govt)**

Would permit a tenant to terminate a lease if seeking relocation due to a mental or physical health emergency.

**HB 62 (Maddox)(H. L&O)**

Would suspend Kentucky's existing law relating to the regulation of nicotine products until the Supreme Court of the United States renders a decision in an existing case on its docket: *Food and Drug Administration v. Wages and White Lion Investments, L.L.C., dba Triton Distribution, et al.*, No. 23-1038 (Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals).

**HB 64 (Calloway)(H. State Govt)**

Would reverse Governor Beshear's Executive Order 2024-632 that prohibits state and federal funds being used for the practice of conversion therapy on minors.

**HB 65 (Calloway)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would require the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools.

**HB 66 (Calloway)(H. PS Ed)**

Would remove the requirement that the Council on Postsecondary Education postpone approval of new programs at a state postsecondary institution that has not met equal educational opportunity goals.

**HB 67 (Grossberg)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would incrementally increase minimum wage starting with \$9.50 upon enactment up to \$15 by 2029.

**HB 68 (Grossberg)(H. Judiciary)**

Would enhance criminal penalties for any defendant convicted of certain crimes with intent to commit that crime based on another's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, mental or physical disability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation and create an offense of using hate symbols to intimidate.

**HB 74 (Lehman)(H. A&R)**

Would require public schools provide free feminine hygiene products to female students.

**HB 81 (Roberts)(H. L&O)**

Would reinstate a person's credential or benefit if it was lost or denied due to noncompliance with an executive order to administrative regulation relating to pandemic restrictions.

**HB 82 (Roberts)(H. Judiciary)**

Would expand prohibition on local enforcement of a federal ban or regulation of firearms to all federal laws, regulations, or orders since 1791.

**HB 83 (Roberts)(H. Local Govt)**

Would prohibit police from enforcing and courts from ordering restrictions under "red flag laws," which is a legal petition to temporarily suspend a person's right to possess a firearm.

**HB 84 (Roberts)(H. Judiciary)**

Would prohibit the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from promulgating any regulation that implements the directives of the World Health Organization and criminalize such implementation as a Class D felony.

**HB 87 (Callaway, Doan, Hart)(S. Rules)**

Would require hiring or licensing authorities to standardize hiring practices for persons

convicted of a crime for a position of public employment or occupational license and allow those persons to obtain a determination about his or her potential disqualification for employment in that position before pursuing training.

**HB 93 (Williams)(H. Judiciary)**

Would criminalize, as a Class A misdemeanor, target shooting that endangers a person, pet, livestock, wildlife, or property with exceptions for target shooting at a recreation facility or in a designated area with specific requirements.

**HB 94 (Williams)(H. Elections)**

Would amend the Constitution of Kentucky to exempt homeowners who are 65 years of age or older from any increase in the valuation of their permanent residence.

**HB 96 (Dietz)(H. Judiciary)**

Would expand the definition of “domestic violence and abuse” to include coercive control and stalking and direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide information on petitions and orders of protection where the basis of the petition is coercive control to the Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center in certain circumstances.

**HB 100 (Dietz)(H. Judiciary)**

Would require the Administrative Office of the Courts to compile information for jurors about how to obtain mental health treatment and require a judge to disseminate the information to jurors.

**HB 103 (Kulkarni, Brown)(H. L&O)**

Would revise the licensing and public employment laws to narrow the class of offenses to which the chapter would apply and prohibit disqualifying individuals from pursuing a professional license solely on a finding that a person lacks good character.

**HB 104 (Kulkarni, Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Judiciary)**

Would create a preventative detention process, including hearing process, for defendants of select high risk levels and charge type and limit the use of money bail to certain high-risk defendants and in certain circumstances.

**HB 105 (Kulkarni)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to the Kentucky Constitution creating a right of an individual 21 years of age or older to possess, use, buy, or sell one ounce or less of cannabis.

**HB 106 (Kulkarni)(H. Judiciary)**

Would make possession of cannabis in less than 1 ounce in plant form, less than 5 grams in resin of hash form, and less than 1,000 milligrams of Delta-8 and 9, or 5 or fewer

cannabis plants exempt from civil and criminal liability. It would also allow expungement of certain convictions relating to cannabis that would apply retroactively.

**HB 107 (Kulkarni)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would prohibit disqualification from benefits workers unemployed because of domestic violence and abuse, dating violence and abuse, sexual assault, or stalking and, require the Education and Labor Cabinet to report to the LRC how many claims are paid out in these circumstances, and change how benefits are charged to a pooled account for workers displaced from employment in these circumstances.

**HB 110 (Kulkarni)(H. Veterans)**

Would impose a duty on peace officers to intervene to prevent or stop another officer from using physical force that will cause unlawful serious physical injury, death, or deprivation of civil rights and impose a duty to provide or obtain emergency medical assistance.

**HB 114 (Truett, Aull)(Became law)**

Would limit landowner liability to willful or malicious failure if a person to whom the landowner has consented to rock climb, boulder, or rappel on the premises is injured through his or her own negligent acts.

**HB 116 (White, Fugate, Truett)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would allow the reading or posting of the Ten Commandments in a public school building, classroom, or event.

**HB 119 (Brown)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would require African history and Native American history instruction in certain middle and high school world history and civilization courses.

**HB 120 (Brown)(H. Judiciary)**

Would criminalize, as a class B misdemeanor, the unlawful storage of a firearm unless a minor without legal justification uses the firearm in a way that results in injury to another person which would be a class A misdemeanor.

**HB 121 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Elections)**

Would propose constitutional amendment to amend Section 25 of the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

**HB 122 (Brown)(H. A&R)**

Would create sales and use tax exemptions for the sale or purchase of baby and personal care products.

**HB 123 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. A&R)**

Would create sales and use tax exemptions for the sale of menstrual discharge collection devices.

**HB 124 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Judiciary)**

Would include in the current firearm regulations the definition of “assault weapon,” “large capacity ammunition feeding device,” and “seller of ammunition,” require background checks for private firearm sales, and require additional regulations regarding the licensure of persons possessing such firearms.

**HB 125 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would prohibit school disciplinary codes from discriminating on the basis of race which include “protective hairstyle” as defined by the bill.

**HB 126 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. State Govt)**

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

**HB 127 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. State Govt)**

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

**HB 128 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Eco Dev)**

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

**HB 129 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would require any employer doing business in Kentucky that received government incentives or subsidies to pay its employees a living wage.

**HB 133 (Doan, Roberts)(H. L&O)**

Would allow universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications, include work experience as a basis for licensure of certification, and explicitly include military personnel and their spouses.

**HB 134 (Bauman and others)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment to exempt homeowners who are 65 years of age or older from any increase in the valuation of their permanent residence.

**HB 138 (Chester-Burton, Brown, Grossberg)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would require employers to provide earned sick leave to employees with specification on how it can be used and accrued.



**HB 139 (Maddox)(H. Judiciary)**

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

**HB 142 (Proctor and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would allow a property owner or his or her authorized agent to request a peace officer to immediately remove any squatter occupying a dwelling or commercial building under certain circumstances.

**HB 143 (Roberts) (H. Judiciary)**

Would provide that any form of local government shall be liable for damage done during a riot if they could have prevented damage and any injury that results from any defect of any bridge, street, sidewalk, or other public thoroughfare.

**HB 144 (Maddox)(H. Ag)**

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 147 (Tackett Laferty)(H. Transp)**

Would require a crew of at least two persons during operation of a train or light engine.

**HB 154 (Calloway, Massaroni)(H. HS)**

Would prohibit health care providers from accepting payment or reimbursement for gender transition services from a state or local government or Medicare, require licensing or certifying agencies to revoke health care providers license for a violation, and revise certain state or local government health plans and limited health service benefit plans to comply with the prohibition.

**HB 157 (Upchurch)(Became law)**

Would establish a friends of Kentucky agriculture special license plate for which a portion of the initial and renewal fee is dedicated to the agricultural program trust fund.

**HB 158 (White)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed Kentucky constitutional amendment to exempt from taxation a portion of the assessed value of real property maintained as the permanent residence of an owner who is a veteran or first responder and extend the benefits of this exemption to a surviving spouse of a veteran or first responder.

**HB 160 (Witten)(Became law)**

Would prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing zoning regulations that treat manufactured homes differently from single family homes; allow only regulation of certain architectural features of manufactured homes and single-family homes.

**HB 163 (Lockett)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would require at least 95% of restroom facilities in a specified school building be designated for specific biological sex.

**HB 172 (Thomas)(H. Transp)**

Would require vehicles on a highway with an iron, steel, or wooden wheel to be equipped with a rubberized strip on the portion of the wheel that is in contact with the highway.

**HB 175 (Roberts)(H. Transp)**

Would require that border signs on state-maintained highways not display the name of the governor or Lieutenant governor.

**HB 177 (Roberts and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would create a cause of action for individuals whose religious freedom is substantially burdened by government action and waive sovereign, judicial, and governmental immunity and qualified immunity in certain circumstances.

**HB 184 (Clines)(Became law)**

Would extend to the insurance regulatory sandbox program and the commissioners reporting requirement until December 31, 2030.

**HB 194 (Witten)(H. Rules)**

Would require animal control officers to receive training on recognizing child abuse and add these officers to the list of people with a duty to report dependency, neglect, or abuse of a child.

**HB 195 (Witten)(H. A&R)**

Would establish a tax deduction for contributions made to an eligible savings account by a first-time home buyer and allow an exclusion from income or any interest earned from an eligible savings account of a first-time home buyer effective January 1, 2026.

**HB 197 (Doan)(H. PS Ed)**

Would abolish the Council on Postsecondary Education and transfer authorities and duties to the Kentucky higher education assistance authority.

**HB 198 (Massaroni)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to section 170 of the constitution of Kentucky to provide the General Assembly the authority to exempt all or a portion of any class of property from taxation or eliminate all or a portion of any tax in the related provisions of that tax.

**HB 203 (Fleming, Gooch, Grossl)(H. Judiciary)**

Would allow an abortion when the unborn child has a lethal fetal anomaly or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest and the abortion occurs no later than six weeks after the first day of the woman's last menstrual period.

**HB 204 (Maddox, Roberts)(H. Judiciary)**

Would remove the prohibition on carrying concealed deadly weapons in schools and repeal an existing law that interprets the application of the license to carry concealed deadly weapons as permitting post-secondary facilities, local governments, and units of state government to limit concealed carry in government buildings.

**HB 206 (J. Nemes)(H. Rules)**

Would establish a cause of action for a person who was wrongfully convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth, specify the amounts of damages that may be awarded to claimants.

**HB 209 (Tipton)(H. Judiciary)**

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

**HB 213 (Roberts, Doan)(H. Local Govt)**

Would prohibit local governments and relevant personnel from enacting, adopting, or otherwise enforcing any sanctuary policy and allow civil actions if a person subject to a detainer is released from custody because of a sanctuary policy of the local government or local law enforcement agencies and commits a violent crime.

**HB 215 (Moore and Gentry)(H. Local Govt)**

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

**HB 222 (Lockett)(H. Elections)**

Would amend current law to void limitations in planned communities on political yard signs.

**HB 224 (Camuel, Stalker)(H. State Govt)**

Would restore the ability of local governments and public employers to enter into union shop agreements.

**HB 228 (Willner and others)(H. F&C)**

Would amend existing law to enumerate the rights of incarcerated children.

**HB 235 (Marzian and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would amend state civil rights law to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

**HB 247 (Holloway)(H. A&R)**

Would exempt leisure, recreational, and athletic instructional services and recreational camp tuition and fees; and electricity used for specified agricultural purposes from sales and use taxes.

**HB 248 (Baker and others)(H. State Govt)**

Would require a family impact statement for every bill, concurrent resolution, joint resolution, amendment, or committee substitute introduced during a regular or extraordinary session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

**HB 250 (Callaway and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would allow a property owner or his or her authorized agent to request a law enforcement officer to immediately remove a person unlawfully occupying a residential dwelling or other structure under certain circumstances.

**HB 254 (Raybourn and others)(H. Elections)**

Would create a cause of action for violations of the use of tax dollars to advocate for or against public questions on ballot or to lobby or participate in executive agency lobbying.

**HB 257 (Grossberg, Chester-Burton)(H. Judiciary)**

Would create an automatic felony expungement process for eligible convictions.

**HB 260 (Grossberg)(H. A&R)**

Would create the abandoned home pool fund to be administered by the Kentucky Housing Corporation to purchase and improve vacant and abandoned homes for rental to eligible individuals and families.

**HB 268 (Camuel)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would require that social studies instruction, materials, and academic standards include the roles and contributions of indigenous peoples, people of color, and people from other marginalized or non-European groups, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, in the history of the United States and the Commonwealth.

**HB 282 (Roberts and others)(H. A&R)**

Would exempt all diapers from the sales and use tax.

**HB 288 (Roarx)(H. B&I)**

Would cap the maximum interest rate of three percent on medical debt and medical debt judgments.

**HB 291 (Wilson and others)(S. F&C)**

Would require a sentencing court to consider the defendant's status as a primary caretaker of a dependent child unless the defendant is a violent offender, the victim is a child, or a statute prohibits an alternative sentence.

**HB 296 (Meade)(H. A&R)**

Would establish a nonrefundable income tax credit for alternative jet fuel producers and consumers.

**HB 299 (Chester-Burton, Brown)(H. Local Govt)**

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

**HB 308 (Doan)(H. State Govt)**

Would exempt Kentucky from daylight saving time.

**HB 312 (Chester-Burton)(H. Judiciary)**

Would enhance penalties for motor vehicle racing, including vehicle impoundment and increased fines.

**HB 315 (Callaway and others)(Became law)**

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 state or federal agricultural programs but would allow a nonresident alien, foreign business, foreign agent, trustee, or fiduciary to own, purchase, hold, or develop agricultural land for nonagricultural use provided that the development is completed within five years of acquiring the land.

**HB 318 (Roberts)(H. State Govt)**

Would establish that any formal action of a public agency is voidable by a court if there was not substantial compliance with statutes regarding video teleconferencing of meetings, recording of minutes, and conditions for attendance.

**HB 328 (Elliott)(H. Tourism)**

Would prohibit hunting on state historic battlefield sites unless approved by the Department of Parks and authorized by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission in order to meet specific goals of a wildlife management plan for the area.

**HB 329 (Kulkarni, Brown)(H. Local Govt)**

Would allow local governments to enact ordinances regulating firearms.

**HB 331 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. Judiciary)**

Would require background checks for private firearms sales and transfers.

**HB 335 (Camuel)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky to establish the initiative power of the people to propose laws and to enact or reject proposed initiatives at an election.

**HB 339 (Tate)(H. L&O)**

Would require the owner, seller, or lessor to have functional smoke, carbon monoxide, and gas detectors where applicable in all existing residential structures.

**HB 344 (Bauman and others)(H. Local Govt)**

Would prohibit state and local governmental entities from adopting sanctuary policies; require law enforcement agencies to use reasonable resources to support the enforcement of federal immigration law; prohibit policies which would restrict the sharing of information with federal immigration agencies; require compliance with federal requirements when a defendant subject to an immigration detainer has been sentenced in a criminal case.

**HB 349 (Grossberg)(H. Judiciary)**

Would include attacks motivated by gender identity and expression within the scope of hate crimes punishable by law.

**HB 352 (Roberts and others)(H. PS Ed)**

Would provide that no alien illegally present in the United States shall be classified as having Kentucky residency for the purpose of public postsecondary education institution tuition; prohibit public postsecondary education institutions from enacting, adopting, or otherwise enforcing any sanctuary policy; require data collection and reporting, and allow civil actions against public postsecondary education institutions for damages, costs, and attorney's fees if alien illegally present in the United States is negligently enrolled and subsequently commits a crime that is a violent offence; and withdraw immunities afforded public postsecondary education institutions.

**HB 353 (Roberts and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would revise proceedings to limit local government condemnation of blighted and abandoned properties and make other changes to eminent domain proceedings.

**HB 356 (Kulkarni)(S. Ag)**

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

**HB 358 (Kulkarni)(H. Local Govt)**

Would prohibit the use of algorithmic devices in setting the amount of rent to be charged to a residential tenant.

**HB 359 (Kulkarni)(H. Local Govt)**

Would repeal and reenact statewide the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act.

**HB 365 (Maddox and Calloway)(H. Ag)**

Would exempt producers who sell directly to consumers and do not exceed a sales limit of 240 dozen eggs per week from licensing requirements.

**HB 367 (Roarx and others)(H. Local Govt)**

Would include code enforcement and zoning inspection personnel employed by a consolidated local government as hazardous positions for the purposes of benefits of the County Employees Retirement System.

**HB 387 (Bauman and others)(S. NR Env)**

Original bill would have required that when the metropolitan sewer district proposes any change to its rates, rentals, or charges that would in aggregate generate revenue in excess of the percent increase in the CPI over the two most recent calendar years, the legislative body of the city or consolidated local government containing the district must approve of the change before it can go into effect; and would prohibit the expenditure of metropolitan sewer district funds for bonus compensation, advertising, and other listed purposes. Revised bill removed requirement for legislative approval of rate increases.

**HB 391 (Nemes)(Became law)**

Would increase the yearly yield of pure and unadulterated Kentucky honey sold from 150 gallons to 500 gallons before requiring a person to process the honey in a certified honey house or seek a permit from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

**HB 394 (Hart, Dotson, Wesley)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit the Governor from pardoning persons that have not been convicted of a crime, unless the person is currently being investigated or prosecuted in connection to a crime.

**HB 418 (Burke and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would establish privacy protections for a woman seeking reproductive health care outside of the Commonwealth; establish protections for any person or entity assisting a woman seeking reproductive health care out of the Commonwealth; establish a civil cause of action for violations..

**HB 419 (Burke and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would amend existing laws to establish reproductive rights, remove the prohibition of insurance coverage for abortion; include abortions or induced miscarriages as medical care; allow medical aid payments for abortion; allow money in the rape crisis trust fund to be used for abortion services or education; allow health departments to dispense medication for an abortion; remove penalties associated with performing abortions

**HB 422 (Lewis)(Became law)**

Would revise statutes on administrative regulations to provide for electronic filing of regulations and of deficiency and withdrawal decisions on regulations.

**HB 429 (Donworth and others)(H. State Govt)**

Would allow the Legislative Ethics Commission to increase the potential penalty imposed from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

**HB 439 (Doan)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would ban schools from selling or providing ultra-processed foods during the school day.

**HB 452 (Grossberg)(H. Judiciary)**

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.

**HB 457 (Truett)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would require each public school with students in grades six through 12 to display a printed abstract of certain child labor laws, including limited and prohibited occupations and work hour restrictions for minors, and to add that to the school website.

**HB 460 (Donworth and others)(H. P&S Ed)**

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

**HB 465 (Chester-Burton, Nemes)(S. Judiciary)**

Would establish enhanced penalties for motor vehicle racing.



**HB 468 (Griffie)(H. Veterans)**

Would adopt the Green Star flag as the Commonwealth's symbol of continued awareness of military service member and veteran suicide.

**HB 496 (Pollock)(H. Transp)**

Prohibit the use of a personal communication device or stand-alone electronic device while operating a motor vehicle.

**HB 504 (Lawrence)(H. L&O)**

Would exempt temporary structures from building code compliance if erected by or for a state or government agency, city, or municipality; require a temporary structure be inspected and brought into compliance or removed after six months.

**HB 514 (Stalker)(H. Local Govt)**

Would amend Chapter 100 to allow religious institutions to develop affordable housing with only a ministerial submission to review by a planning unit for compliance with the provisions of the section if the development is on land owned by a religious institution, exclusively contains affordable housing for a period of ten years, and contains fewer than 25 units; require compliance with design standards of the planning unit with the option to obtain a variance; require continuing compliance with the section; allow for religious institutions to propose an affordable housing development exceeding 25 units but require a public meeting and approval by the planning commission; allow the Kentucky Housing Corporation to provide technical and advisory resources to a religious developer.

**HB 516 (Watkins, Donworth)(H. Judiciary)**

Would prohibit a child from being interrogated using deceptive methods and create a new rule of evidence to limit the admissibility of statements made in the interrogation of a child in violation of statute.

**HB 538 (Lewis)(H. Local Govt)**

Would amend current laws affecting Jefferson County's consolidated local government to decrease the size requirement to establish a new city in a county containing a consolidated local government from 6,000 persons to 3,000 persons; to specify the composition of the ethics commission, place controls on council district formation and redistricting and to require regulations issued by local health boards and local solid waste management boards that apply to individuals residing or businesses operating within the jurisdiction of the consolidated local government to be approved by the consolidated local government council.

**HB 541 (Camuel)(H. P&S Ed)**

Would eliminate charter school authorization from state law.

**HB 559 (Stevenson)(H. A&R)**

Would establish a refundable qualified rent payment credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

**HB 564 (Stevenson)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would incrementally raise the minimum wage of hourly and tipped employees and require adherence to any future federal increase in excess of the new state wage rates; include anti-preemption language permitting local governments to establish minimum wage ordinances in excess of the state minimum wage.

**HB 576 (Kulkarni)(H. Local Govt)**

Would allow accessory dwelling unit as a permitted use in all residential zones; prohibit a planning unit from adopting regulations which would not allow a property owner to have one accessory dwelling unit on the owner's property.

**HB 577 (Kulkarni)(H. Local Govt)**

Would allow multi-unit dwellings and mixed-use developments as permitted uses in commercial zones; prohibit a planning unit from adopting or enforcing regulations that do not allow multi-unit dwellings and mixed-use developments in commercial zones.

**HB 578 (Kulkarni)(H. Local Govt)**

Would allow duplexes as a permitted use in all residential zones and prohibit a planning unit from adopting or enforcing regulations that would exclude duplexes in residential zones or impose requirements or fees on duplexes different than those for single-family homes.

**HB 581 (Burke and others)(H. Judiciary)**

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 to report the loss or theft of the firearm or ammunition to a law enforcement agency.

**HB 593 (Camuel)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would set a minimum wage for essential employees.

**HB 598 (Camuel)H. Eco Dev)**

Would require employers with 50 or more employees to provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave for an employee who has been employed for at least one year.

**HB 599 (Camuel)(H. Eco Dev)**

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 628 (Donworth)(H. Elections)**

Would establish the Advisory Redistricting Commission to draft redistricting plans for legislative and congressional districts.

**HB 629 (Dotson and others)(H. HS)**

Would prohibit the refusal to provide health services to a person who has not been vaccinated.

**HB 632 (Burke)(H. Eco Dev)**

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 635 (Tackett Lafferty)(S. CC)**

Would require the Finance and Administration Cabinet to create a grant database that will be a central repository for information on all available state or local government grants.

**HB 647 (Maddox)(H. HS)**

Would allow a student, staff, or faculty member to opt out of a postsecondary school's immunization policy for specified reasons; and prohibit a public entity from creating standardized documentation with the purpose of certifying vaccination status.

**HB 651 (Tackett Lafferty)(H. F&C)**

Would establish income eligibility requirements for the Child Care Assistance Program.

**HB 654 (Chester-Burton, Brown)(H. State Govt)**

Would require witnesses appearing before a committee, interim committee, statutory committee, subcommittee, commission, or task force of the General Assembly to take an oath prior to giving testimony and that any oath administered is video recorded.

**HB 656 (Chester-Burton, Marzian, Brown)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would add protections against discrimination based on weight.

**HB 663 (Blanton)(H. Transp)**

Would move regulation and licensing of junkyards / recycling operations to the Motor Vehicle Commission from the Department of Highways. KRC has previously opposed limitation of recycling licensure to state highways. Bill as written does not reduce the scope of the program, but simply moves regulation to the Motor Vehicle Commission.

**HB 664 (Blanton)(Became law)**

Would direct the Transportation Cabinet to establish a pilot program for automated speed enforcement in highway work zones and issue a civil citation to an operator of a motor vehicle traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit when a bona fide worker is present.

**HB 665 (Whitaker)(H. State Govt)**

Bill purports to direct Courts of Justice in interpreting the title of legislation, and what weight should be given to titles with respect to whether an act contains an appropriation or declares an emergency. Bill arguably violates separation of powers by constraining what evidentiary weight the court may give to declaration of emergency.

**HB 667 (Roberts)(H. Judiciary)**

Would provide that firearms manufactured in Kentucky shall not be subject to federal law or regulation; and prohibit the state and local enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation that does not exist under state law and that purports to regulate a firearm. Bill raises significant constitutional issues regarding federal regulation and the reach of the commerce clause to regulate articles in commerce.

**HB 672 (Bray)(H. State Govt)**

Would establish and implement policy standards for the use of artificial intelligence.

**HB 673 (Doan)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would prohibit employment of unauthorized aliens; require business entities and employers to enroll in E-Verify and verify employment eligibility of all employees.

**HB 681 (Roarx)(H. Judiciary)**

Would allow a law enforcement officer to enter vacant and abandoned property to remove any person unlawfully occupying the property; specify when property shall be presumed vacant and abandoned; provide criminal and civil immunity to a law enforcement officer acting in good faith.

**HB 682 (Upchurch)(Became law)**

Would afford cable operators and broadband providers the same rights as public utilities to reimbursement for the costs associated with relocation of their facilities in connection with a turnpike project or projects with public highways. KRC believes that the cost recovery should be limited to "reasonable" costs.

**HB 686 (Roberts, Bray)(H. Judiciary)**

Purports to provide that firearm suppressors manufactured in Kentucky shall not be subject to federal law or regulation; require firearm suppressors manufactured and sold in Kentucky to have the words "Made in Kentucky" clearly stamped on them; prohibit

the state and local enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation that does not exist under state law and that purports to regulate a firearm suppressor.

Bill raises significant constitutional issues regarding federal regulation and the reach of the commerce clause to regulate articles in commerce.

**HB 697 (Raymer)(H. NR Energy)**

Would prohibit the Energy and Environment Cabinet from allowing metallurgic, industrial solid waste from being treated as a residual solid waste regardless of whether the waste is reprocessed in the solid waste facility's manufacturing or industrial processes.

**HB 698 (Raymer)(H. NR Energy)**

Would amend KRS 224.43-500 to define "residual waste facility"; increase the environmental remediation fee from \$1.75 to \$2; require that the fee collected from residual waste facilities be returned to the county where the facility is located.

**HB 701 (Bowling)(Became law)**

Original bill would have prohibited local zoning changes that discriminate against against a digital asset mining business; provide guidelines for operation of a node; exclude home digital asset mining, digital asset mining business, and the operation of a node from money transmitter license requirements; and provide that digital asset mining or staking as a service shall not be deemed to be offering or selling a security.

Committee substitute removed all reference to planning and zoning, thus addressing a concern that KRC had expressed last session and this, regarding the ability of communities to impose reasonable restrictions on digital mining businesses in order to address off-site noise impacts.

**HB 715 (Donworth)(H. State Govt)**

Would prohibit public entities from requiring, compelling, or incentivizing program participants to communicate with elected officials with a specific political message.

**HB 717 (Aull)(H. A&R)**

Would establish the first-generation homebuyer trust fund, establish eligible activities and use of the trust fund.

**HB 723 (Dotson)(H. HS)**

Would officially recognize that a person has only one gender, male or female.

**HB 729 (Camuel and Holloway)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to the Kentucky Constitution to exempt from state and local excise, sales, and use taxes food, food ingredients,

prescription drugs, residential utilities, and on-farm utilities.

**HB 731 (Holloway)(H. L&O)**

Would prohibit sexual harassment by any legislator or legislative agent to a legislator, legislative, or legislative branch employee.

**HB 751 (Grossberg)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot for consideration a proposed state constitutional amendment to establish an individual right to reproductive freedom; allow the Commonwealth to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a pregnant patient's life or physical or mental health; forbid discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising the right to reproductive freedom.

**HB 754 (Roberts)(H. State Govt)**

Would prohibit an executive branch official from expending any appropriations or funds, including the use of state time or resources to challenge any action of the federal government without the written consent of the Attorney General; require the Attorney General to represent the Commonwealth in all litigation pertaining to federal government actions; prohibit the Governor from taking a position on legal actions against the federal government without the written consent of the Attorney General.

Bill transgresses constitutional separation of powers by seeking to constrain the executive branch and to make the Governor servient to another constitutional officer in determining when and whether to challenge federal action affecting Kentucky.

**HB 756 (Roberts Maddox, Massaroni)(H. Elections)**

Would require voter approval prior to any new tax or fee, rate increase, or extension of an expiring tax or fee.

**HB 757 (Kulkarni and others)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would require any employer that begins doing business in Kentucky on or after the effective date of this Act shall be required to pay all of its employees a certified living wage if the business does business with government.

**HB 759 (Moore and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would make game wardens and boating enforcement officers subject to the same requirements for entering or accessing private open land as other law enforcement officers.

**HB 768 (Maddox)(H. Ag)**

Would exempt small farms and home-based processors from any state and any city, county, urban-county government, consolidated local government, unified local

government, or charter county government and any health department thereof from any rule, administrative regulation, certification, or licensing requirement that is not required by federal law.

**HB 771 (Hancock)(H. State Govt)**

Would provide an employee of the Commonwealth in the judicial or legislative branch of the state government a paid leave of absence of up to six weeks for the birth, adoption, foster care placement, or serious health condition of a child.

**HB 773 (Brown and others)(H. Elections)**

Would place on the ballot for consideration 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 afterwards.

**HB 799 (Meade)(H. HS)**

Would require an executive branch agency to perform any directive issued by the General Assembly by law or program created by an Act of the General Assembly and perform the task or provide the service through their existing funds if the General Assembly does not provide additional funding or an appropriation.

**HB 801 (Gentry)(H. Eco Dev)**

Would prohibit all employers from demoting, dismissing, disciplining, or discriminating against an employee who misses work because of duties related to being a candidate, candidate-elect, or member of the General Assembly or legislative body of a local government; require an employer grant a leave of absence if the employee requests it.

**HB 806 (Doan, Callaway)(H. Local Govt)**

Would allow a person to keep six or fewer backyard chickens on residential property in cities.

**House Resolutions**

**HJR 15 (Baker and others)(Became law)**

Would direct that a donated Ten Commandments display be installed permanently on the Capitol grounds.

**HCR 19 (Lewis)(Withdrawn)**

Would urge Congress to allow medical cannabis users to carry firearms.

**HR 24 (Hogsdon)(H. Local Govt)**

Simple resolution would express concern about federal regulatory overreach that adversely affects the housing industry.

**HJR 30 (Petrie and others)(Became law, line items vetoed, veto overridden)**

Authorize the Office of State Budget Director to release a portion of the monies appropriated for the Kentucky Water or Wastewater Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems Fund.

**HCR 41 (Lockett and others)(H. HS)**

Would establish the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force to integrate the principles of the Make America Healthy Again movement.

**HJR 46 (Petrie and others)(Became law, line items vetoed, veto overridden)**

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

**HCR 50 (Roberts and others)(H. Rules)**

Would establish the Kentucky Discipline of Government Efficiency (KY DOGE) Task Force to study Executive Branch expenditures and provide recommendations for efficiency in government operations.

**HJR 51 (Hampton, Grossl)(H. Tourism)**

Would direct the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to delay the demolition of the Great Crossing Dam in Georgetown, Kentucky, until after December 31, 2027; to hold periodic meetings; and to conduct a study on the repair or reconstruction of the Great Crossing Dam.

**HCR 77 (Tackett Lafferty)(H. CC)**

Would establish the Flood Prevention and Mitigation Regional Task Force to study flood risks, mitigation strategies, and disaster prevention.

**HCR 78 (Blanton, Smith)(H. CC)**

Would establish the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force to study disaster mitigation, infrastructure resilience, and planning for natural disasters that impact the Commonwealth.

**HCR 84 (Elliott)(H. Judiciary)**

Would establish the Automatic Expungement Task Force.

## **Senate Bills**

**SB 4 (Mays Bledsoe)(Became law)**

Would require the Commonwealth Office of Technology to establish and implement policy standards for the use of artificial intelligence; create the Artificial intelligence Governance Committee; task the committee with the establishment of responsible,



ethical, and transparent procedures for the allowable use, development, and approval of artificial intelligence.

**SB 11 (Thomas)(S. A&R)**

Would incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and increase the applicable threshold of annual gross volume of sales for the employer to capture more retail store and service industry employees.

**SB 19 (Sen. Rick Girdler)(Vetoed, veto overridden became law)**

Would require a moment of silence or reflection at the start of each school day and establish guidelines.

**SB 33 (Yates)(S. Judiciary)**

Would remove penalties related to marijuana possession, cultivation, or trafficking for up to eight ounces or five plants and expand existing expungement laws to include certain convictions relating to cannabis.

**SB 34 (Yates)(S. A&R)**

Would restructure the state income tax benefits for contributions made to domestic violence shelter or rape crisis centers and for rental to protected tenants.

**SB 35 (Yates)(S. CC)**

Would allow abortion in certain circumstances including when there is a lethal fetal anomaly or the fetus is incompatible with sustained life outside the womb or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest and the fetus has not yet reached viability as determined by a good-faith medical judgment.

**SB 36 (Yates)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would create a constitutional right of an individual 21 years of age or older to possess, use, buy, or sell one ounce or less of cannabis and procedures for placing it on the ballot.

**SB 39 (Elkins)(S. Judiciary)**

Would expand the criminalization of “dog fighting” to “animal fighting” which would be a class A misdemeanor.

**SB 40 (Neal)(S. Ed)**

Would establish and define free speech protections for student journalists.

**SB 46 (Armstrong)(S. Judiciary)**

Would allow petitions for orders of protection, including an emergency order, domestic violence order, and an interpersonal protective order, to be served in accordance with Rule 4.05 of the Kentucky Rules of Civil Procedure for constructive service in addition to personal service.

**SB 47 (Armstrong)(S. A&R)**

Would establish a refundable Kentucky child credit for taxpayers with qualifying children under the age of six.

**SB 48 (Armstrong)(S. A&R)**

Would establish the Kentucky Proud School Match Program which is designed to support eligible school district nutrition programs.

**SB 49 (Armstrong)(S. Judiciary)**

Would require employers who provide services in agriculture, construction, landscaping, and transportation to maintain a written heat illness prevention plan informing employees of policies and procedures to be followed when an employee is suffering from a heat illness.

**SB 51 (Armstrong)(S. Judiciary)**

Would revise existing law related to workplace harassment relating to political and religious matters.

**SB 52 (Armstrong)(S. Ed)**

Would require each public school to display a printed abstract of certain child labor laws.

**SB 56 (Armstrong)(S. Judiciary)**

Would revise proceedings in extensions of protective orders to allow the petitioner to be excused from future court proceedings until the respondent is served.

**SB 60 (Rawlings and others)(H. Judiciary)**

Would create a cause of action for persons whose religious exercise has been substantially burdened by government action and waives sovereign and government immunity.

**SB 65 (West)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)**

Annual bill to sunset regulations that were identified as deficient during the interim and were put in place by the Governor notwithstanding the finding of deficiency.

**SB 67 (Nemes and others)(H. CC)**

Would create a new section of the constitution of Kentucky to exempt for homeowners who are 65 years or age or older any increase in the valuation of their permanent residence and contiguous real property including certain assessment timelines.

**SB 70 (Thomas)(S. Judiciary)**

Would enact the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act that, among other things,

creates a mechanism for partition or sale among cotenants by the court and would establish other requirements and protocols to support this legal framework.

**SB 73 (Adams, Elkins)(Became law)**

Would establish the crime of sexual extortion as a felony and require distribution of education materials on sextortion for students in 4th grade and above. Read the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children policy priority fact sheet [here](#).

**SB 74 (Herron)(S. A&R)**

Would require certain health insurance policies to provide comprehensive coverage for an annual mental health Wellness examination.

**SB 75 (Reed and others)(H. CC)**

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

**SB 78 (Armstrong)(S. A&R)**

Would eliminate sales and use taxes on diapers.

**SB 81 (Thomas)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would amend KRS Chapter 65 to allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals.

**SB 92 (Berg)(S. Veterans)**

Would permit destruction of confiscated firearms and require same if used in commission of violent crime.

**SB 96 (Yates)(S. Transp)**

Would prohibit knowing promotion or facilitation of highway motor vehicle racing, and enhance penalties.

**SB 98 (Yates)(S. Judiciary)**

Would abolish the death penalty and convert existing death sentences to life without parole; allow possibility of parole for juvenile offender).

**SB 99 (Douglas, Higdon)(S. Rules)**

Would prohibit use of personal communication devices while operating motor vehicles, except for GPS systems.

**SB 101 (Neal)(S. Judiciary)**

Would abolish the death penalty and convert existing death sentences to life without parole; allow possibility of parole for juvenile offender).

**SB 102 (Neal)(S. Judiciary)**

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

**SB 105 (Neal and others)(S. Veterans)**

Would require storage of firearms safely or use of gun locking device and require reporting of loss or theft of firearms or ammo.

**SB 109 (Neal and Others)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would make Juneteenth (June 19) a state holiday.

**SB 122 (Howell)(S. Rules)**

Would prohibit sales of dogs and cats in a retail shop unless the animal obtained from a qualified breeder or animal shelter.

**SB 126 (McDaniel)(H. Elections)**

Would amend Sections 77 and 240 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to limiting the Governor's ability to grant pardons and commute sentences towards the end of the term of office.

**SB 132 (Carroll)(Became law)**

Would codify protections for health care providers who opt out of providing a medical service because of "sincerely held religious, moral or ethical principles." Read coverage of the bill by the Herald-Leader [here](#).

**SB 144 (Carroll)(H. Veterans)**

Would direct disposition of confiscated firearms which were used in a homicide.

**SB 146 (Yates)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would place on the ballot for consideration by voters an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution to impose term limits on state Senators and Representatives.

**SB 154 (Armstrong and others)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would allow local governments to make an agreement with a labor organization to require membership in the organization as a condition of employment.

**SB 164 (Tichenor and others)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would prohibit a state or local government or public agency from providing preferential treatment to individuals or entities on the basis of religion, race, sex, color, or national origin when they contract or seek employment with the state or local government; prohibit a public agency from providing resources or funds to establish or maintain diversity, equity, and inclusion offices, trainings, or related initiatives; but would allow

preferential consideration for businesses owned by individuals who are residents of Kentucky or the United States.

**SB 165 (Tichenor and others)(S. Ed)**

Would prohibit a school district, public school, or cooperative board from providing differential treatment or benefits on the basis of an individual's religion, race, sex, color, or national origin; prohibit the Kentucky Department of Education, a school district, a public school, or a cooperative board from expending any resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**SB 167 (Howell)(S. Judiciary)**

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.

**SB 177 (Tichenor and others)(S. HS)**

Would prohibit a requirement for any individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, modified ribonucleic acid (modRNA) vaccine, or messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine for the purposes of student enrollment, employment, or medical treatment in the Commonwealth; and prohibit any COVID-19 vaccine, modified ribonucleic acid (modRNA) vaccine, or messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine to be administered in the Commonwealth to a minor child under the age of 18 years.

**SB 206 (Rawlings and others)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would establish reporting and record retention requirements for political issues committees and persons making independent expenditures and prohibit political issues committees from knowingly and willfully soliciting or accepting contributions from prohibited sources.

**SB 225 (Herron)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would place on the ballot a proposed 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 afterwards.

**SB 227 (Yates)(S. Transp)**

Would direct the Transportation Cabinet to establish a pilot program for automated speed enforcement in highway work zones and issue a civil citation to an operator of a motor vehicle traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit when a bona fide worker is present.

**SB 231 (Yates)(S. Judiciary)**

Would allow an appeal from a final order issued by a person or group responsible for enforcement of a code of ethics to the Circuit Court of the county in which that person or group is located.

**SB 245 (Smith, Elkins)(Vetoed, veto overridden, became law)**

Would require that a Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission member whose reappointment confirmation is declined by the Senate shall vacate his or her seat upon the date of sine die adjournment of the session in which the confirmation was declined.

**SB 246 (West and others)(S. Judiciary)**

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

**SB 257 (Tichenor and others)(H. CC)**

Would establish the Office of Government Efficiency within the Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts.

**SB 262 (Neal)(S. A&R)**

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

**SB 264 (Herron)(S. Judiciary)**

Would prohibit a child from being interrogated using deceptive methods, and create a new rule of evidence to limit the admissibility of statements made in the interrogation of a child in violation of statute.

**Senate Resolutions**

**SJR 19 (Rawlings, Tichenor)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would direct the Attorney General to challenge all unconstitutional acts of the federal government that usurp or diminish the sovereignty of Kentucky.

**SCR 35 (Tichenor)(S. State Local Govt)**

Would urge Congress to oppose the UN Pact for the Future.

**SJR 55 (Tichenor, Mills)(Adopted)**

Joint resolution would direct the governing board of public postsecondary education institutions to adopt policies to combat antisemitism.

**SCR 61 (Funke Frommeyer and others)(H. CC)**

Would state the General Assembly's support for the goals of the Make America Healthy Again movement; establish the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force to integrate the principles of the Make America Healthy Again movement; establish task force membership; require the task force to submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2025.

**SCR 67 (Webb)(H. CC)**

Would establish the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force to study disaster mitigation, infrastructure resilience, and planning for natural disasters that impact the Commonwealth

**SJR 70 (Herron)(S. Veterans)**

Would establish the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force to study the causes of and examine ways to prevent gun violence.

**SCR 89 (Higdon, Herron) (S. Rules)**

Establish the Kentucky Restoration of Voting Rights Task Force to review, study, and recommend language for a constitutional amendment or statutory change to restore voting rights to individuals with felony convictions who have completed their sentences.

**SCR 137 (Storm)(S. Floor)**

Would create an automatic expungement task force.

**SR 164 (Tichenor)(Adopted)**

Urge Kentucky's colleges and universities to end the use of animals in wasteful government experiments