The 2023 General Assembly is 2/3 of the way done and we at the Kentucky Resources Council continue to track environmental, conservation, consumer, energy, and general government bills and resolutions. We will publish this notice on our website weekly throughout the Session with updates on the bills we are supporting, opposing, or tracking. This summary is complete through end of legislative day 20, March 3, 2023. There are 10 legislative days remaining in the 2023 Regular Session.

This year is a “short” 30-legislative day session and began on January 3, 2023, with an anticipated final day on March 30, 2023. The General Assembly will not be in session on March 6th. March 15 and 16 are set aside as “concurrence” days, and there is a “veto” recess from March 17 through 28th before the General Assembly reconvenes on March 29 and 30th to consider any vetoes of bills and to finish work on bills and resolutions prior to adjournment sine die.

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

SHARE THESE NOTICES
Feel free to share this notice. If you know someone who would like to be added to this list, tell them to write us at amy@kyrc.org. The legislative update will be refreshed and republished each Friday afternoon when the General Assembly is in session.

STAY INFORMED DURING THE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Find copies of bills, votes, and more information at https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/23rs/record.html
To find out bill status by phone, call 1-866-840-2835.

Find your legislator at

Leave a message for a legislator on the message line
Call 1-800-372-7181 to leave a message for a legislator or an entire committee.
En Espanol, el nombre es 1-866-840-6574.

The schedule of the committees during the 2023 session is found here

Note that there is a daily schedule published on the preceding day, which may alter the standing committee schedule to cancel a meeting, or to propose a special meeting. That daily schedule is found here: https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/legislativecalendar

Please note that the Council does not have a position on each bill listed. Some bills are tracked for general interest; others simply to assure that they do not become vehicles for mischievous amendments.

We have formatted this update to highlight in the first section, those bills on which KRC has taken a position.

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

Here’s the key to understanding where a bill is in the process:

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

S. Ag = Senate Agriculture Committee
S. A&R = Senate Appropriations and Revenue
S. B&I = Senate Banking and Insurance Committee
S. CC = Senate Committee on Committees
S. Eco Dev = Senate Economic Development, Tourism and Labor Committee
S. Ed = Senate Education Committee
S. FC = Senate Family and Children Committee
S. HS = Senate Health Services Committee
S. Judiciary = Senate Judiciary Committee
S. L&O = Senate Licensing and Occupations Committee
S. NR Energy = Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
S. Rules = Senate Rules Committee
S. State Local Govt = Senate State and Local Government Committee
S. Transp = Senate Transportation
S. Veterans = Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH KRC HAS TAKEN A POSITION

House Bills
HB 4 (Branscum and others)(S. Ag)(-, needs major revision)
Bill would revise the current statutes on the Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting. Numerous provisions would be added or amended, including those regarding the term of the ad hoc members appointed to the Board, and decommissioning plan and bond requirements.

As written, KRC does not support the bill, since it is a weakening of protections for landowners from what is bring required by the state Siting Board under current law.

Revisions are needed to assure the adequacy of decommissioning bonds to fully assure decommissioning in the event of operators default, and to fully protect landowners during the decommissioning process.

HB 40 (Lewis, Hale)(H. Rules)(-)
What would a legislative session be without a bill proposing changes in the administrative regulation process to address regulations found by an interim legislative committee to be “deficient?” Bill in plain conflict with the separation of powers doctrine under Sections 27 and 28 of the Kentucky Constitution, would nullify any regulation found deficient by a legislative committee unless the
agency appealed that finding to the Attorney General’s office within 10 days and the AGs office overruled the finding.

In addition to the unconstitutionality of granting interim legislative committees veto power over a regulation, the bill is a solution in search of a problem. The number of regulations found deficient and put into effect by the Governor under current law notwithstanding a finding of deficiency by a legislative committee is negligible on an annual basis, and in many years, there are none. Since 2005, the percent of regulations out of the over 11,000 reviewed by legislative committee that have been deemed deficient, and which have gone into effect notwithstanding, is 3/10ths of 1% of those regulations.

Any effort by the General Assembly to direct or cause an automatic nullification of a regulation during the legislative interim, whether directly or by referral to the Attorney General, as in this case, would run afoul of the LRC v. Brown decision. The General Assembly can make findings of deficiency and can act on those findings during the next legislative session, but it cannot delegate to a committee or in this case to another constitutional officer, the power to nullify a regulation.

HB 66 (Willner)(H. CC)(+)
Would regulate disconnection of electric and gas service by PSC-regulated utilities, including creating winter and summer temperature standards to prohibit 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; prohibiting disconnection of service on holidays and weekends and before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m. on weekdays; allowing for reconnection of service for partial payment with a payment plan; waiving 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, and making other reforms.

HB 74 (Hart and 17 others)(H. State Govt)(-)
Would make water fluoridation programs optional and allow the governing bodies of water systems subject to regulation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to decide whether they participate in water fluoridation programs. Consistent with KRC’s historic position, KRC believes that fluoridation meeting state and federal standards, as a tool for advancing oral hygiene, is recognized as among the most effective public health initiatives. Further, any issues pertaining to state water fluoridation should be addressed administratively through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

HB 94 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)(+)
Would establish a Healthy Soils Program and a Healthy Soils Program 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; approve applications for grants and other types of financial assistance under the Healthy Soils Program; require the Agriculture Water Quality Authority to promote soil restoration and include an organic agriculture organization among appointments to the authority and add healthy soil practices as a committee.

HB 96 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)(+)
Would establish the Kentucky Urban Farming Youth Initiative to promote farming to youth in urban counties in urban University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service offices.

HB 140 (Raymond)(H. CC)(+)
Proposed constitutional amendment to establish a right of the people to have a healthy environment, including a right to clean air, pure water, and ecologically healthy habitats; declare the Commonwealth’s natural resources, among them its air, water, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all people, including generations yet to come; establish that as trustee of
the environment and its natural resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for
the benefit of all people.

HB 160 (Freeland)(S. CC)(+)
Would amend existing law to fix problems created by a previous legislative amendment to state clean
water laws regarding Westlake Vinyls and a pre-2004 mixing zone that had been approved for a
bioaccumulative chemical of concern.

Prior to 2004, mixing zones that allow a certain amount of dilution of discharged wastewater prior to
meeting in-stream water pollution limits, was available for bioaccumulative chemicals of concern.
Westlake was one of the facilities that had obtained such an approval, and those pre-2004 approvals
were exempted from a ban on mixing zones for BCCs that has been in effect since that time.
The bill corrects many of the problems created by the previous bill, which KRC had unsuccessfully
opposed, that could have, if implemented, resulted in Kentucky losing primary regulatory authority for
Clean Water Act permitting in the Commonwealth. KRC testified before committee in support of the
changes to restore the Cabinet’s ability to determine on a permit-by-permit basis whether a pre-2004
mixing zone granted for a BCC should be continued, reduced, or eliminated. The bill also does not
prevent the Cabinet from requiring on a case-by-case basis that a discharger using multi-port
diffusers in order to meet water pollutant discharge permit limits adjust any mixing zone to account
for the use of diffusers in accelerating the mixing and dilution of wastewaters.

HB 187 (King)(H. CC)(+)
Would require that a greenhouse gas emissions reduction agreement that creates an interest in real
property that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations on the use of the real property by its
owner and subsequent grantees for the purposes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions or storing
greenhouse gas emissions that would have otherwise been released be recorded pursuant to the
requirements of KRS 382.110 to be binding on subsequent purchasers or creditors.

HB 197 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)(+, needs revision)
Would require the Energy and Environment Cabinet on or before January 1, 2024, to promulgate
administrative regulations establishing maximum PFAS chemical limits and monitoring requirements
for drinking water provided by public and semi-public water systems and maximum PFAS chemical
limits and monitoring requirements for discharges into the waters of the Commonwealth; require that
maximum PFAS chemical limits be designed to protect public health and be updated.
KRC appreciates Rep. Kulkarni’s advocacy for protective limits on these “forever chemicals” in drinking
water systems and in wastewater discharges. EPA is in the process of developing such limits and we
encourage their prompt adoption by the Energy and Environment Cabinet, as well as interim
imposition of monitoring requirements for PFAs and PFOAs for all industrial and municipal
wastewater discharges and wastewater plant solids from industrial and municipal sources.

HB 222 (Gooch)(S. CC)(+)
Would extend the levy of the hazardous waste management assessment until June 30, 2032.

HB 236 (Sharp and others)(To Senate)(-)
Would provide that fiduciaries shall consider the sole interest of the members and beneficiaries of the
retirement systems using only pecuniary factors and prohibit the consideration of or actions on
nonpecuniary interests including environmental, social, political, and ideological interests.
The bill furthers the legislative effort to restrict investment that includes environmental or other
societal goals as criteria for investment. Any legislative enactment should assure no state interference
with the ability of beneficiaries in state-administered retirement systems to choose investment
portfolios for their retirement that include such criteria or limitations. Further, the goals of ESG
investing should not be presented as conflicting with the duties of fiduciaries, who should be permitted to consider ESG factors as they relate to future risk and financial investment criteria. KRC does not accept the false premise that ESG goals are inconsistent with fiduciary responsibility, or that ESG goals are inconsistent with profitability in the short and long term.

HB 264 (Pratt)(S. Eco Dev)(+/-)
Law would establish an office of regulatory relief that would be empowered to waive compliance with state laws and regulations in order to allow a “sandbox participant” to demonstrate an innovative idea. To the extent that such a program would allow the suspension of applicability of an environmental protection or workplace safety or health standard, such delegation to the newly-established office is inappropriate, and could jeopardize continued delegated authority for Kentucky to manage several environmental and health and safety programs. Many individual regulatory programs already contain waivers and variances that allow for innovative or fundamentally different factors while maintaining essential public protections and if others are desired, they should be developed by those agencies and with assurances that such protections will never be sacrificed or traded off.

KRC has sent Representative Pratt suggested language to assure no compromise to workplace health and safety, and to environmental health and safety regulations, and to programs delegated under federal law.

HB 306 (Raymond)(H. CC)(+)
Would require radon testing for child care centers, schools, and rental properties.

HB 307 (Raymond)(H. CC)(+)
Would require a sellers and landlords of residential property to conduct and pay for tests to determine lead content as a condition of sale or rental and require disclosure.

HB 384 (Dossett)(H. CC)(+)
Would establish the Healthy Farm and Food Innovation Board and fund to help fund nonprofits working on health food access. House Bill 384 would create stability and opportunities for direct farm impact food access programs—such as Kentucky Double Dollars, Farms to Food Banks, and Fresh RX for MOMs—and pave the way for additional new efforts that support the vitality of Kentucky agriculture and the health of Kentuckians.

HB 422 (Timoney)(H. CC)(+)
Would reform vegetation management by electric utilities regulated by the Public Service Commission to have a vegetation management plan approved by the commission; establish homeowner rights with respect to vegetation maintenance; require the utility develop a brochure for homeowner rights and have the information available on its website; allow for civil action for unauthorized tree pruning or removal; allow for damages for unauthorized tree removal or pruning; require written consent to remove more than 25 percent of tree canopy.

HB 426 (Gooch)(H. CC)(+)
Would amend existing obligations of utilities regarding the provision of “adequate, efficient, and reasonable” service to explicitly add “reliable” service.

HB 532 (Flannery)(H. CC)(+)
Would revise laws concerning municipal utilities to increase accountability, including requiring creation of a utility board to administer the functions of the utility; require utility rates, terms of service and customer service to be administered through rules of the board; require rates be fair, just, and reasonable and predicated on the utility cost of service; prohibit commingling of funds between
the utility and other local government functions; prohibit the expenditure of utility revenues on any function other than the running of the electric utility.

HB 533 (Callaway)(H. CC)(-)
Would expand anti ESG efforts by prohibiting state contracts and investment with companies that engage in any “politically sensitive company boycotts.”

HB 552 (Gooch)(H. CC)(-)
Would prohibit any agency or instrumentality of state or local government from engaging in solar geoengineering or weather modification strategies to help mitigate climate change. Research in climate mitigation strategies should not be curtailed blanketly by legislative mandate.

**House Resolutions**

HJR 8 (Lawrence)(H. CC)(-)
Joint resolution would apply to Congress under Article V of the Constitution of the United States for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

Constitutional scholars largely believe that the scope of such a convention would not be limited to enumerated issues but could become a vehicle for wide-ranging damage to personal liberties and constitutional protections. And there are already constraints on the terms of office of elected officials and members of Congress, which are called “elections.”

HJR 37 (Bauman and others)(To Senate)(+/-)
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; specify required elements of the revisions.

The determination by the Cabinet or Metro Louisville Air Pollution Control District on what strategies to employ in order to achieve and maintain air quality should be driven by the periodic reevaluation of the continued efficacy and cost-effectiveness of those measures, and not by legislative mandate.

Under HJR 8, enacted in the 2020 General Assembly Regular Session, there is already a process by which the Cabinet and District have evaluated the use of reformulated gas as a pollution control strategy and will, as provided in the Clean Air Act and once Louisville is designated as attainment for ozone, petition to end the use of RFG since it is no longer a cost-effective strategy given other pollution reductions in the area and EPA-mandated changes in the formulation of all gasoline.

KRC is working with the sponsor, Cabinet, and District to revise the resolution to assure it doesn’t not interfere with the analysis, process, and outcome mandated under HJR 8.

HJR 61 (Petrie)(H. CC)(-)
Another joint resolution calling on Congress for a constitutional convention to impose term limits on federal officeholders. See HJR 8.

HJR 62 (Petrie)(H. A&R)(-)
Another joint resolution calling on Congress for a constitutional convention to impose fiscal constraints on federal government. See HJR 8.

**Senate Bills**

SB 4 (Mills and others)(To House)(-)
Bill would create a presumption against retirement of coal-fired electric utility plants owned by PSC-regulated electric utilities. While the concept of direct PSC review and approval of decisions to retire
generation units deserves consideration and grid resiliency and reliability are legitimate issues, the bill as written has substantial legal and practical problems that could unreasonably burden ratepayers in order to advance continued operation of coal-fired generation units that should be retired because of inefficiency, cost of operation relative to cleaner energy sources, and relative pollutant contributions.

SB 113 (Storm)(S. Transp)(-)
Would limit the scope of the Department of Highways regulation of auto recyclers to facilities located along the national highway system rather than all Kentucky roads. KRC had been concerned with the effect of state deregulation on existing recyclers along roads that would no longer be regulated by the state DOT. Language was added in past versions that would keep screening, site, and use restrictions imposed by the state in place unless removed by a planning and zoning body, city, or county. KRC’s preference is to maintain KDOT’s current authority over all recycling facilities rather than limiting their jurisdiction and thus imposing more burden on local governments for regulation.

SB 126 (Howell) (H. Judiciary)(-)
Bill would further muddle venue for civil actions against state officials or the General Assembly that challenges the constitutionality of state laws, regulations, and agency orders, by allowing any plaintiff or defendant in such an action to request a change of venue without reason, at which time the case will be assigned randomly by the Supreme Court Clerk to another circuit. Former law provided that venue was in Franklin Circuit Court, which was changed more recently to provide that venue lies where the plaintiff resides if the plaintiff is a Kentucky resident, or in Franklin County if a non-resident.

SB 127 (West)(S. HS)(-)
Bill would make water fluoridation programs optional by allowing the governing bodies of water systems subject to regulation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to decide whether they want to end participation.

SB 192 (Wheeler)(S. Rules)(+)
Would allow an investor-owned electric utility to apply to the Public Service Commission to finance though securitization both extraordinary costs and costs associated with the retirement of electric generation of more than $200 million dollars for a single regulatory asset or more than $275 million for multiple regulatory assets and require a decision of the commission on securitization to be predicated on fair, just, and reasonable and the public interest of the utility customers. Securitization is a method of refinancing utility obligations in order to lower the interests costs to ratepayers for retirement of debt by converting the short-term debt to longer-term secured debt.

SB 213 (Higdon)(To House)(+)
Bill would define domestic sewage treatment sludge as a “biosolid” and require it be regulated in conformance with 40 CFR Part 503, which are the self-implementing federal regulations governing use and disposal of sewage sludge.

The Committee Substitute to the bill is a much-appreciated effort by Senator Higdon to attempt to responsibly address the need of the cities for a predictable and streamlined permitting process, while protecting farmers from application of contaminated sludges on their lands. He removed a "no more stringent than" provision from an earlier draft of the bill, which maintains Kentucky's flexibility to require more than the federal minimum where needed. KRC will be actively involved in the regulation development process to assure that where needed the Cabinet exercises the discretion contemplated by the 40 CFR Part 503 standards to fully protect public health and the environment, and prevent today's disposal of municipal sewage sludge from becoming tomorrow's superfund problem because of irresponsible land application of wastes with persistent environmental pollutants like PFAs.

SB 226 (Turner)(S. Rules)(-)
Bill would significantly interfere with the implementation of Kentucky’s water quality standards when
permitting discharges, such as coal mining-related wastewaters, into streams containing federally threatened and endangered species, and would alter timeframes for issuance of water quality certifications. Among other provisions, it would require the Energy and Environment Cabinet, when issuing permits under the Clean Water Act for discharges into outstanding state resource waters, to presume that water quality will be maintained if the permittee complies with technology-based effluent limitations for its industry or with species-specific protection measures imposed on its operations by another state or federal agency, give substantial weight to evidence that discharges from similar operations have not impacted the same or similar threatened or endangered species, not impose conditions that are more stringent than United States Fish and Wildlife Service requirements to protect a threatened or endangered aquatic organism or habitat, presume that compliance with numeric water quality standards applicable to the discharge shall constitute compliance with narrative water quality standards applicable to outstanding state resources waters that support threatened or endangered species. The bill is in several ways inconsistent with Kentucky’s obligations under the Clean Water Act and will likely spawn significant litigation and more delays and uncertainty in permitting under the 402 and 404 programs.

SB 241 (Webb and others)(S. Rules)(+)
Would amend laws governing acquisition of conservation easements by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and make other changes in state fish and wildlife laws.

SB 244 (Berg)(S. A&R)(+)
Would repeal and reenact radon safety certification program.

SB 245 (Frommeyer and Williams)(S. NR Energy)(-)
Bill advocated by several investor-owned utilities would make several changes in laws regulating public utilities, including allowing securization of debt by investor-owned electric utilities, authorizing natural gas utility to file an application for a recovery mechanism for using innovative natural gas resources such as biogas and syngas to establish needed infrastructure; require the PSC to allow recovery for an electric utility of reasonable expenses associated with obtaining an early site permit from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission; require the Public Service Commission to consider the policy of the Commonwealth for electric utilities to own their own renewable electric generation when granting a certificate of convenience and necessity for the utility to construct renewable facilities; and establish a rebuttable presumption that constructing a plant or facility with a projected cost of less than 3 percent of the utility’s total net plant to be an ordinary extension of the system.

SB 263 (Wheeler, West)(S. State Local Govt)(+, may need some revisions)
Would address regionalization of public water and wastewater systems to clarify the goal of offering secure water and adding managerial and technical resources as needed resources for the improvement of infrastructure for the security and safety of water systems; encourage infrastructure funding for regionalization, merger and consolidation of water and wastewater systems.

SB 277 (Turner)(S. Rules)(+)
Agency-sponsored bill would revise regulations and framework for floodplain management; prohibit buildings, barriers, or obstructions in floodplains or floodways without approval and a permit from the Energy and Environment Cabinet; allow the Energy and Environment Cabinet to require approval prior to construction related to agricultural operations that impact the base flood of a stream; establish administrative regulations requiring some dam owners to develop and maintain emergency action plans; and prohibit encroachment on the reservoir area of any dam in Kentucky.
**Senate Resolutions**  
SR 46 (Wheeler)(S. Rules)(+):  
Would confirm Mary Pat Regan as a Commissioner for the Public Service Commission. Commissioner Regan is by training and experience well-qualified for the position and should be confirmed.

SJR 78 (Mills, Storm)(S. State Local Govt)(-):  
Senate version of HJR 8, this joint resolution would apply to Congress under Article V of the Constitution of the United States for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress. Constitutional scholars largely believe that the scope of such a convention would not be limited to enumerated issues but could become a vehicle for wide-ranging damage to personal liberties and constitutional protections. And there are already constraints on the terms of office of elected officials and members of Congress, which are called “elections.”

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH KRC HAS TAKEN NO POSITION**  
*KRC has listed 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 to 4.5% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, and to 4% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2024.

HB 11 (Petrie, Reed)(S. A&R):  
Would amend the 2022-2024 Transportation Cabinet biennial budget to remove the General Fund appropriation for the Electric Vehicle Charging Program in fiscal year 2022-2023.

HB 12 (Tipton)(H. Transp):  
Would prohibit the use of a personal communication device or stand-alone electronic device while operating a motor vehicle.

HB 15 (Stevenson)(H. CC):  
Would prohibit employers from refusing to grant a qualified employee family care leave for the birth of a child or to take care of a family member.

HB 21 (Bridges)(S. CC):  
Would require the Transportation Cabinet to establish procedures and forms to allow an individual without a fixed, permanent address to submit a form signed by a shelter, health care facility, or other social service agency attesting to the applicant’s residence for the purpose of issuance of a renewal operator’s license or an initial or renewal personal ID card.

HB 22 (Roberts)(H. A&R):  
Would legalize and regulate the cultivation, processing, transportation, sale, use, taxation, and licensing of cannabis.

HB 26 (Rabourn)(H. A&R):  
Would prohibit a public agency or any other entity created by an act of the General Assembly from using federal, state, and local tax dollars for lobbying purposes.

HB 30 (Wesley)(H. CC):  
Would require students born male to use only those facilities designated to be used by males and
students born female to use only those facilities designated to be used by females; require schools to provide the best available accommodation to students who assert that their gender is different from their biological sex.

HB 31 (McPherson)(H. CC)
Would prohibit Kentucky Board of Education from requiring students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school.

HB 34 (Raymond)(H. CC)
Would allow a city to establish a mandatory preference for awarding public construction project contracts to unions through a negotiated project labor agreement; to negotiate wages that are higher than the state or federal minimum wage as a condition of the project labor agreement; and to enact prevailing wage ordinances.

HB 50 (Lockett)(H. Elections)
Identical to SB 50, would make elections for county commissioner, mayor, city councils, city offices, boards of education, and soil and water conservation officers partisan.

HB 59 (Raymond)(H. CC)
Proposed constitutional amendment to establish the initiative power of the people to propose laws and to enact or reject proposed initiatives at an election.

HB 69 (Stevenson)(H. CC)
Would require employers to provide earned paid sick leave to employees.

HB 77 (Reed)(H. Ag)
Would establish year-round Daylight Saving Time in the state of Kentucky if authorized by the United States Congress.

HB 79 (Willner, Aull)(H. CC)
Would direct the Kentucky State Police to establish the Kentucky Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearms List to prohibit the possession, sale, or transfer of firearms to individuals who voluntarily request to be added to the list; and exclude persons on the list from eligibility for license to carry a concealed weapon.

HB 92 (Calloway)(H. CC)
Would allow a parent or guardian to opt a student out of any public school requirement for medical devices and procedures, and treatments without any documentation or certification to opt out.

HB 93 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)
Would prohibit disqualification from benefits for workers unemployed as a result of domestic violence and abuse, dating violence and abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

HB 97 (Herron)(H. CC)
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 after completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

HB 100 (Rawlings)(H. CC)
Would establish a new legislative Committee on Constitutional Enforcement to review and comment on any federal action or global organization action and to refer a federal action or global organization action to the Attorney General or to make a recommendation to the General Assembly to adopt a resolution urging Congress to take action if it finds the federal action or global organization action violates the Kentucky Constitution.
HB 101 (Decker and others)(H. Rules)
Would prohibit Kentucky Board of Education from requiring students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school.

HB 103 (Dotson)(H. Rules)
Would make torture of a dog or cat a Class D felony in every instance and that each act may constitute a separate offense.

HB 107 (Graham, Stevenson, Roberts)(H. A&R)
Would establish a medicinal cannabis program.

HB 110 (Baker and others)(H. CC)
Would add conscientiously held beliefs to the list of exceptions to child immunization requirements.

HB 116 (Rabourn and others)(S. CC)
Would revise procedures for election of supervisors for conservation districts and impose minimum age requirement of 21 years.

HB 118 (Maddox and Rabourn)(H. CC)
Would lower the age requirement for carrying a concealed and deadly weapon from 21 to 18.

HB 120 (Maddox and Rabourn)(H. CC)
Would prohibit the provision of or referral for gender transition procedures, provision of health care services, medicaid coverage, and use of public funds, to any child under the age of 18 years.

HB 121 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)
Would remove the requirement that an affected employee previously diagnosed with occupational pneumoconiosis resulting from exposure to coal dust must have an additional two years of employment in the Commonwealth wherein the employee was continuously exposed to the hazards of the disease in order to reopen a claim.

HB 122 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)
Would eliminate the requirement that physicians contracting with the commissioner of the Department of Workers' Claims to perform evaluations in occupational disease claims be "B" readers who are licensed in Kentucky and are board-certified pulmonary specialists.

HB 128 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)
Would update the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act.

HB 130 (Neighbors and others)(S. Ag)
Would revises laws on acquisition and leasing of heavy and specialized equipment by soil conservation districts.

HB 137 (Maddox)(H. CC)
Would allow a student, staff, or faculty member to opt out of a postsecondary school's immunization policy for specific reasons; and prohibit a public entity from creating standardized documentation with the purpose of certifying vaccination status.

HB 138 (Maddox)(H. CC)
Would repeal law that allows postsecondary facilities, local governments, and units of state government to limit concealed carry in governmental buildings.

HB 139 (Maddox)(H. State Govt)
Would require public postsecondary institutions to adopt a policy to not restrict off-campus speech;
extend free speech protections to the public; provide that student religious and political organizations shall be afforded equal access to facilities.

HB 149 (Upchurch)(H. Transp)
Would prohibit traveling in the left-most lane of an interstate or limited access highway with multiple lanes of travel in each direction at a speed lower than the posted maximum speed limit.

HB 151 (W. Williams)(H. Rules)
Would amend standards for licensure as a land surveyor.

HB 153 (Bray, Lewis)(S. Veterans)
Would prohibit identified entities from enforcing federal firearm bans; prohibit identified entities from adopting rules, regulations, or ordinances that require enforcement of federal firearm bans.

HB 155 (Witten and others)(H. CC)
Would prohibit the use or download of TikTok on any network or device under the control of a public agency.

HB 159 (Maddox)(H. CC)
Would prohibit an identified entity from enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of, any federal law that does not exist under the laws of Kentucky and limits firearm ownership.

HB 169 (Flannery)(H. Transp)
Would allow the registration of an OHV as a motor vehicle in accordance with KRS 186.050(3)(a) and set standards for insurance and vehicle specs.

HB 173 (Calloway and others)(H. CC)
House version of SB 102 regarding “parental rights” and matters of sexual orientation and gender identity in schools.

HB 174 (Calloway and others)(H. CC)
Proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the General Assembly to provide for the educational costs of elementary and secondary school students outside of the public school system.

HB 175 (Rabourn and others)(H. CC)
Would prohibit a sanitation district from imposing any fee, tax, surcharge, or other charge for the provision of service to a property unless the property is connected to a sanitary sewer owned or maintained by the sanitation district or there is an approved plan to connect the property within two years.

HB 179 (Tipton)(H. CC)
Would abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for inmates presently sentenced to death.

HB 201 (Blanton)(H. Rules)
Would direct the Transportation Cabinet to establish a pilot program for automated speed enforcement in highway work zones and issue a uniform civil citation to an operator of a motor vehicle traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

HB 203 (Swann, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)
Would require public middle and high school curriculum to include instruction on the history of racism.

HB 205 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)
Would provide that school disciplinary codes shall prohibit discrimination on the basis of race including protective hairstyle.
HB 206 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)
Would add the nineteenth day of June as a state holiday commemorating Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

HB 211 (Aull and numerous others)(H. CC)
Would eliminate Robert E. Lee and Jefferson David Day as days when state offices can be closed as public holidays.

HB 212 (Aull)(H. CC)
Would create a hearing for the removal and banning of dog ownership or possession in cases where a person incompetent to stand trial is charged with harboring a vicious dog.

HB 216 (Kulkarni)(H. A&R)
Would create an employer student loan repayment state tax credit, equal to fifty percent of the amount paid by an employer on an eligible student loan of a qualified employee.

HB 228 (Brown)(H. CC)
Would prohibit employers from considering or requiring disclosure of prior criminal history as part of the initial job application.

HB 240 (Kulkarni, Nemes)(H. A&R)
Would establish home modification tax credit, not to exceed $7,500 annually, for qualifying home installations to increase the habitability or efficiency of the residence for individuals that are age 65 or older or have a physical or mental impairment.

HB 293 (Herron and others)(H. CC)
Would amend Kentucky civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

HB 294 (Stevenson)(H. CC)
Would prohibit retail pet shops from selling dogs, cats, and rabbits; allow retail pet shops to collaborate with animal shelters to showcase dogs, cats, or rabbits.

HB 303 (Branscum)(To Senate)
Would reorganize Cabinet for Economic Development and include hydrogen transmission pipelines in a number of incentive programs.

HB 321 (Bratcher and Nemes)(H. Judiciary)
Would establish crimes of animal abuse in the first degree and animal abuse in the second degree; authorize law enforcement and animal control officers to seize and hold animals who are victims of cruelty or abuse; and grant civil immunity to a person who enters a car containing a dog or cat believed in good faith to be in danger of death.

HB 325 (Herron(H. CC)
Would allow consolidated local governments to destroy firearms abandoned, confiscated, or forfeited under the Kentucky Penal Code.

HB 326 (Herron, Aull)(H. A&R)
Would establish an Office of Safer Communities under the oversight of the Department for Public Health.

HB 327 (Herron, Nemes, Willner)(H. CC)
Would require African history instruction in certain middle and high school world history and civilization and United States history courses.
HB 341 (Doan)(H. CC)
Proposed state constitutional amendment would abolish the office of Treasurer.

HB 348 (Raymer)(H. CC)
Would prohibit production of intoxicating hemp-derived products.

HB 364 (Bray)(H. Rules)
Would prohibit a public employer from withholding money relating to labor organization dues or funding political activity from a state public employee’s wages. Bill is aimed at preventing future deductions made in accordance with a joint wage agreement or collective bargaining contract.

HB 366 (Gentry and others)(H. CC)
Would create a prevailing wage law for all public works projects.

HB 367 (Gentry)(H. CC)
Would name coal as the official rock of Kentucky; and chalcedony agate as the official mineral of Kentucky.

HB 377 (Moser and others)(H. CC)
Would remove expiration dates for gift cards.

HB 378 (Moser)(H. CC)
Would make it ethical misconduct for a legislator or legislative agent to engage in discrimination or sexual harassment and allow legislative agents to make campaign contributions to a member of the General Assembly who is a candidate seeking election for a statewide office.

HB 411 (P. Stevenson)(H. CC)
Would amend laws to make certain LGBTQ and qualifying veterans eligible for state veterans’ benefits.

HB 416 (Lawrence)(H. CC)
Would establish a separate overweight fine schedule for violating a posted bridge weight limit on any state-maintained bridge that is more than 75 years old.

HB 417 (Grossberg, Nemes)(H. CC)
Would create automatic felony expungement process.

HB 437 (Swann, Robert)(H. CC)
Would forbid housing discrimination based on an individual’s source of income.

HB 451 (Blanton)(H. CC)
Would require that state and local contracts contain a provision that any iron, steel, aluminum, manufactured goods used in all state and local projects be manufactured in the United States unless a waiver is granted.

HB 452 (Blanton)(H. CC)
Would allow public access and unrestricted use for fishing along public waterbodies and waterways if access is not gained through private lands and the health and safety of the public or the habitat of aquatic or other wildlife is not placed at risk.

HB 461 (Bowling)(H. CC)
Would provide that no county or waste management district shall compel the production or submission of confidential business information from a solid waste management service company. We’ve reached out to the sponsor to discuss whether he would want to include language that clarifies that such information could be required as a condition of a solid waste collection franchise awarded by a local government.
HB 464 (Elliott)(H. Rules)
Would require that matching non-state funds from nonprofit organizations be dollar for dollar for Civil War sites and one dollar to each three dollars for Revolutionary War sites in order to receive funds from the Kentucky battlefield preservation fund.

HB 470 (Decker and numerous others)(To Senate)
This "omnibus anti-trans bill" denies gender affirming care, including social supports, to transgender youth and criminalizes providers who offer such care to their patients.

HB 471 (Raymond)(H. CC)
Would increase minimum wage for employees, including tipped employees, to $15 per hour by July 1, 2026.

HB 472 (Brown)(H. CC)
Proposed state constitutional amendment to allow voting rights to persons convicted of certain felonies and to address voting by persons deemed incompetent by a court.

HB 473 (Brown)(H. CC)
Would make it a crime to unlawfully store a firearm; establish elements of the crime as recklessly allowing access to an unsecured firearm by a minor.

HB 474 (Brown)(H. CC)
Would require African history and Native American history instruction in certain middle and high school United States history courses.

HB 475 (Brown)(H. CC)
Bill would address numerous aspects of gun control regulation, including background checks for private firearms sales; reporting to law enforcement of firearm and ammunition thefts and losses; require the safe storage of firearms; and licensing of handguns and assault weapons.

HB 477 (Grossberg)(H. CC)
Would provide an enhanced term of imprisonment for any defendant convicted of certain crimes when the defendant intentionally selected the person because of that person's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, mental or physical disability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

HB 487 (Gentry)(H. CC)
Would delete references in existing laws restricting rights of public employees to organize, associate collectively, or strike; and allow local governments and public employers to make an agreement with a labor organization to require membership in the organization as a condition of employment.

HB 531 (Chester-Burton)(H. CC)
Would require a city's legislative body to create an agenda prior to every meeting that is distributed to members of the body at least 72 hours prior to the meeting and made available to the public at the time of the meeting.

HB 545 (Rawlings and others)(H. A&R)
Would eliminate current statute regarding construction of statutes providing that statutes should be construed liberally with a view to promote their objects and carry out the intent of the legislature, and the rule that statutes in derogation of the common law are to be strictly construed shall not apply to the statutes of this state.

HB 546 (Meade)(H. CC)
Would authorize intervention by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in actions challenging any legislative act, executive or state agency order, or
administrative regulation, and reaffirm legislative or other privilege and immunity for the members or staff of the General Assembly or Legislative Research Commission.

HB 547 (Fugate and others)(H. Ed)
Would prohibit a school district from punishing an employee for engaging in private religious expression otherwise protected by the First Amendment absent a showing of engaging in actual coercion.

HB 557 (Grossberg)(H. CC)
Would establish the Kentucky Commission on Antisemitism.

HB 571 (Nemes)(H. CC)
Would establish a cause of action for a person who was wrongfully convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth.

HB 582 (Grossberg)(H. CC)
Would establish the registration process for campaign consultants.

HB 585 (Wesley)(H. CC)
Would require the biological sex designation on a birth certificate to be either male or female and prohibit a nonbinary or any symbol representing a nonbinary designation including the letter "X."

HB 588 (Moser)(H. CC)
Would establish an automatic felony expungement process.

House Resolutions

HR 2 (Osborne) Adopted

HR 15 (W. Thomas) Adopted
Would recognize January 27, 2023, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

HR 17 (Brown)(H. CC)
Would honor the celebration of Black History Month and recognize that Black history is American history.

HJR 49 (Frazier Gordon)(H. Rules)
Joint resolution would direct the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet to consult with the Transportation Cabinet and other relevant state and local agencies to develop the Kentucky Women’s History Trail.

HCR 55 (P. Stevenson and Kulkarni)(H. CC)
Concurrent resolution would declare support for the admission of Washington, D.C., as a state and urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation authorizing statehood.

Senate Bills

SB 7 (Mills)(S. Ed)
Bill aimed at preventing deductions from employee paychecks for union dues or fees.

SB 15 (Westerfield)(S. Eco Dev)
Would create consumer data collection protections and enforcement mechanism.

SB 17 (Southworth)(S. State Local Govt)
Would require public agency employees to undergo open records training.

SB 30 (Girdler)(H. CC)
Would require businesses to present automatic renewal or continuous service offer terms clearly and
conspicuously to consumers before purchase; require the consumer's consent before charging the consumer; and information regarding cancellation.

SB 31 (Southworth)(S. Ed)
Would amend current law regarding weapons and school facilities.

SB 32 (R. Thomas)(S. A&R)
Would incrementally increase minimum wage for employers with over $500,000 average annual gross volume of sales to $15.00 an hour and allow local higher minimum wages by ordinance.

SB 45 (Meredith, Neal, Adams)(S. CC)
Would abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for inmates presently sentenced to death.

SB 47 (West, Wheeler, Nemes)(S. L&O)
Would establish a medicinal cannabis program.

SB 50 (Thayer)(S. State Gov)
Would make elections for county commissioner, mayor, city councils, city offices, boards of education, and soil and water conservation officers partisan.

SB 51 (Yates)(S. A&R)
Would create program for regulation of the cultivation, processing, transportation, sale, use, taxation, and licensing of cannabis.

SB 56 (Harper Angel)(S. CC)
Would prohibit retail pet shops from selling dogs, cats, and rabbits.

SB 61 (Meredith)(S. State Local Govt)
Would introduce ranked voting for certain elections.

SB 62 (Westerfield)(H. CC)
Would prohibit a public agency from requiring an individual or nonprofit organization to compel the release of personal information or require a contractor or grantee with the public agency to provide a list of nonprofit organizations to which it provides financial support.

SB 63 (Westerfield)(S. Rules, recommitted to S. Judiciary)
Would provide that school disciplinary codes shall prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, including protected hairstyles.

SB 65 (West)(H. L&O)
Would nullify an administrative regulation found deficient during the 2022 legislative interim.

SB 78 (Yates)(S. State Local Govt)
Proposed state constitutional amendment to legalize the possession, sale, distribution, dispensing, use, and prescribing of cannabis for medical purposes as regulated and controlled by the General Assembly and to direct the 2025 General Assembly to propose an additional new section of the Constitution of Kentucky to legalize recreational cannabis if medical cannabis is approved by the voters.

SB 84 (Thomas)(S. Veterans)
Would allow urban-county governments and consolidated local governments to regulate firearms and ammunition to reduce gun violence except when state or federal law preempts local governance.

SB 86 (Thomas)(S. A&R)
Would define "heirs property" and create a mechanism for partition or sale among cotenants by the court.

SB 87 (Neal)(S. Veterans)
Would make it a crime to unlawfully store a firearm; and to recklessly allowing access to an unsecured firearm by a minor.

SB 92 (Higdon)(To House)
Would revise laws regarding assistance dogs.

SB 98 (Tichenor)(S. Veterans)
Would prohibit identified entities from enforcing federal firearm bans.

SB 102 (Tichenor and others)(S. Ed)
Bill seeks to establish “parental rights” and legal rights of action regarding children concerning sexual orientation, sexual preference, or gender expression issues.

SB 118 (Westerfield)(S. State Local Govt)
Proposed state constitutional amendment to state that Kentucky’s Constitution does not secure or protect a right to abortion or funding of abortion, while allowing general assembly to enact laws regarding abortion including circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or saving the life of the mother.

SB 125 (Harper Angel)(S. State Local Govt)
Would amend election laws to require multilingual ballot information and hotline.

SB 130 (Neal)(S. CC)
Would amend Kentucky's civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

SB 132 (Neal)(S. Ed)
Would provide additional free speech protections for student journalists; place limitations on additional protections.

SB 137 (Westerfield)(S. Judiciary)
Would limit recoverable medical costs to amounts owed in tort actions.

SB 139 (West)(S. HS)
Would require employers that mandate employee immunization to allow exceptions based on religious belief or conscientious objection to immunizations.

SB 147 (Yates)(S. A&R)
Would establish the Office of Safer Communities in the state Department of Health.

SB 148 (Turner and others)(S. State Local Govt)
Would prohibit employees of public agencies and the Administrative Office of the Courts from engaging in telework unless the Governor declares an emergency; exempt employees whose primary job responsibilities require them to be away from their primary work station at least 50 percent of the time.

SB 150 (Wise and others)(H. Ed)
Another anti-trans bill under guise of “parental rights”; would limit authority of the Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky Department of Education in relation a student’s use of pronouns; prohibit a school district from requiring school personnel or pupils to use pronouns for students that do not conform to that student's biological sex; and establish requirements for any public school’s course, curriculum, or program on the subject of human sexuality.
SB 155 (West)(S. Eco Dev)
Would prohibit a private employer from receiving statutory liability protection if that employer institutes a mandatory workplace vaccination policy.

SB 161 (Webb and others)(S. NR Energy)
Would clarify requirements for members of the Kentucky River Authority.

SB 164 (Storm)(S. State Local Govt)
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 three years after completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

SB 166 (Mills, Higdon)(S. State Local Govt)
Would expand scope of persons owing a fiduciary duty to the respective state-administered retirement systems, provide that fiduciaries shall consider the sole interest of the members and beneficiaries of the retirement systems using only pecuniary factors and prohibit the consideration of or actions taken to further non-pecuniary purposes including environmental, social, political, ideological interests, and prohibit any contract or agreement from voiding such fiduciary duties.

The bill furthers the legislative effort to restrict investment that includes environmental or other societal goals as criteria for investment. Any legislative enactment should assure no state interference with the ability of beneficiaries in state-administered retirement systems to choose investment portfolios for their retirement that include such criteria or limitations.

SB 168 (Berg, Thomas)(S. Veterans)
Would require the destruction of confiscated firearms.

SB 211 (Berg)(S. Veterans)
Would require law enforcement agencies to transmit information to national law enforcement databases about firearms collected during criminal investigations.

SB 216 (Thomas)(S. Ed)
Would require a survey of school districts regarding Holocaust education every three years.

SB 230 (Adams)(S.CC)
Would require peace officers and animal control officers to serve notice of seizure of an animal subjected to cruelty and create procedure for seizing agencies to petition a court to order payment of animal care costs by owner.

SB 238 (Southworth)(S. NR Energy)
Would prohibit a planning unit, legislative body, or fiscal court that has adopted planning and zoning regulations, or the Public Service Commission in counties that don’t have planning and zoning, from approving the siting of a cellular antenna tower capable of providing fifth generation mobile communications service if it is within 1,640 feet of any inhabitable building or any outdoor space where 10 or more people gather.

SB 246 (Givens)(S. State Local Govt)
Would require the Finance and Administration Cabinet to collect and maintain race and ethnicity data for certain contracts.

SB 264 (Yates)(S. A&R)
Would increase juror pay to $50 per day.

SB 265 (Yates)(S. Judiciary)
Would empower courts to prohibit the possession of firearms and require the surrender of firearms by a
respondent and to prohibit the possession of firearms and require the surrender of firearms by a respondent.

SB 270 (Neal)(S. State Local Govt)
Would make June 19, also known as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day," a state holiday for state employees.

SB 271 (Neal)(S. State Local Govt)
Proposed state constitutional amendment to automatically restore the voting and civil rights of persons convicted of certain felonies after completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

SB 272 (Neal)(S. Judiciary)
Would provide an enhanced term of imprisonment for any defendant convicted of certain crimes when the defendant intentionally selected the person because of that person's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, mental or physical disability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

SB 273 (Southworth)(S. State Local Govt)
Would remove certain emergency powers of the Governor regarding seizure of property, and elections.

SB 285 (Schickel, Smith)(S. A&R)
Would prevent an overlay district established by a local government from prohibiting a property owner's ability to paint structures with traditional colors that exist on other structures within the same overlay district, unless it is a historical material that has not been painted previously or painting the material may cause damage.

**Senate Resolutions**
SR 2 (Thayer) Adopted

SCR 31 (Givens, Adams)(H. CC)
Concurrent resolution expressing serious concerns of the General Assembly regarding the treatment and protection of juvenile offenders and staff of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

SR 38 (Neal and others) Adopted
Simple resolution to condemn the January 6, 2021, United States Capitol riots.

SJR 79 (Carroll)(To House)
Joint resolution would establish the Nuclear Energy Development Working Group attached to the Energy and Environment Cabinet to identify the barriers to the deployment of nuclear power generation and related technologies and to consult with stakeholders to develop recommendations for the role of a permanent nuclear energy commission to be established in state government.

SB 105 (Neal)(S. CC)
Simple resolution urging members of the General Assembly and the Kentucky Congressional Delegation to reaffirm their commitment to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Kentucky.