



2025 General Assembly Regular Session Bills We're Watching: The First Edition

The 2025 Kentucky General Assembly has begun! Kentucky Resources Council is again tracking environmental, conservation, consumer, energy, and general government bills and resolutions. This update includes all bills we're monitoring, supporting, or opposing and is current through January 10, 2025 (legislative Day 4). Look for our weekly updates via email and on our website every Friday when the legislature is in session. There are 26 legislative days remaining in the 2025 Regular Session.

This year is a "short" 30-legislative day session, which began on January 7, with an anticipated final day on March 28, 2025. Lawmakers will take a three-week break before reconvening on February 4. When it reconvenes, the legislature is scheduled to meet weekly, Tuesday through Friday through March 12. March 13th and 14th are set aside as "concurrence" days. There is a "veto" recess from March 15th through the 26th before the General Assembly reconvenes on March 27th and 28th to consider any vetoes of bills and to finish work on bills and resolutions prior to adjournment *sine die* on March 28, 2025. Links to bills, calendars, livestreams, and other information about the 2025 Kentucky General Assembly is presented below and also available on the Legislative Research Commission's website at: <https://legislature.ky.gov/pages/index.aspx>.

Please note that KRC does not have a formal position on each bill or resolution listed. Some are tracked for general interest or concern; others to assure they do not become vehicles for mischievous amendments. The first section highlights those bills on which KRC has taken a position, indicating our **support (+)**, **opposition (-)**, or that the bill is a **"mixed bag" (+/-)** of provisions that KRC both supports and opposes. The primary bill sponsor is listed first, followed by the current status of the bill (noted by Committee or chamber, as abbreviated below). If there is no indication of assignment to a committee, the bill remains 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.

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!). Look for our weekly legislative updates via email and on our website every

Friday when the legislature is in session. To receive these updates by email, sign up for our newsletter on our website, <https://www.kyrc.org>, or contact us at hello@kyrc.org.

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.Ed** - House Education Committee
- H. Elections** - House Elections, Constitutional Amendments, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
- H. FC** - House Family and Children Committee
- H. HS** - House Health Services Committee
- H. Judiciary** - House Judiciary Committee
- H. L&O** - House Licensing, Occupations And Adm. Regulations Committee
- H. Local Govt** - House Local Government Committee
- H. Nat Res Energy** - House Natural Resources and Energy Committee
- H. Rules** - House Rules Committee
- H. Sm Bus** - House Small Business and Information Technology Committee
- H. State Govt** - House State Government Committee
- H. Tourism** - House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee
- H. Transp** - House Transportation Committee
- H. Veterans** - House Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee

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

STAY INFORMED DURING THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS:

Find your legislator at:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/findyourlegislator/findyourlegislator.html>

General Assembly Membership Lists and Leadership:

You can find each lawmaker's contact info, biographical info, committee assignments and sponsored legislation here: <https://legislature.ky.gov/Legislators/Pages/default.aspx>

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

To directly reach a lawmaker's office, call 502-564-8100. An operator will transfer the call to the office of the lawmaker you want to reach.

2025 REGULAR SESSION RECORD & CALENDARS

To find copies of bills, votes, calendars, and other information:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/25rs/record.html>

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

2025 Regular Session Legislative Calendar:

https://legislature.ky.gov/Documents/25RS_Calendar.pdf

2025 Regular Session Standing Committee Schedule:

https://legislature.ky.gov/Documents/25RS_Standing_Schedule.pdf

There is also 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. The daily legislative calendar shows which committees are meeting and when the Senate and House will convene, and is found here:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeCalendar>

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

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

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

The online Legislative Record is here:

<https://legislature.ky.gov/Legislation/Pages/default.aspx>

The LRC website has information on every piece of legislation introduced in the Senate and House. You can read summaries, the full text of bills, resolutions, amendments and see exactly how far each piece of legislation has advanced in the process. Bills can be looked up according to bill number, sponsor or topic. If a bill has been voted on in a chamber, you can see how each lawmaker voted by clicking “Vote History” on a bill’s summary page.

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

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

Information about **legislative committees** is available at:

<https://legislature.ky.gov/Committees/Pages/default.aspx>.

*To view materials such as info sheets, handouts and PowerPoint presentations that are compiled for lawmakers to review at committee meetings, click on the “Meeting Materials” tab on the right side of each committee’s page.

KRC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE #1

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH KRC HAS TAKEN A POSITION

House Bills

HB 16 (Hart)(H. CC)(-)

Would make water fluoridation programs optional and allow the governing bodies of water systems subject to regulation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to decide whether 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)(H. CC)(-)

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 government to address the affordable housing crisis in many communities. Whether to allow multi-family housing in certain residential zones is a matter best left to planning commissions and local elected officials with input from the community.

HB 22 (Hodgson)(H. CC)(-)

Would prohibit geoengineering 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 in the bill 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 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 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. CC)(+/-)

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. CC)(+)

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. CC) (+)

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)(H. 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)(H. CC)(+/-)

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. CC)(+)

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.

The PFAS Working Group would include 21 members, including the commissioner of the Department for Public Health, the commissioner of the Department for Environmental Protection, county judges/executives for each of the five counties with the highest PFAS chemical concentrations in their community public drinking water treatment plants, and the executive director of Kentucky Resources Council.

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. CC)(+)

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

HB137 (Gooch)(H. CC)(-)

Would require that only the most current data collection methods approved or promulgated by the EPA shall be used for purposes of determining compliance with the standards established by an air pollution control board, the Energy and Environment Cabinet, of the federal government through the Clean Air Act. It would render data collected using a method that doesn't meet those requirements as inadmissible in an enforcement proceeding initiated by the air pollution control board, an air pollution control officer, the Cabinet, or a private citizen.

KRC opposes this bill because it directly contradicts sections 113(a) and (e) of the Clean Air Act 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 Clean Air Act and jeopardize the state's delegated status to administer the Clean Air Act programs locally. Furthermore, KRC supports maintaining a methodology-neutral data collection framework consistent with the Clean Air Act 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 150 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)(+)

Would create a grant database that will be the central repository for information on all available state or local government grants and require state and local agencies to report grant opportunities to the Finance and Administration Cabinet for inclusion in the grant database. KRC supports the establishment of this database, which would bring more transparency and accessibility of such grant opportunities.

HB 165 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)(+)

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. CC)(-)

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. CC)(-)

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)(H. CC)(+)

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)(H. CC)(-)

Would reduce the number of emergency medical or mine emergency technicians required to be on shift from two to one, if the number of employees on the shift is 15 or less.

Reducing the required medical personnel compromises the ability to ensure swift and effective emergency medical care in the event of accidents or health crises. KRC will work with allies to address concerns with the bill. We recommend, at the very least, a provision that states mines with multiple reportable accidents or with one serious or fatal accident on record in a calendar year are excluded from this provision and must have two emergency medical or mine emergency technicians on shift.

HB 200 (Calloway)(H. CC)(-)

Would limit violations of the Uniform State Building Code to those that produce 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 have a certain expectations and protections and so that we continue to maintain reasonable energy conservation and housing construction practices.

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 during the 2025 Regular Session. KRC opposition centered on concerned that these rules 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)(H. CC)(+)

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.

Senate Bills

SB 23 (West, Adams, Deneen, Wilson)(S. L&O)(under review)

Would expand the legislature's authority over the administrative regulation review process by granting the Administrative Review Subcommittee and the legislative committee of appropriate jurisdiction the power to conduct "informational reviews" of administrative regulations. It would also allow the subcommittee or committee to find the regulation deficient if the promulgating administrative body fails to appear, make a good faith effort to answer the subcommittee questions, or provide any information or data required by the subcommittee or committee. This process would apply to both ordinary and emergency regulations, whether already effective or filed.

The bill expands the investigative powers of the subcommittee, by giving a statutory reason for a specific type of review with nonparticipation being a potential cause of the subcommittee's denial of the administrative regulation. Administrative regulations are the foundation of daily government operations- translating statutory directives into actionable processes. KRC questions whether this bill strikes the appropriate balance between the Legislative branch and other branches of government. On one hand, this framework could promote greater transparency and accountability among government branches. On the other hand, it raises legitimate concerns about whether the process could be used to obstruct the basic functions of another branch of government, and placing significant discretion in the hands of a small number of legislative members serving on either the subcommittee or the legislative committee of appropriate jurisdiction.

SB 28 (Howell, Richardson)(S. Ag)(under review)

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)(S. Eco Dev)(-)

Would allow religious institutions to develop affordable housing without submission to review by a planning unit if the development is approved by local government.

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. CC)(-)

Would prohibit geoengineering 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)(H. CC)(+/-)

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. CC)(-)

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.

Senate Resolutions

SR 2 (Wise)(Adopted)

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

Other Bills and Resolutions of Note

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)(S. A&R)

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

HB 19 (Hodgson)(H. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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) (H. CC)

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

HB 43 (Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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

HB 55 (Banta)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 62 (Maddox)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 66 (Calloway)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 68 (Grossberg)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 81 (Roberts)(H.CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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 95 (Williams)(H. CC)

Would define and prohibit “red dye 3” as a food adulterant.

HB 96 (Dietz)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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.CC)

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.CC)

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.CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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.

HB110 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 119 (Brown)(H. CC)

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

HB 120 (Brown)(H. CC).

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 into injury to another person which would be a class A misdemeanor.

HB 121 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H.CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 123 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

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

HB 124 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 127 (Brown, Chester-Burton)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB139 (Maddox)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 147 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)

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

HB 148 (Tackett Laferty)(H. CC)

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

HB 154 (Calloway, Massaroni)(H. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 168 (Bojanowski)(H. CC)

Would require teachers to be compensated for noninstructional planning time within their school day during which they are required to supervise or instruct students and expand the program eligibility of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program to include a program that leads a bachelor's degree in education in a critical shortage area.

HB 172 (Thomas)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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)(H. CC)

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

HB190 (Kulkarni)(H. CC)

Would establish a landlord's duties with respect to abandoned personal property of a tenant.

HB 194 (Witten)(H. CC)

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. CC)

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. CC)

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

HB 198 (Massaroni)(H. CC)

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. CC)

Would allow an abortion when the unborn child has a lethal fetal anomaly or when the pregnancy is the result of rape of 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. CC)

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. CC)

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, establish a fund.

HB 209 (Tipton)(H. CC)

Would abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for inmates presently sentenced to death and restructure the Kentucky Penal Code to reflect this change.

HB 213 (Roberts, Doan)(H. CC)

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 crime a violent crime.

Senate Bills

SB 11 (Thomas)(S. CC)

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)(S. CC)

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. CC)

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 and incur other penalty.

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. CC)

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)(S. 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 67 (Nemes and others)(S. 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. CC)

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 74 (Herron)(S. CC)

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

SB 126 (McDaniel)(S. CC)

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

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.