

# **2026 KCMA Kentucky General Assembly military-veterans legislation tracker**

## **Working document**

***Complete through January 22, 2026 reporting  
60-day "Budget" Session***

***Joint/Concurrent resolutions are those which must pass both chambers. Simple "resolutions" pass only one chamber, by voice vote, and do not have the effect of law.***

***NOTE: In the past, bills were only assigned to a committee if there was reasonable expectation they would be heard. Now, leadership has determined to assign all bills to a committee, and let committee chairs determine what will be heard. Bottom line, getting a committee assignment is no guarantee a bill will be granted a committee hearing.***

***While the primary purpose of the "Veto Session" is to consider overrides of Governor vetoes, the legislators may choose to address more legislation during these two remaining days. They simply will be unable to override any veto of that legislation.***

ADDITION – Bill actions highlighted in GREEN means final passage, YELLOW means progressing and under consideration, RED means defeated or simply out of time. No color code means no action to date.

### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Reviewed through HB 479

#### **HB 26 (Burke)**

**AN ACT relating to workers' compensation for first responders.**

**Amend KRS 342.0011, relating to workers' compensation, to expand the definition of "injury" to include psychological injuries for police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, front-line staff members, or members of the National Guard; create a new section of KRS Chapter 342 to establish when psychological injuries are valid workers' compensation claims when not a direct result of a physical injury.**

- Adds psychological injuries such as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) to workers' compensation coverage
- PTSD is very common in the veterans, military and first responder community - an almost inevitable consequence of combat deployment or front-line disaster response exposure
  - Even in garrison situations, such as an airfield, all forward-deployed personnel are exposed to mortar attacks and even greater risk during transportation operations, while first responders are subject to providing treatment behind the scenes and victim recovery operations
- Concern of legislature and state workers comp program is this adoption would likely create significant additional fiscal burden
  - Costs are difficult to quantify and could be quite significant in scale
  - This legislation was filed in as HB 363 in 2024 and as HB 420 in 2025, and failed to earn a hearing either time
- *Introduced January 6*
- *Assigned to Economic Development & Workforce Investment January 13*

#### **HB 34 (Banta)**

**AN ACT relating to death benefits.**

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**Amend KRS 61.315 to include additional cancers which, when they are the cause of death of a firefighter, would make the firefighter eligible for death benefits; make a technical correction.**

- Adds the following cancer types: Hematopoietic, Mesothelioma, Esophageal cancer, Lung cancer, Rectal cancer, Thyroid cancer, Intestinal cancer, Multiple myeloma cancer, Buccal cancer, Pharyngeal cancer
- Filed as HB 323 in 2025; no action
- *Introduced January 6*
- *Assigned to Local Government January 13; reassigned to VMAPP January 16*
- *Passed committee January 20; to House floor*

#### **HB 36 (Bratcher)**

**AN ACT relating to respiratory care.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 314A to enact and enter into the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact with all other jurisdictions that legally join in the compact; declare the purpose of the compact; define terms; establish participation requirements; recognize a licensure privilege and establish requirements; designate home state licensure for active military members; establish penalties and adverse actions against a licensee; establish the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact Commission; create membership rules, establish voting requirements, and permit the commission to establish rules and perform duties; require the compact commission to create a data system and outline the requirements; permit the executive and judicial branches within each state to enforce the compact; establish dispute resolution and outline termination procedures.**

- Enters Kentucky into a multistate licensing compact for respiratory therapists, allowing them to practice in any member state to address workforce shortages and improve patient access to critical lung and breathing care
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and Council of State Governments' priority compact
- Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states through interstate agreement
  - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through "privilege to practice policies" to more easily transfer their license to a new state
- Kentucky is a leader in this area, with the Commonwealth adopting nine of the first DOD-priority compacts
- Strong support from the affected community
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations January 14*

#### **HB 61 (Hodgson)**

**AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Emergency Volunteer Corps.**

**AN ACT relating to retirement benefits for state and county employees in hazardous positions.**

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 39A to create the Kentucky Emergency Volunteer Corps (KEV Corps); establish KEV Corps eligibility, supervision, training requirements, uniform details, and prohibitions; create the Kentucky Emergency Volunteer Corps fund; amend KRS 39B.030 to permit the local emergency management director to use the KEV Corps during a local disaster or emergency; amend KRS 39B.050 to include the KEV Corps as a part of the local disaster and emergency services organization; amend KRS 39B.070 to permit each city, urban-county**

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**government, or charter county government the use of the KEV Corps; amend KRS 39C.110 to include KEV Corps protections relating to limited liability. This legislation in its original form creates the Kentucky Emergency Volunteer Corps, a form of state-sponsored and state-funded militia**

- Funding will be required for uniforms, equipment, administration and management, so there is a significant fiscal element to this legislation
  - The Adjutant General and Emergency Management would be responsible for establishment and oversight of the program under KRS Chapter 39B (Local Emergency Management Programs)
- Militias are a very different concept from the National Guard, which is a professional military force under the shared control of the nation's Governors and Department of Defense
  - The Militia Act of 1903, also known as the "Dick Act" for the sponsor, Congressman Charles Dick, chairman of the House Militia Affairs Committee and a Major in the Ohio National Guard, formed the predecessor to the modern-day National Guard and required the states to divide their militias into two sections
    - The law recommended the title "National Guard" for the first section, for federal administration, and "Reserve Militia" for the individual states
    - Congress further authorized separate State Militias in 1956 under Title 32, Section 109
  - This militia concept in HB 61 focuses solely on civic/emergency management response and has no military function
  - Intent is to create a volunteer service opportunity for Kentuckians in a manner of service to the Commonwealth
    - We defer to the Adjutant General and Emergency Management as to whether there is any true "need"
  - Emergency Management actions are coordinated by both the Department of Military Affairs' Division of Emergency Management and county/local emergency management agencies, with additional support available from the Kentucky National Guard in their State Active Duty (SAD) role
    - SAD missions are state-funded, with federal authorization for the National Guard to utilize applicable federally-funded (Title 32) equipment and resources
- Only 24 states maintain some form of state militia, two of which are purely ceremonial
  - In addition to military support functions, variations on militia mission include Cyber (new), Band, Training, JAG, Medical, Finance, Ceremonial, Emergency Management (new), communications
- Informational resources include the State Defense Forces website (<https://statedefenseforce.com/main/>) and the State Guard Association of the U.S. website (<https://sgaus.org/>)
- The primary question for this proposed legislation is not whether volunteer opportunities are a good thing (they certainly are), it's more about whether there is an operational need/requirement that justifies creation of a KEV Corps
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 14*

**HB 70 (Hodgson)**

**AN ACT relating to identity documents.**

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**Amend KRS 186.4102 and 281A.170 to require the Transportation Cabinet to place a denotation on every new or renewal identity document issued after January 1, 2027, that indicates the status of the document holder as a citizen of the United States or a noncitizen authorized to be in the United States; amend KRS 186.531 to conform.**

- Citizenship-related identification requirement
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Transportation January 14*

#### **HB 76 (Roberts)**

**AN ACT relating to pretrial release.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 431 to define terms; provide that a person shall not be eligible for pretrial release until he or she can provide proof of citizenship or that he or she is lawfully permitted to be in the United States; provide that a person shall not be held for longer than 48 hours due to his or her inability to provide proof of citizenship or permission to be in the United States; require a law enforcement agency, jail, or regional jail that has custody of a person who cannot provide proof of citizenship or that he or she is lawfully permitted to be in the United States to immediately notify the United States Department of Homeland Security to determine if the person is a citizen, lawfully permitted to be in the United States, or subject to a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer; provide that the lack of proof of citizenship or permission to be in the United States shall be considered when completing a pretrial risk assessment.**

- Homeland security-related issue
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

#### **HB 77 (Roberts)**

**AN ACT relating to ex parte orders (firearms).**

**Create a new section of KRS 237.060 to 237.090 to prohibit ex parte orders that restrict the ability of a person to possess firearms and ammunition, firearm accessories, holsters, or firearm storage devices; amend KRS 403.730 and KRS 456.040 to prohibit emergency protective orders and temporary interpersonal protective orders that restrict the ability of a person to possess firearms and ammunition, firearm accessories, holsters, or firearm storage devices; provide that the Act may be cited as the Red Flag Repeal Act of 2026.**

- Firearms possession issue
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

#### **HB 78 (Roberts)**

**AN ACT relating to firearms liability protections and declaring an emergency.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 411 to define terms; establish liability protections for manufacturers and sellers of firearms against specified legal actions arising from criminal or unlawful use of firearms or ammunition; establish criteria for proceedings including timelines and burden of proof; establish a civil cause of action for violation of the extended protections for manufacturers and sellers and delineate available damages; provide the Attorney General with enforcement authority; provide that the Act may be cited as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms (PLCAA) Clarification Act of 2026; EMERGENCY.**

- Firearms possession issue

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- Emergency clause would mean immediate effect upon passage
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

#### **HB 79 (Roberts)**

**AN ACT relating to sales and use tax exemptions for firearm-related items.**

**Amend KRS 139.010, relating to sales and use taxes, to define "ammunition," "antique firearm," "body armor," firearm, "firearm muffler or silencer," "firearm-related accessory," "firearm safety course," "firearm safety device," and "firearm storage device"; amend KRS 139.480 to exempt ammunition, antique firearms, body armor, firearms, firearm-related accessories, firearm safety courses, firearm safety devices, firearm storage devices, noise cancelling ear protection, and admissions or program fees related to certain firearm-related activities; EFFECTIVE August 1, 2026.**

- Firearms possession issue
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to A&R January 14*

#### **HB 80 (Roberts)**

**AN ACT relating to federal firearm restrictions.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 237 to declare legislative intent; define "federal firearm restriction"; provide that if a federal firearm restriction is repealed or declared unconstitutional, the Commonwealth shall not enact or enforce a law, rule, or regulation that mirrors, replaces, or imposes a restriction similar to that federal firearm restriction; prohibit prosecutions, fines, or other penalties for activities that were regulated or prohibited by a federal firearm restriction that is repealed or declared unconstitutional; prohibit specified persons and organizations from enforcing repealed or unconstitutional federal firearm restrictions; create a civil cause of action against a person or organization that violates the prohibitions; waive sovereign, governmental, and qualified immunity; provide penalties for any person who violates the prohibition on enforcing a repealed or unconstitutional federal firearm restriction; allow manufacturers of firearms or federally licensed firearms dealers to manufacture, sell, or possess firearms and accessories no longer restricted under federal law.**

- Firearms possession issue
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

#### **HB 81 (Roberts)**

**AN ACT relating to the Kentucky National Guard (Defend the Guard Act).**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 38 to restrict the use of the Kentucky National Guard outside of state active duty unless Congress officially declares war or has taken official action pursuant to the Constitution of the United States and has satisfied any outstanding balance to the Kentucky National Guard; allow the Governor to deploy the National Guard under Title 32 of the United States Code to assist in border protection, for not more than 30 days, when the governor of a state or territory has declared an invasion; provide that the Act may be cited as the Defend the Guard Act.**

- The "Defend the Guard" Act is a bill that severely restricts the ability of the Governor and the Commonwealth (Kentucky National Guard) to support Department of Defense
- Part of a national initiative in the name of "state rights"

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- It assumes the National Guard operates as a state-specific “militia” – nothing could be further from the truth, as the National Guard is fully-integrated element of Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force
- This argument would absolutely apply to a state militia
  - Only 24 states maintain some version of state militia (two of which are solely ceremonial) due to the onerous cost of maintaining the mission and the professionalism of a militia force
- This legislation could result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars, or more, to the Kentucky National Guard in federal funding, some of which would have to be picked up by the state
  - What need does the federal government and Department of Defense have for the Kentucky National Guard (personnel and equipment), if they cannot utilize our units?
  - Potential exists this could be an existential threat to state National Guards
    - Not one single state in this nation has passed the “Defend the Guard Act” to date, despite several years of socialization and debate, precisely because it is such massively flawed (and risky) legislation
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 14*

#### HB 92 (Grossl)

##### AN ACT relating to dietitians.

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 310 to enact and enter into the Dietitian Licensure Compact with all other jurisdictions that legally join in the compact; declare the purpose of the compact; define terms; establish participation requirements; recognize licensure privilege and establish requirements; set requirements for transferring a home state license; designate home state licensure for active members of the military; establish penalties and adverse actions against a licensee; establish a joint government agency, create membership rules, establish voting requirements, and permit the government agency to establish rules and perform duties; require the compact commission to create a data system and outline the requirements; permit the executive and judicial branches within each state to enforce the compact; establish dispute resolution and outline termination procedures.**

- Enters Kentucky into a multistate compact that allows licensed dietitians to practice in other member states without needing separate licenses, while streamlining tele-health and military spouse transitions
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and Council of State Governments’ priority compact
- Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states through interstate agreement
  - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through “privilege to practice policies” to more easily transfer their license to a new state
- Kentucky is a leader in this area, with the Commonwealth adopting nine of the first DOD-priority compacts
- Strong support from the affected community
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations January 14*

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### **HB 98 (Tipton)**

**AN ACT relating to retiree health provisions of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.**

**Amend KRS 61.702, relating to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System, to increase various nonhazardous and hazardous duty retiree benefits.**

- Of interest to state retirees
  - Mirrored in HB 219
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to State Government January 14*

### **HB 100 (Tipton)**

**AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.**

**Propose to amend Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky to increase the homestead exemption to \$100,000; require the homestead exemption amount to be indexed every year; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection; apply to property assessments beginning on or after January 1, 2027.**

- Tax exemption bill
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

### **HB 101 (Tipton)**

**AN ACT relating to an exemption from sales and use tax for religious institutions.**

**Amend KRS 139.495 to define "educational or charitable institution" and "religious institution"; exempt purchases and sales of tangible personal property, digital property, or services made by qualifying religious institutions from state sales and use taxes; make technical changes.**

- Tax exemption bill
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- Many cosponsors
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to A&R January 14*

### **HB 104 (Hart)**

**AN ACT relating to school cooperation with patriotic organizations.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 158 to define "organization" as a federally recognized patriotic civic service organization that consists of or serves youths; permit an organization to request and require superintendents to provide an opportunity to provide information to students on school property during a school day.**

- Supports patriotic activities in schools
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Primary and Secondary Education January 14*

### **HB 106 (Hart)**

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**AN ACT relating to emergency medical services.**

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 311A to create the EMS Professionals Foundation Program fund; specify the ambulance services and EMS professionals that are eligible to share in the distribution of the fund; provide that the Board of Emergency Medical Services shall administer the fund and may promulgate administrative regulations to facilitate its administration; authorize reimbursement for an EMS professional's out-of-pocket costs for mental health treatment for a diagnosed post-traumatic stress injury or post-traumatic stress disorder; provide for annual supplements to ambulance providers for each EMS professional it employs; amend KRS 42.190 and 136.392 to include the EMS Professionals Foundation Program fund to the premium surcharge; amend KRS 61.315 to include eligibility for in the line of duty death benefits to specified ambulance service providers.

- Supports EMS professionals
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Local Government January 14*

#### **HB 112 (Brown)**

**Propose to amend Section 25 of the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances, including as punishment for a crime; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.**

- Of general interest; constitutional amendment required
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

#### **HB 113 (Brown)**

**AN ACT relating to gun safety for children.**

Amend KRS 527.010, relating to firearms, to define "securely locked container" and make technical corrections; create a new section of KRS Chapter 527 to prohibit unlawful storage of a firearm; establish elements of the crime as recklessly allowing access to an unsecured firearm by a minor; establish the crime as a Class B misdemeanor unless a physical injury or death results, in which case it is a Class A misdemeanor; provide that an affirmative defense exists if a minor obtained the firearm through the minor's unlawful entry; provide that the Act may be cited as the Baby Dre Gun Safety Act.

- Gun safety legislation
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

#### **HB 116 (Brown)**

**Create new sections of KRS Chapter 237 to define "assault weapon," "large capacity ammunition feeding device," and "seller of ammunition"; require background checks for private firearms sales; require reporting to law enforcement of firearm and ammunition thefts and losses; require the safe storage of firearms; require the Department of Kentucky State Police to promulgate administrative regulations relating to the licensing of persons to possess handguns and assault weapons, the registration of handguns and assault weapons, and the logging of firearms and ammunition sales effective January 1, 2027 (and much more).**

- Gun safety legislation
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*



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### **HB 118 (Brown)**

**Amend KRS 2.110 to add the nineteenth day of June as a state holiday commemorating Juneteenth National Freedom Day.**

- Creates official state holiday
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to State Government January 14*

### **HB 125 (Brown)**

**Amend KRS 527.010 to define "domestic abuse offense," "domestic violence protective order," and "physical force"; create new sections of KRS Chapter 527 to create the crimes of possession of a firearm by a convicted domestic abuser and possession of a firearm by the subject of a domestic violence protective order; require the surrender of firearm by individuals subject to protective orders or convicted of specified crimes; amend KRS 403.740 and 456.060 to require courts to inform the subject of a domestic violence order or an interpersonal protective order of the firearm possession prohibition.**

- Gun safety legislation
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

### **HB 126 (Brown)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 237 to require background checks for private firearms sales and transfers; amend KRS 237.990 to establish a penalty for violations.**

- Gun safety legislation
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

### **HB 137 (Williams)**

**AN ACT proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.**

**Propose to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky to provide homeowners who are 65 years of age or older with an exemption from any increase in the valuation of their permanent residence that is assessed after the later of the year the homeowner turned 65 or the year the homeowner acquired the property; require the exemption to be in addition to the exemption provided in Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky and notwithstanding Sections 171, 172, and 174 of the Constitution of Kentucky; apply the exemption to increases in valuation that occur after the date the amendment is ratified by the voters; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.**

- Tax exemption legislation; constitutional amendment required
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- Similar to HB 235
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

### **HB 152 (Willner)**

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**Amend KRS 141.020, relating to the individual income tax, to establish graduated individual income tax rates for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027; remove provisions relating to tax rate reduction procedures.**

- Competing Democrat version of graduated taxation; unlikely to be addressed
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to A&R January 14*

#### **HB 157 (Camuel)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 141 to establish an eligible caregiver credit against the tax imposed in KRS 141.020; amend KRS 141.0205 to order the credit; amend KRS 131.190 to allow the Department of Revenue to report on the credit.**

- Creates a nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help Kentucky families offset the out-of-pocket costs of caring for elderly relatives with dementia or chronic needs at home
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to A&R January 14*

#### **HB 166 (Burke)**

**State Chief Resiliency Officer creation**

**Create a new section of KRS 39A to establish the position of chief resiliency officer, appointed by the Governor, to lead disaster preparedness and resiliency efforts; amend KRS 39A.070 to include cooperation with chief resiliency officer in the powers, responsibility, and duties of the director of the Division of Emergency Management.**

- Affects DMA Division of Emergency Management
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 14*

#### **HB 181 (Grossl)**

**AN ACT relating to the Interstate Massage Compact.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 309 to adopt the Interstate Massage Compact ...**

- Enters Kentucky into a national multistate licensing agreement for massage therapists, allowing professionals to practice in all member states while strengthening safeguards against human trafficking
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and Council of State Governments' priority compact
- Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states through interstate agreement
  - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through "privilege to practice policies" to more easily transfer their license to a new state
- Kentucky is a leader in this area, with the Commonwealth adopting nine of the first DOD-priority compacts
- The bill language as introduced is a dated version of the compact and will require a Committee Substitute to update it to the current version, in coordination with the American Massage Therapy Association and Council of State Governments
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations January 14*

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### **HB 182 (Tackett-Laferty)**

**AN ACT relating to duty-related disability benefits.**

**Amend KRS 61.621 to allow a member of a state-administered retirement system who works in a nonhazardous position that could be certified as a hazardous position and who receives a duty-related injury to be eligible for the same minimum retirement benefit provided to members who receive a hazardous disability retirement ...**

- Potential interest to state retirees; numerous cosponsors
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to State Government January 14*

### **HB 183 (Tackett-Laferty)**

**Amend KRS 141.019 to increase the retirement distribution exclusion from \$31,110 to \$41,110 for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.**

- Returns retirement tax exemption to old standard; unlikely to receive consideration in the current tax environment with the goal of becoming a zero income tax state by 2032
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to A&R January 14*

### **HB 191 (DJ Johnson)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 158 to require that all public schools in Kentucky devote 1 class or instructional period for the observance of Constitution Day; establish Constitution Day program requirements; require the Kentucky Department of Education to develop and maintain a web-based resource for Constitution Day programming; provide that the Act may be cited as the Honoring Our Constitution Act.**

- Patriotic legislation with associated public school mandate
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Primary and Secondary Education January 14*

### **HB 198 (Kulkarni)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 218A to make possession of a personal use quantity of cannabis exempt from civil or criminal penalty ...**

- Marijuana legalization
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

### **HB 199 (Kulkarni)**

**AN ACT proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to the possession of cannabis.**

- Marijuana legalization through a state constitutional amendment process
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

### **HB 211 (Kulkarni)**

**Police Intervention**

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Create a new section of KRS Chapter 15 to define terms; 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; impose a duty to provide or obtain emergency medical assistance; require reporting of intervention; provide administrative and legal protections; amend KRS 15.330 to require the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council to prescribe minimum standards for use of force by officer, an officer's duty to intervene, and reporting of police officer misconduct; amend KRS 413.115 to require that an action for retaliatory personnel actions to be commenced within 3 years.

- Public protection bill
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 14*

#### **HB 214 (Wesley)**

##### **Residential Ease of Access for Disabled Veterans Program**

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 40 to define terms; create the Residential Ease of Access for Disabled Veterans Program for funding the construction and installation of accessibility ramps on residences of disabled veterans; establish the Residential Ease of Access for Disabled Veterans Program grant fund to be used for the program and administered by the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs.

- KDVA requirement to assist with disabled veteran access
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
  - This is the type of initiative that might gain traction, sponsored by the VMAPP Vice Chair, though possibly as an unfunded mandate
    - Note that this bill has a lot of sponsors, which is a very positive sign for movement
- Many cosponsors
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 14*
- *Passed committee January 20; to House floor*

#### **HB 219 (Blanton)**

**Amend KRS 61.702, relating to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System, to increase nonhazardous and hazardous duty benefits ...**

- Of interest to state retirees
  - Mirrored in HB 98
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to State Government January 14*

#### **HB 221 (Tackett-Laferty)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 39A to establish the Kentucky Severe Weather Alert System; specify purpose and allowable uses of the system.**

- Affects DMA Division of Emergency Management
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 14*

#### **HB 225 (Tackett-Laferty)**

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**AN ACT relating to a tax credit for volunteer firefighters.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 141 to establish a refundable income tax credit for certain volunteer firefighters; declare the purpose of the credit; require annual reporting to the Legislative Research Commission to evaluate the impact of the credit; amend KRS 141.0205 to provide the ordering of the credit; amend KRS 131.190 to allow confidential tax return information to be shared with the Legislative Research Commission.**

- Benefit for volunteer firefighters
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to A&R January 14*

#### **HB 226 (Bratcher)**

**Amend KRS 186.162, relating to special license plates, to establish that a portion of the initial and renewal fee for a Kentucky National Guard plate is dedicated to the National Guard Association of Kentucky (NGAKY).**

- Creates a new income source for the National Guard Association of Kentucky (NGAKY)
  - This was the sole idea of Rep. Bratcher, who came up with it while meeting with association leadership
    - It was not initiated by any Kentucky National Guard member, nor would any funds go directly to the Kentucky National Guard
    - The NGAKY is a 501(c)(19) organization
    - Obviously, the NGAKY supports this initiative
  - Funding would be at the expense of the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund (VPTF), the current beneficiary
  - The NGAKY position is that National Guard special license plate fees would more directly benefit National Guard-community programs
  - A noteworthy and reasonable counterargument is protecting income sources for the VPTF
    - Rep. Bratcher argues that the VPTF is now well-funded and he believes National Guard special license plate fees only make up approximately 4-to-5 percent of the total annual funding to the program
  - There is precedent for direct association of special license plate renewal fees
    - For example, Transportation Cabinet currently forwards funds from the Child Victims' Trust Fund special license plate to the Child Victims' Trust Fund established under KRS 41.400
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to Transportation January 14*

#### **HB 234 (Bauman)**

**AN ACT relating to the posting of veterans' benefits and services.**

**Amend KRS 337.327 to require employers to keep copies of a veterans' benefits and services document in a conspicuous and accessible place.**

- Intent is clearly good – appraising veterans and employers of rights and responsibilities is a very positive step – defer to KDVA for budget and staff impact
  - More a staff workload versus actual expense issue, assuming the document can be placed on the KDVA website for download
  - If the document must be printed and distributed by the state, that is far more significant

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- Most likely a mixed reception from employers, who may consider this a positive step yet may be concerned about any additional bureaucratic burden
- The U.S. Department of Labor is required to provide relevant employment posters – this may be a duplicative responsibility
- No movement last three sessions
- *Introduced January 8*
- *To VMAPP January 15*

#### **HB 235 (Bauman)**

**AN ACT proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.**

**Propose to create a new section of 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 that is assessed after the later of the year the homeowner turned 65 or the year the homeowner acquired the property; require the exemption to be in addition to the exemption provided in Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky and notwithstanding Sections 171, 172, and 174 of the Constitution of Kentucky; apply the exemption to increases in valuation that occur after the date the amendment is ratified by the voters; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.**

- Similar to HB 137
- Tax exemption legislation; constitutional amendment required
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

#### **HB 240 (Gordon)**

**AN ACT relating to residency as defined by the Council on Postsecondary Education.**

**Amend KRS 164.020 to require the Council on Postsecondary Education to consider individuals born in Kentucky as Kentucky residents when determining residency for tuition and admission purposes in the state postsecondary education system; provide that the Act may be cited as the Welcome Back to My Old Kentucky Home Initiative.**

- Greater flexibility in establishing residency for education purposes
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to Postsecondary Education January 15*

#### **HB 242 (White)**

**AN ACT proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.**

**Propose to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky 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; require an owner to meet the disability requirements under Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky; allow real property maintained as the permanent residence of the surviving spouse of a veteran or first responder to receive an exemption based on the qualifiers of the veteran or first responder prior to his or her death; allow the General Assembly to set qualification requirements by law; prohibit a property from receiving more than one exemption under this new section of the Constitution of Kentucky; allow the exemption to be in addition to the exemption**

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provided in Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky; provide that the exemptions supersede contrary provisions of Sections 171, 172, and 174 of the Constitution of Kentucky; apply the exemptions to property assessed on or after January 1, 2028; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.

- Tax exemption legislation; constitutional amendment required
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

#### **HB 245 (Banta)**

**AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.**

**Propose to amend Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky to increase the homestead exemption to \$75,000; require the homestead exemption amount to be indexed every year; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection; apply to property assessments beginning on or after January 1, 2027.**

- Tax exemption legislation; constitutional amendment required
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 14*

#### **HB 247 (Williams)**

**AN ACT relating to disabled veteran benefits.**

**Amend KRS 164.515 to allow the spouse or a child under the age of 26 of a disabled veteran free tuition at public universities, colleges, or vocational training institutions for up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction.**

- Tuition benefit for disabled veteran families
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 8*
- *To VMAPP January 15*

#### **HB 252 (Callaway)**

**AN ACT relating to in line of duty disability benefits and declaring an emergency.**

**Amend KRS 61.702 and 78.5536 to provide full hospital and medical insurance benefits for a member, their spouse, and their dependents if the member becomes disabled in line of duty with a hazardous disability; EMERGENCY.**

- Proposes new health benefit for state employees
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- Emergency clause would make it effective upon passage
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to State Government January 14*

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### **HB 261 (Grossl)**

**AN ACT relating to the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 161 to enact and enter into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact; declare purpose; define terms; set requirements for member states and for school psychologists to participate in the compact; establish provisions for active duty military members or their spouses; designate procedures for adverse actions against a school psychologist; create the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact Commission and establish its internal procedures; provide for the commission to facilitate the exchange of information; establish rulemaking procedures, oversight, financing, dispute resolution, and enforcement provisions of the compact; create member state compact withdrawal procedures; provide for amendments to the compact; specify applicability of the compact to certain Kentucky state law.**

- Establishes a multistate licensing compact for school psychologists, allowing them to practice in any member state to address critical mental health provider shortages in schools
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and Council of State Governments' priority compact
- Strong support from the affected community, including the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools
- Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states through interstate agreement
  - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through "privilege to practice policies" to more easily transfer their license to a new state
- Kentucky is a leader in this area, with the Commonwealth adopting nine of the first DOD-priority compacts
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations January 15*

### **HB 268 (Griffie)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 2 to adopt the Green Star flag as the Commonwealth's symbol of continued awareness of military service member and veteran suicide and commitment to recognize and resolve military service member and veteran suicide.**

- The optional provision makes it a local community decision whether to support, which is appropriate
- Challenge for legislature is if you accept one flag, then you almost have to accept all flags
  - Exception is the nationally recognized POW/MIA flag
- There has been no movement for legislation that adds flags to the POW/MIA flag over the past several years
  - They may pass the House; however, they always die in the Senate
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 15*

### **HB 269 (Dossett)**

**AN ACT relating to allowing the Freedom Flag to be flown as a Flag of Remembrance each September 11, which is known as Patriot Day.**

- The optional provision makes it a local community decision whether to support, which is appropriate



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- Challenge for legislature is if you accept one flag, then you almost have to accept all flags
  - Exception is the nationally recognized POW/MIA flag
- There has been no movement for legislation that adds flags to the POW/MIA flag over the past several years
- These bills tend to pass the House and die without action in the Senate, which has several veteran Senators who do not favor adding to the POW/MIA flag
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to State Government January 15*

#### **HB 274 (Thomas)**

**AN ACT relating to the protection of veterans' benefits.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 40 to require persons seeking to receive compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits claims to provide a signed disclosure document stating these services may be provided for free from other entities.**

- This bill stems from last year's JECVO push to protect veterans from "claim shark" activity and proposes a simplified solution as an option for consideration
- Requires private consultants to provide clear oral and written disclosures that they are not affiliated with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, or any other federally chartered veterans' service organization, and that free assistance is available through the VA and state-chartered organizations
- *Introduced January 8*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 15*

#### **HB 283 (Sharp)**

**AN ACT relating to foreign transactions in the Commonwealth.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 39G to define "center," "executive director," "foreign enterprise," and "resident of the Commonwealth"; prohibit a resident of the Commonwealth from engaging in a transaction with a foreign enterprise if the transaction would result in foreign control of intellectual property, infrastructure, technology, or assets critical to the economic security of the Commonwealth, obstruction of counter-intelligence efforts, or would compromise the economic security of the Commonwealth (and much more...).**

- National trend to take extra measures to protect our nation's financial security
- *Introduced January 9*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 16*

#### **HB 285 (Moore)**

**AN ACT relating to a property tax homestead exemption for disabled veterans.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 132, relating to state and local property taxes, to establish a homestead exemption in an amount up to \$100,000 for veterans with a 50% or greater service-connected disability; establish requirements for the exemption; allow the permanent residence of a veteran's surviving spouse to continue to receive the exemption; require the Department of Revenue to prescribe forms and an application process for the exemption; apply the exemption to state, county, city, and special district taxes; allow mobile homes, manufactured houses, recreational homes, and modular homes to qualify for the exemption; require title transfers on property receiving the exemption to be reported to the property valuation administrator; allow the exemption to apply to the value of the property that is assessable to the owner or proportioned to his or her interest when**

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**the property is jointly owned or owned through a stock or membership corporation; allow partial or full refunds if an overpayment occurs upon application of the exemption; apply to property assessed on or after January 1, 2027.**

- Provides a homestead tax exemption up to \$100K to disabled veterans (50 percent rating or greater) and their surviving spouses
  - This is a change from last year's version, which had an exemption percentage graduated based on their VA disability percentage, starting at 10 percent and rising to 100 percent
- Sponsor intent is to protect veterans from being priced out of their own homes after sacrificing for our country
- Current legislative policy is to avoid tax reform while in the process of taking the state to a zero-percent state income tax rate; similar legislation in previous sessions has simply not progressed
- *Introduced January 9*
- *Assigned to A&R January 16*

#### **HB 286 (Moore)**

**AN ACT relating to veteran entrepreneurs.**

**Create a new section of Subchapter 12 of KRS Chapter 154 to create the Veteran Entrepreneur Program to be administered by the Office of Entrepreneurship; establish requirements and program details; amend KRS 154.12-277 and 154.12-278 to include the Veteran Entrepreneur Program; and amend KRS 154.12-330 to give preference to veterans in the issuance of small business loans.**

- Rep. Moore introduced a version of this bill last year for "socialization" in the non-budget session, and it did not receive any movement
- The bill creates a veteran-owned small business Veteran Entrepreneur Program using funding available through the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority
  - Sponsor intent is to ensure our military and veteran business owners have the tools to turn their skills into successful businesses and economic opportunity at home
- The bill requires the authority shall make reasonable efforts to direct at least seven percent (7%) of the small business loan program funds each year to Kentucky-based, veteran entrepreneurs provided that the authority receives qualified applications requesting at least seven percent (7%) of the small business loan program funds
- While current legislative policy is to avoid bills with a fiscal impact while in the process of taking the state to a zero-percent state income tax rate by 2032, this is different from last year's version by utilizing the existing Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority program versus creating new funding requirements
  - The change helps increase potential for passage
- *Introduced January 9*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 16*

#### **HB 299 (Nemes)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 527 to define "machine gun"; establish the offense of possession of a machine gun conversion device as a Class C felony.**

- Gun safety legislation
- *Introduced January 9*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 16*

#### **HB 315 (Brown)**

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**AN ACT relating to firearms.**

**Amend KRS 527.010 to define "assault weapon," "bump stock," and "machine gun"; create a new section of KRS Chapter 527 to establish the offense of possession of an assault weapon as a Class D felony; provide exceptions; create a new section of KRS Chapter 527 to establish the offense of possession of a machine gun; provide exceptions; create a new section of KRS Chapter 237 to allow a person who lawfully owns an assault weapon before the effective date of the Act to apply to the commissioner of the Department of Kentucky State Police for a certificate of possession; amend KRS 237.104 to conform.**

- Assault weapon ownership provisions
- *Introduced January 12*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 20*

**HB 316 (Brown)**

**AN ACT relating to local firearms control ordinances.**

**Repeal and reenact KRS 65.870 to allow local governments to enact ordinances regulating firearms, ammunition, components of firearms and ammunition, and firearms accessories; amend KRS 65.1591 and 237.115 to conform.**

- Gun ownership provisions
- *Introduced January 12*
- *Assigned to Local Government January 20*

**HB 317 (Grossberg)**

**Propose to create a new section of 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 that is assessed after the later of the year the homeowner turned 65 or the year the homeowner acquired the property; require the exemption to be in addition to the exemption provided in Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky; apply the exemption only to increases occurring until the assessed value of the property is \$500,000; and more ...**

- Tax reform; Constitutional Amendment required
- Current legislative policy is to avoid tax reform while in the process of taking the state to a zero-percent state income tax rate; similar legislation in previous sessions has simply not progressed
- *Introduced January 12*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs January 20*

**HB 322 (Grossl)**

**AN ACT relating to child-care providers on a military installation or facility.**

**Amend KRS 199.8982 to establish an exemption from the state certification requirements for a child-care provider on a military installation or military facility that is licensed or certified as a family child-care provider by the United States Department of Defense, any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or reserve component thereof.**

- This is a major priority for the U.S. Army and for the commanding general of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell
  - The Army desperately needs assistance with child-care on and off post
    - Many military spouses are certified to provide this benefit

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- The Navy and Air Force have had success with similar initiatives in states with their major installations; this is the first time the Army has prioritized community engagement for this purpose
- *Introduced January 12*
- *Assigned to Families & Children January 20*

#### **HB 325 (Lehman)**

**AN ACT relating to economic development incentives.**

**Amend KRS 141.396, relating to the angel investor tax credit, to remove language relating to employee demographics for qualified small businesses from information required; amend KRS 154.20-234, relating to the Angel Investor Program, to remove language relating to employee demographics for qualified small businesses from information required; amend KRS 154.20-240 and 154.20-254 to conform.**

- Modifies the "Angel Investor" tax credit and small business investment programs by updating reporting requirements and clarifying the eligibility criteria for Kentucky-based operations
- *Introduced January 12*
- *Assigned to Small Business & Information Technology January 20*

#### **HB 339 (Thomas)**

**AN ACT relating to employment protections for members of the Civil Air Patrol.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 36 to define "employee"; and "employer" provide employment protections for members of the Civil Air Patrol in private businesses and local governments; amend KRS 61.394 to extend state government employment protections to members of the Civil Air Patrol.**

- Just like Kentucky National Guard members on State Active Duty to respond to state emergency situations, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members take time away from their civilian jobs to respond to state emergencies and other civil support missions
- KRS 61.394 protects the job status and related benefits of National Guard and other military component personnel while doing these missions; however, CAP is not a military component
  - This protection was requested by Kentucky CAP leadership and is part of a national trend by states to include the CAP in this protection due to their ever-increasing responsibilities in this area
  - Prohibits employers from discriminating against or firing employees for serving in the Civil Air Patrol and guarantees state employees paid leave when responding to emergencies or Air Force-directed missions
- This legislation amends 61.394 to include the CAP while responding to an emergency declared by the Governor or the President of the United States; or a mission directed from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
- *Introduced January 13*

#### **HB 351 (Stevenson)**

**AN ACT relating to military-connected educational benefits.**

**Amend KRS 164.507 to remove degree-seeking requirement for nonremarried spouse and children of a deceased veteran when utilizing educational benefits; require students to use federal grant funds toward tuition prior to the use of the waiver; amend KRS 164.515 to expand educational benefit to include service members with a disability rating of 50% or higher; remove degree-seeking requirement; require students to use federal grant funds toward tuition prior to the use of the waiver.**

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- Intent is clearly positive – very difficult to pass any bill with a fiscal impact, which this has by lowering the qualifying disability rating; not endorsed by the Kentucky university system
  - This legislation has not progressed for several sessions now
- *Introduced January 13*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 21*

#### **HB 352 (Stevenson)**

**AN ACT relating to Women Veterans Appreciation Day and declaring an emergency.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 2 to designate June 12 of each year as Women Veterans Appreciation Day in the Commonwealth; EMERGENCY.**

- “Women’s Veterans’ Day” is a a deserved acknowledgement of then-President Dwight Eisenhower officially integrating women into the regular Armed Forces
- This provides an enhancement to Veterans Day without replacing it, honoring the unique contributions of women veterans
- Congress has designated June 12 as Women Veterans’ Recognition Day
- The Emergency clause makes it effective immediately upon passage
  - Necessary because standard legislation will not become effective until late June or early July 2025
  - This legislation has not progressed for several sessions now
- *Introduced January 13*

#### **HB 353 (Stevenson)**

**Amend KRS 40.050 to include gender-neutral language.**

- This is what is called a “mule” bill – submitted for easy access late in the session to be amended for other purposes, if needed
- *Introduced January 13*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 21*

#### **HB 364 (Bratcher)**

**AN ACT relating to benefits for Kentucky National Guard members.**

**Amend KRS 38.030 to define "Commonwealth emergency response pay" and entitle Kentucky National Guard members to receive Commonwealth emergency response pay when called to state active duty service when an emergency is declared by the Governor; amend KRS 38.010 to conform.**

- Kentucky National Guard members called to State Active Duty service are entitled to the same extra pay benefits as when on federal military duty, at the discretion of the Adjutant General
- The intent of this legislation is to make it standard practice to include "Commonwealth emergency response pay" as a monetary incentive paid to Kentucky National Guard members when the Kentucky National Guard is called to State Active Duty service during a state of emergency as declared by the Governor
  - The Governor may order units and individual members of the Kentucky National Guard into state active duty for any of the following purposes:
    - Protecting lives and property;
    - Assisting in disaster relief or other humanitarian efforts;
    - Preventing or suppressing riot or civil disorder;
    - Enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth; or
    - Other similar purpose

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- Mandates inclusion of this pay for the first 72 hours of State Active Duty service; leaves continuing pay of this benefit to the discretion of the Adjutant General for missions that are longer in duration
- *Introduced January 13*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 21*

#### **HB 369 (Sharp)**

**AN ACT relating to veteran treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.**

**Amend KRS 217.930, 217.934, and 217.936 to include post-traumatic stress disorder as a qualifying medical condition for hyperbaric oxygen therapy.**

- JECVO priority bill, citing medical studies showing the proven effectiveness of this treatment for PTSD
- *Introduced January 14*

#### **HB 381 (Thomas)**

**AN ACT relating to disabled and deceased veteran benefits.**

**Amend KRS 164.507 to allow the nonremarried spouse or a child under the age of 26 of a deceased veteran free tuition at public universities, colleges, or vocational training institutions for up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction; amend KRS 164.515 to allow the spouse or a child under the age of 26 of a disabled veteran free tuition at public universities, colleges, or vocational training institutions for up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction.**

- Tuition benefit for disabled veteran families
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 14*

#### **HB 383 (Grossl)**

**AN ACT relating to children of military families.**

**Amend KRS 159.075 to require a school district to take the necessary steps to ensure that a child of a military family who has an individualized education program or section 504 plan shall receive comparable services when the child begins school; amend KRS 200.664 to require a point of entry to take the necessary steps to ensure that a child with an individualized family services plan shall receive comparable services prior to the child's arrival to their new location.**

- Department of Defense (DOD) Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) priority legislation to protect military families when they transfer to new locations and new school districts
- Reviewed by Kentucky Department of Education, which added measures to improve the legislation
- *Introduced January 14*

#### **HB 410 (Chester-Burton)**

**AN ACT relating to risk protection orders.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 237 to define terms; allow enumerated persons to petition a District Court to issue an order prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm if the person is or has been diagnosed with or treated for a mental condition that causes or is likely to cause impairment in judgment, perception, or impulse control to an extent that presents an unreasonable risk to public health, safety, or welfare if the person were in possession or control of a**

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**firearm; establish that a violation of an order is a Class A misdemeanor; amend KRS 237.104 to conform; provide that the Act may be cited as Diego's Law.**

- Gun purchase restrictions for those deemed an unreasonable risk to public safety
- *Introduced January 15*
- *Assigned to Judiciary January 23*

#### **HB 421 (Dotson)**

**AN ACT relating to interscholastic extracurricular activities.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 158 to authorize participation in a public school interscholastic extracurricular activity by an at-home private school student; establish criteria for participation; require a parent, guardian, or teacher of an at-home private school student participating in a public school interscholastic activity to verify the student's academic progress; declare a public school student who does not make academic progress at a public school and withdraws and enters an at-home private school program ineligible for participation in an interscholastic activity for the remainder of the school year; provide that the Act may be cited as the Play Fair Kentucky Act.**

- The Play Fair Kentucky Act institutionalizes procedures allowing for homeschooler participation in K-12 sports and clubs
- *Introduced January 16*

#### **HB 448 (Hampton)**

**AN ACT relating to background checks.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 17 to define terms and require criminal justice agencies to provide criminal history records information to requesting agencies when they are conducting a basic suitability or fitness assessment for federal or contractor employees under 5 U.S.C. sec. 9101; authorize the agency to request a fee of \$25 for reimbursement of expenses related to the check from entities other than the Commonwealth; amend KRS 610.340, relating to juvenile justice records, to conform.**

- Background checks for federal or contractor employees
- *Introduced January 21*

#### **HB 451 (Flannery)**

**AN ACT relating to the limited liability entity tax.**

**Amend KRS 141.0401 to exempt entities doing business in Kentucky with gross receipts of less than \$100,000 from paying the limited liability entity tax for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.**

- Supports small business owners
  - Bills with a fiscal note are longshots in the current tax environment as the legislature drives the state towards zero percent income tax by 2032
- *Introduced January 21*

#### **HB 458 (Doan)**

**AN ACT relating to universal recognition of occupational licenses.**

**Create new sections of KRS Chapter 335B to allow universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications; include work experience as a basis for licensure or certification; explicitly include military personnel and their spouses; provide that the Act may be cited as the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act.**

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- This goes beyond military spouses and applies to all occupational licenses
- Major concern for DOD is that this only protects military spouses entering Kentucky
  - There is no protection for their license portability when transferring to another state unless that state also adopts universal licensing or is a co-member with Kentucky of an existing compact for that specific occupational license
  - Universal licensing is only truly effective if all 50 states pass similar legislation, which is problematic
    - If all 50 states can come to agreement, then this would be a great solution; however, that situation, should it ever occur, is not going to occur in the near future
  - Strong opposition exists to universal licensing in many, if not the majority, of states due to the perception that universal licensure mandates force all joining states to recognize the lowest licensure standard existing in any state
- Interstate occupational licensing compacts are the DOD-recognized military families' solution, because states agree to licensing standards in advance through negotiation and compromise through the Council of State Governments interstate compacts program
- *Introduced January 21*

#### **HR 6 (Banta)**

**A RESOLUTION honoring and expressing support for law enforcement officers in Kentucky and throughout the United States.**

- *Introduced January 7*

#### **HCR 9 (Banta)**

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to reinstate the able-bodied adults without dependents time limits exemption for veterans under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.**

- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 14*

#### **HCR 10 (Moore)**

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION condemning all forms of political violence and supporting freedom in the Commonwealth.**

- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to State Government January 14*

#### **HR 13 (Massaroni)**

**A RESOLUTION honoring and expressing support for law enforcement officers in Kentucky and throughout the United States.**

- *Introduced January 7*

#### **HCR 16 (Dietz)**

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION continuing the work of the Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force by establishing the Aviation Economic Development Task Force.**

- *Introduced January 8*



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## Working document

### HCR 23 (Baker)

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the establishment of the Property Taxation Task Force. Direct the Legislative Research Commission to establish the Property Taxation Task Force to study, review, and provide policy recommendations on how to address local property taxation increases; require the task force to meet monthly during the 2026 legislative interim; outline task force membership; require the task force to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2026.**

- Of interest due to bills filed to add property tax exemptions for disabled veterans
- *Introduced January 13*

### SENATE

Reviewed through SB 117/181

### SB 13 (Deneen)

#### **Ex-Officio Planning Commission Membership**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 100 to define terms; amend KRS 100.133 and 100.137 to allow the inclusion of a nonvoting ex officio member of a planning unit to be a representative of a military installation to advise on matters relating to national security and other concerns for the military installation; provide that the Act may be cited as the Military Installation Protection Act.**

- Titled the “Military Installation Protection Act”
- Authorizes local planning and zoning commissions to add a military installation representative as an ex officio member to planning and zoning commissions whenever they are adjacent to a military installation to allow for installation concerns to be addressed during the zoning process
  - In 10 U.S.C. sec. (c)(4), the term “military installation” means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department or, in the case of an activity in a foreign country, under the operational control of the Secretary of a military department or the Secretary of Defense, without regard to the duration of operational control
  - This includes National Guard armories/training areas and Armed Forces Reserve Centers
- Intent is for the installation representative to advise on national security or other concerns relating to the installation
- The installation representative, at the discretion of the commander/director, may be a Department of Defense civilian employee (very common on installation staffs, often in a deputy commander or division director role) or a or a key retiree/veteran/volunteer who is a strong community advocate for that installation, such as a member of the (Fort) Knox Regional Development Alliance or the Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee
  - This gives the commander a better chance to provide long-term continuity
  - Sponsor acknowledges that local commissions cannot compel servicemember participation or an installation to host meetings (strongly discouraged under military ethics regulations)
- *Introduced January 6*
- *Passed Senate VMAPP Committee unanimously January 15; posted for passage on Senate floor January 22*

### SB 15 (Deneen)

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#### **AN ACT relating to the protection of veterans' benefits**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 40 to define terms; require any person seeking compensation for assisting with veterans' benefits to be accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; provide that the Act may be cited as the Veterans' Benefits Accreditation Act.**

- Titled the "Veterans' Benefits Accreditation Act"
- This legislation very simply requires companies that do veteran advocacy work with the federal Veterans Administration (VA) here in Kentucky be accredited to perform that service by the VA
- Oversight of this requirement is not specified in the legislation and will likely be covered in an administrative regulation process, logically under the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA), which would then assume some type of administrative role
- Logical step to protect the interests of veterans, as the federal VA has a history of revisiting and revoking benefits awarded with the assistance of uncertified organizations, forcing affected veterans to return pay settlements awarded to them
- State Veterans Services Organizations and KDVA service representatives routinely make it their practice to be certified
- May receive opposition from affected companies/organizations that want to push back against this requirement
- *Introduced January 6*

#### **SB 28 (Higdon)**

**AN ACT relating to operating a motor vehicle.**

**Repeal and reenact KRS 189.292 to define "mobile electronic device"; prohibit the use of a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle; establish exceptions; amend KRS 189.294 to define "mobile electronic device"; amend KRS 189.990 to establish penalties for violation of KRS 189.292 and 189.294; require that money from fines be deposited into the traumatic brain injury trust fund, the Kentucky trauma care system fund, and the veterans' program trust fund; provide that a courtesy warning and not a uniform citation shall be issued by a peace officer until October 31, 2026; provide that the Act may be cited as the Phone-Down Kentucky Act.**

- Titled the "Phone-Down Kentucky Act"
- Prohibits use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving
- Will not assess the bill here other than to note that proceeds from associated fines will be deposited into the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund, the Kentucky Trauma Care System Fund, and the Veterans' Program Trust Fund
  - Fines support veterans
- *Introduced January 6*
- *Passed Transportation unanimously January 14; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading complete*
- *Posted for passage in Senate Orders for January 20*
- *Passed Senate 31-7 on January 20*

#### **SB 44 (Deneen)**

**AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Fire Commission, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.**

**Amend KRS 95A.020 to increase the Kentucky Fire Commission to 18 members by transferring the four ex-officio members to full member status and provide for terms of office of the non-appointive members; amend KRS 95A.262 to specify that the cancer screening reimbursements can be made from revenues allocated to the Firefighters Foundation Program fund pursuant to KRS 42.190 and 136.392;**

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**make an appropriation of \$3,924,000 to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System for various projects for the commission; APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY.**

- Supports the Fire Commission
- Appropriations are a tough sell in the current environment; however, this one will likely receive serious consideration
- *Introduced January 7*

#### **SB 47 (Deneen)**

**AN ACT relating to in the line of duty death benefits.**

**Amend KRS 61.315 to define "rescue squad personnel"; expand eligibility for in the line of duty death benefits to rescue squad personnel; require the Division of Emergency Management to promulgate administrative regulations establishing necessary criteria and procedures; amend KRS 164.2841 to define "rescue squad personnel"; expand eligibility for tuition and fee exemption to dependents of rescue squad personnel who died in the line of duty; amend KRS 342.316 to conform.**

- Affects DMA Division of Emergency Management
- Support for Rescue Squad Personnel in their increasing disaster response role
- *Introduced January 7*

#### **SB 57 (Carroll)**

**AN ACT relating to nuclear energy development.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to establish the Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program (and significantly more in the description...).**

- While this initially doesn't look military or veterans related, this is a massive opportunity for the Commonwealth, Department of Defense and the Army
- The Fort Knox Garrison Command is coordinating with the Energy & Environment Cabinet on planning/approval considerations for a potential Department of Defense-approved 25-megawatt reactor facility to power installation energy needs
  - Kentucky has modeled its energy needs and estimates the need for an additional 3 GW of new advanced nuclear generation capacity online by 2050 and beginning as early as 2040
    - This initiative supports the Commonwealth's move in this direction and is now under evaluation
  - The European model of smaller and much safer plants has been proven effective and worthy of modeling
  - Kentucky is co-chair of an 11-state advanced nuclear first mover initiative through the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and is currently focused on siting and licensing evaluation
- This legislation enables the detailed evaluation and progress of this promising initiative
  - Directs the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority (authority) to annually submit recommendations to the General Assembly for awarding grant funding to eligible applicants for up to 1/3 of the actual costs incurred in applying for and procuring an early site permit, construction permit, or combined operating license from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, not to exceed \$25,000,000
  - High initial costs with massive potential in eventual energy savings to the Commonwealth.
- *Introduced January 9*

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- *Assigned to Natural Resources & Energy January 15*

#### **SB 75 (Reed)**

**Amend KRS 237.109 and 237.110 to lower the age requirement for carrying concealed deadly weapons from 21 to 18; make technical corrections.**

- Concealed carry legislation; many cosponsors
- *Introduced January 15*

#### **SB 86 (Wheeler)**

**AN ACT relating to state and local collaboration with federal immigration law enforcement.**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 61 to define "Jail Enforcement Model," "Task Force Model," and "Warrant Service Officer Model"; require local law enforcement and the Kentucky State Police to enter into agreements with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to participate in programs established under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. sec. 1357.**

- Defines state cooperation with ICE; many cosponsors
- *Introduced January 13*

#### **SB 104 (Nunn)**

**Create a new section of KRS Chapter 519 to define terms; establish the crime of impeding a first responder.**

- Protection for first responders
- *Introduced January 22*

#### **SB 106 (Madon)**

**AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship.**

**Amend KRS 164.7874 to include the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, or the United States Merchant Marine Academy to the definition of "participating institution" under the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship program if the academy enters into the necessary agreements with the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.**

- Allows for military academy KEES participation, if/when desired and arranged
- *Introduced January 20*

#### **SR 7 (Chambers-Armstrong)**

**A RESOLUTION condemning all acts of political violence and affirming the civil and peaceful exercise of democracy.**

- *Introduced January 6*
- *To Senate Floor January 12*

#### **SCR 13 (Storm)**

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION continuing the work of the Air Mobility and Aviation Economic Development Task Force by establishing the Aviation Economic Development Task Force.**

- *Introduced January 6*

#### **SJR 17 (Wise)**

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### **Working document**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION** applying for an Article V convention to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to set a limit on the number of terms of office for members of Congress.

- *Introduced January 6*

#### **SR 37 (Wheeler)**

**A RESOLUTION** recognizing the tremendous skill and efficiency of the United States of America's elite Delta Force for the successful capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

- *Introduced January 13*