

2026 KCMA Kentucky General Assembly military-veterans legislation tracker

Working document

FINAL (April 16, 2026)

60-day "Budget" Session complete

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.

BILLS THAT PASSED

HB 6 (Heavrin)

AN ACT relating to child care and declaring an emergency. (Omnibus)

INCLUDES HB 322 and SB 191

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 199 related to the quality-based graduated early care and education rating system program to establish the intent of the General Assembly related to the program; establish processes and procedures for how the program is changed by administrative regulation; require a program modernization plan and final recommendations for modernization to be created and submitted to the Legislative Research Commission (and much more ...).

- Rep. Heavrin is coordinating with the Department of Defense (DOD) Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) to add their priority child care legislation, as filed in HB 322 (Grossl), license exemption for child-care providers on a military installation or facility, to her own omnibus child care bill, HB 6, as a 2-to-3-year trial
 - This is the focus of HB 322 (Grossl)
- The sponsor is a legislative champion in her Families & Children committee chair role, which gives the elements of HB 322 a better chance of passage in this omnibus bill
 - Among many things, the bill also requires monthly reporting on child care services regulated by the United States Department of Defense (and in many other areas), which is already being accomplished through Kentucky's membership (a big thank you to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services) in the DOD Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS program
- This is a major priority for the U.S. Army and for the commanding general of the 101st 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
 - 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
- Fate was uncertain in the Senate due to concerns about past issues with military healthcare facilities
- *Passed House February 17 by an 84-11-1 vote, with HB 322 added, along with an "emergency" clause which would make this legislative effective immediately upon enactment*
- *Passed Senate 36-1 March 31*
 - *Senate added SB 191 (Carroll) establishing the Kentucky Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child Care Incentive Pilot Program*
- *House concurred March 21 by 83-10 vote*
- *Governor declined to sign the bill due to his concerns with the lack of universal pre-K provisions; becomes law without his signature*

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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
- *Passed House 97-0 March 3 with Committee Substitute adding the DOD-priority Dietitian Compact (HB 92)*
- *Passed Senate 37-0 March 31 with Committee Substitute adding the DOD-priority Athletic Trainer Compact and cleanup amendment*
- *House concurred by 90-0 vote April 1*
- *Signed by Governor April 6*

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
 - Emergency clause would mean immediate effect upon passage
- *Passed House 75-17 March 17*
- *Passed Senate 32-6 March 26 with Committee Substitute; to House for concurrence*
- *House concurred March 31, 76-16; to Governor*

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- *Vetoed by Governor April 3*
- *Veto overridden April 14 80-19 by House and 31-6 by Senate*

HB 92 (Gross)

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
- *Passed House 97-0 March 3*
- *Added to HB 36 and passed contained within that bill (see HB 36 above)*

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

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VPTF

- Rep. Bratcher argues that the VPTF is now well-funded and he believes National Guard special license plate fees only make up approximately less than 4 percent of the total annual funding to the program
- National Guard license plate fees are approximately \$13K
- There is precedent for direct association of special license plate renewal fees, with several dozen organizations receiving direct payments from the fees for their special license plate
 - 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
- KDVA submitted Bill of Concern letter to the Sponsor January 30, citing this legislation as problematic for the VPTF due to the precedent it creates
- NGAKY submitted their own letter of support to House Transportation Committee members February 2
- *Passed Transportation Committee unanimously February 3; to House floor*
- *Reassigned to Appropriations & Revenue March 4*

THIS BILL BECAME A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF RISING FROM THE DEAD

- ***The sponsor worked with House A&R Chair Rep. Rudy to quietly add it into House Committee Substitute (HCS) 1 for HB 757 (Transportation Budget) on March 10, where it passed the House floor on March 11, 69-18, with so many additions that this inclusion went unremarked on and unnoticed***
 - *Nine floor amendments were rejected*
- *HB 757 was then held in Senate A&R until April, passing committee with another Committee Substitute (which retained the HB 226 language and added a great many things, including a provision to place a statue of Sen. Mitch McConnell in the Capitol Rotunda)*
- *Passed the Senate with Senate Committee Substitute 1 (SCS1), 37-0*
 - *The House refused to concur with SCS1*
 - *The Senate refused to recede from SCS1*
 - *The two chambers failed to come to agreement in Conference Committee*
 - *A "Free Conference Committee" managed a compromise, which then passed 34-0 in the Senate and 65-25 in the House – last bill of the day on April 1*
- *Vetoed by the Governor April 2 – specific clauses related to the McConnell statue only*
- *Veto overridden April 14 by House 66-18 and Senate 31-5*

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 101st 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*
- **ROLLED IN TO OMNIBUS CHILD CARE HB 6 (HEAVRIN) THROUGH A COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE**
- *Added to HB 36 and passed contained within that bill (see HB 36 above)*

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
 - Total funding of \$1.5M for this project was appropriated in the 2024 budget session; pending authorization for use through this legislation
 - Legislation itself has failed to advance; however, it has fast-growing support and is better positioned for strong consideration this session
 - New concern from legislative leadership is future, versus current, fiscal impact, making it a more challenging sell as the state moves towards zero income tax by 2032
 - Likely to pass through A&R fiscal impact review if/when it moves in the Senate
- *Passed House 93-0 on February 6*
- *Signed by Governor April 13*

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
- *Passed House 81-8 February 13*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 March 25*
- *Signed by Governor April 7*

HB 628 (Jackson)

Create a new section of KRS 311 to adopt the Athletic Trainer Compact.

- This is not a DOD-priority compact; however, the Christian County Chamber of Commerce has adopted it as a priority at the request of personnel based at Fort Campbell
- 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

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- Kentucky is a leader in this area, with the Commonwealth adopting nine of the first DOD-priority compacts
- *Passed House 97-0 March 4; to Senate*
- *Assigned to Licensing & Occupations March 13*
- *Rolled into HB 36 (Bratcher, Respiratory Therapy Compact) March 24 in Senate L&O to create an omnibus compact bill*
- *Added to HB 36 and passed contained within that bill (see HB 36 above)*

HB 647 (McPherson)

AN ACT relating to economic relief for local communities of the Commonwealth and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 154.14-020, relating to the GRANT Program, to include the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Defense as eligible agencies; amend KRS 154.14-030 to push the sunset date of the program from December 31, 2026, to December 31, 2028; amend KRS 154.14-040 to increase the possible extension of a project from 6 months to 12 months; amend KRS 154.14-070 to make technical changes; EMERGENCY.

- Expands the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program (KRS 154.14-030) to add the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to the 17 currently authorized federal government agencies from which Kentucky governing bodies (city/county), public service organizations and nonprofit charitable organizations may seek grants with a local match requirement
- *Passed House March 12 97-0 with committee substitute (time restriction and increase local matching funds percentages for applications submitted on or after July 1, 2026)*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 March 31*
- *Signed by Governor April 13*

HB 657 (Dietz)

AN ACT relating to professional licensing background checks.

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 319, 319A, 334A, 335.010 to 335.160, and 335.500 to 335.599, relating to psychologists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, social workers, and professional counselors, to require a national and state background check for applicants seeking an initial license, reinstatement of a license, or authorization to practice in another state in accordance with a compact; provide that the results of a national and state criminal background check shall not be distributed by the board except to any applicant upon request or as evidence in a legal proceeding; provide that the fee charged by the Department of Kentucky State Police shall be an amount no greater than the actual cost of processing the request and conducting the background check; require the boards to review criminal background checks for every Kentucky licensee seeking to practice in another state before the board makes a determination on whether the person is eligible to apply for compact privileges; provide that boards shall not require a criminal background check solely for the purpose of renewing a license; and require boards to promulgate administrative regulations to implement this Act.

- Impacts many military spouse professional fields
- *Passed House 91-0 March 6*
- *Passed Senate 36-1 March 24*
- *Signed by Governor March 27*

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HB 757 (Petrie) Transportation Cabinet Budget

- Added here due to its inclusion of HB 226 (Bratcher, National Guard License Plate Funding) at end of the regular session
 - *Passed both House and Senate April 1 with many add-ons, including HB 226; to Governor (vetoed, then overridden - see HB 226 above for details)*

HB 767 (Fugate)

Amend KRS 39A.050 to require the Division of Emergency Management to institute and maintain the Kentucky Qualification System; EMERGENCY.

- Requires KYEM to institute and maintain the Kentucky Qualification System to establish qualification procedures, certification programs, and credentialing standards for professionals involved in disaster and incident management, including incident management teams and emergency operations centers
- Emergency clause will make it effective upon passage/signing
- *Passed House 93-0 March 19*
- *Passed 38-0 March 31 with SCS and Senate Floor Amendment; to House for concurrence*
 - *House refused to concur with Senate amendments*
 - *Senate initially refused to recede from Senate amendments, then reconsidered April 1 and withdrew their amendments*
- *Passed Senate 33-0 April with no amendments*
- *Signed by Governor April 13*

HB 904 (Meredith)

AN ACT relating to gaming.

Amend KRS 230.210 to define various terms; create new sections of KRS Chapter 230 to authorize the Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation to regulate the conduct of fantasy contest operators; require the use of geolocation technology; require fantasy contest operators to implement procedures to prevent fraud, abuse, and money laundering; require notification to the corporation for a confirmed breach of a sport's governing body's internal rules and codes of conduct, conduct that corrupts any outcome, and confirmed illegal activities, and much more ...

- Opposed by JECVO pending clarification from Charitable Gaming on true impact to posts versus gaming facilities
 - Increases fees that may impact VSOs
 - Administrative changes could impact chair selection processes
- *Passed House 79-15 March 19*
- *Passed Senate 24-13 April 1 with Committee Substitute developed with multiple tweaks*
- *House concurred with Senate Committee Substitute, passed House 64-19 April 1*
- *Vetoed by Governor April 13*
- *Veto overridden by House 67-7 and Senate 26-5 April 14*

HR 132 (Osborne)

A RESOLUTION recommending that a permanent statue of Mitch McConnell be placed in the New State Capitol Rotunda.

- *Introduced March 27*
- *Passed included in HB 757 April 1*

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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.
- *Passed Senate 37-0 March 2*
- *Passed House 82-11 March 26*
- *Signed by Governor April 8*

SB 100 (Mills)

AN ACT relating to the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 164.2807 to provide for the administrative attachment of the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission (EPIC) to the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research, and the independent functions of EPIC; require EPIC to maintain separate accounts for all funds appropriated to it; provide the executive director of EPIC with the sole authority to hire staff and retain contractors ...

- This Energy Planning and Inventory Commission bill includes the establishment of an Energy Planning and Inventory Commission fund
 - There is no funding mechanism, so if they plan to put any funding in it, that will have to be added to the budget bill or it will be an unfunded mandate (neither practice is uncommon)
- Supports the intentions of the Commonwealth to better plan Kentucky's energy future
- *Passed Senate 30-6-1 March 12*
- *Passed House 82-12 March 26 with Committee Substitute; to Senate for concurrence*

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- *Senate refused to concur with House Committee Substitute March 27; will go to reconciliation process*
- *House refused to recede from HCS March 31*
- *Conference Committee failed to come to agreement*
- *Free Conference Committee Report agreed to April 1*
- *Passed House 77-15 and Senate 32-5 April with FCCR*
- *Vetoed by Governor April 13*
- *Veto overridden 32-6 by Senate and 79-18 by House April 14*

SB 104 (Nunn)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 519 to define terms; establish the crime of impeding a first responder; the Act may be cited as Gavin's Rights.

- *Protection for first responders*
- *Mandates keeping a distance, after warning, of 25 feet minimum*
- *Passed Senate 32-6 February 19*
- *Passed House 79-16 with two positive amendments; to Senate for concurrence*
 - *Should pass at last moment; may require reconciliation process if Senate doesn't concur*
- *Senate concurred March 31 by 32-6 vote*
- *Governor declined to sign; becomes law without his signature*

SB 191 (Carroll)

AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child Care Incentive Pilot Program.

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 199 to define terms; create the Kentucky Kindergarten Readiness Performance-Based Child-Care Incentive Pilot Program; require the University of Kentucky to operate the pilot program; establish the purpose and directives of the pilot program; establish completion date and reporting requirements.

- *Child-care initiatives are of special interest to the military community (see HB 6)*
- *Passed Senate 35-1 March 4*
- *Assigned to Families & Children March 6*
- *Passed committee March 12; to House floor*
- *Recommitted to A&R March 13*
 - *Two readings generally means positively received; however, concern over fiscal impact does place it at some risk*
- *Rolled into HB 6 as Senate Floor Amendment 1, which passed the Senate 36-1 on March 31; to House for concurrence due to the SFAs*
 - *SFA1 contained the language from SB 191*
- *Passed March 31 contained within HB 6*

SCR 66 (West)

Urge the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to explore opportunities to participate in the United States Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program and to extend their curricula to offer courses and degree paths to train the workforce that will construct and operate the next generation of nuclear energy facilities; encourage the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to collaborate with the United States Department of War to explore possible nuclear energy-related grant funding and research opportunities.

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- *Adopted 37-0 by Senate March 13*
- *Adopted 95-1 by House April 15; to Governor*

SR 89 (Neal)

A RESOLUTION honoring the members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion for its outstanding service to the United States during World War II.

- *Introduced February 9*
- *To Senate Floor February 11*
- *Adopted*

SR 103 (Deneen)

A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring the children of military families on Military Kids Day, February 19, 2026.

- *Introduced February 17*
- *Passed VMAPP Committee February 19; to Senate floor*
- *Passed Senate February 19*

SR 121 (Richardson)

A RESOLUTION recognizing the tremendous bravery and skill of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) of the United States Army, known as the "Night Stalkers."

- *Introduced February 26*
- *Adopted by Senate March 10*

SJR 139 (Adams)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Officer Peter Grignon Memorial Highway in Jefferson County. Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate a portion of United States Route 60A as the Officer Peter Grignon Memorial Highway.

- *Introduced March 2*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 3*
- *Passed committee March 11*
- *Passed Senate 36-0 March 16; to House*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 18*
- *Passed committee March 24; to House floor*
 - *Multiple amendments filed, including one to delete designation for the Charlie Kirk Memorial Highway and another to designate KY 52 in Garrard County as the Fallen Heroes Memorial Way; if passes with any changes adopted, will require Senate concurrence*
- *Passed House 86-4 with multiple friendly amendments and Committee Substitute, adding numerous naming conventions*
- *Senate concurred with House additions 32-2 on April 1; to Governor*

SR 156 (Deneen)

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and memory of the life and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Benjamin Pennington, who paid the ultimate price in service to our nation.

- *Introduced March 10*
- *Adopted by Senate March 11*

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SR 173 (Tichenor)

A RESOLUTION declaring the Kentucky Senate's acknowledgment and recognition of the value of fatherhood and its impact on building a strong secure society, and honoring the work of Eunice Ray and Dr. Linda Jeffrey.

- Eunice Ray is the wife of famed Kentucky veteran COL Ron Ray
- *Introduced March 18; to Senate Floor March 20*
- *Adopted March 31*

SR 181 (Tichenor)

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America.

- *Introduced March 19; to Senate floor March 24*
- *Adopted March 31*

SR 204 (Stivers)

A RESOLUTION recommending that a permanent statue of Mitch McConnell be placed in the New State Capitol Rotunda.

- *Introduced March 26*
- *Passed included in HB 757 April 1*

SR 209 (Thomas)

A RESOLUTION recognizing and celebrating the patriotic service and community contributions of veterans and the importance of protecting the earned benefits of our veterans from retaliatory and punitive measures.

- *Introduced March 31*
- *Adopted April 1*

SR 285 (Reed)

A RESOLUTION recognizing the filing of the Major Richard Star Act, a bill exploring an opportunity for veterans with disabilities to receive their full United States Department of Defense retirement pay and United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation without offset.

- *Introduced April 1*
- *Adopted April 14*

BILLS THAT FAILED

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

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- 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.

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*
- *Passed House 92-0 on January 27; to Senate*
 - *No further movement*

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 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)

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- 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.

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.

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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 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

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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”
 - 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 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

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- *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*
- *Two floor amendments filed February 9*

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)

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

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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*

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*

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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)

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*

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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
- Supported by the American Massage Therapy Association; however, passage is now complicated (in multiple states) by competing language sponsored by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)
 - The FSMTB initially worked with AMTA, CSG and DOD to create the base compact language; however, that relationship did not work out and the FSMTB is now competing with the original compact, complicating matters significantly
- *Introduced January 7*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations January 14*
- *Failed to progress due to combination of too many compact bills and actions by the FSMTB casting doubt upon the process (see "complicated" above ...)*

HB 182 (Tackett-Laferty)

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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

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

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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 cosponsors, which is a very positive sign for movement
- Companion bill SB 139 filed by Sen. Smith on January 29
 - HB 214 is likely to be primary as it is already moving
- *Passed House 95-0 January 29*
- *No further movement; concern here is that it might be unnecessary if the VA pretty much covers such activities already*

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)

AN ACT relating to a tax credit for volunteer firefighters.

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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 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
- 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*
- *Assigned 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.

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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 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.

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- 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*
- *Assigned to VMAPP January 15*
- *WITHDRAWN*

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*

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
 - Compact is acceptable to KDE, though not considered a high priority
- 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*

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- **ROLLED IN TO HB 685 THROUGH COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE**
- **Dropped March 26 from HB 685 in the Senate version, killing it for this session (see HB 685 for details)**

HB 268 (Griffiee)

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
- 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*

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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*
- *Reassigned to State Government March 19*
- *Passed Committee March 20; to House floor*
- *Passed House 93-0 March 25 with CS and CA; to Senate*
 - *Not quite dead; however, very late in the session*
- *Given a first reading and assigned to Economic Development, Tourism, & Labor March 31 to keep prospects alive*
- *Given a second reading on April 1; no further movement*

HB 285 (Moore)

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

Create a new section of KRS Chapter, 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 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
- Endorsed by VFW, American Legion, Special Forces Trust and National Guard Association of Kentucky
- *Introduced January 9*
- *Assigned to A&R January 16*

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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*
- *Passed House 65-25 March 2; to Senate*
- *No further movement*

HB 315 (Brown)

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*

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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 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

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- 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*
- *Assigned to Local Government January 22*

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.

- 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 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*
- *Assigned to State Government January 21*

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*

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- *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
- 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
- Endorsed by National Guard Association of Kentucky
- *Passed House 96-0 March 5*
- *Died in A&R in the Senate due to fiscal impact, as any bill with the slightest fiscal impact faces a very difficult path and will only be passed if deemed necessary by leadership*
- *Sponsor sought to get this written in to a budget bill, unsuccessfully*

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*
- *Assigned to Postsecondary Education January 22*

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

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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*
- *Assigned to Primary and Secondary Education January 22*
- *Heard in committee February 11*
 - *Department of Defense is asking for a 30-day compliance window (not a hard, enforceable deadline), while the education community prefers to retain the federal legal standard of 60-days to give the maximum amount of time necessary to conduct a full evaluation*
 - *Negotiation underway on the nuances of compliance with the federal DOD request, with another potential hearing as early as late February*
 - *Potential outcome is an agreement to include the 30-day goal in statute as an "as practical" goal with no enforcement clause, which would satisfy Department of Defense as a commitment of intent*
 - *NOTE: DOD reviews state endorsement of these types of "community support" initiatives when evaluating where to base or move missions*
- *Passed committee February 25 with committee substitute incorporating 30-days as a goal only; to House floor*
 - *Second reading, to Rules February 26*
- *Dead for this session, per leadership (March 27)*

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 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-

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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*
- *Assigned to Primary and Secondary Education on January 27*

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*
- *Assigned to Appropriations & Revenue January 29*

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.

- 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*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations January 29*

HB 483 (Bratcher)

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Amend KRS 45A.600 to establish the depreciation in value of a firearm issued to a state employee who wishes to purchase that firearm upon retirement for purposes of calculating the purchase price.

- Mirrors U.S. military police for flag officers, who are allowed to purchase their flag officer pistol, which otherwise must be returned
- *Introduced January 23*
- *Assigned to State Government February 2*

HB 486 (Wesley)

Amend KRS 95A.292 to allow rescue squad members to participate in the Alan "Chip" Terry Professional Development and Wellness Program; create a new section of KRS Chapter 39F to direct the Division of Emergency Management and the Kentucky Fire Commission to enter into an agreement to ensure that rescue squad members have access to the program; provide that the Act may be cited as Gavin's Rights.

- Mental health program for first responder rescue squad personnel
 - Many cosponsors
- *Introduced January 23*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 2*
- *Passed House 95-0 February 25; to Senate*
 - *No further movement*
 - *Once again, fiscal impact is the primary concern*

HB 489 (Doan)

Create a new section in KRS Chapter 141 to establish a nonrefundable individual income tax credit for an eligible child; define "eligible child"; allow credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, but before January 1, 2031; establish that the credit amount is equal to \$4,000 per eligible child, not to exceed \$8,000 per return, per taxable year; amend KRS 141.0205 to order the credit; amend KRS 131.190 to allow the Department of Revenue to report on the credit.

- Child income tax credit program
 - 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 27*
- *Assigned to A&R February 3*

HB 491 (Johnson)

AN ACT relating to long-term care facilities.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 216 to define terms; permit a resident of a long-term care facility to install an electronic monitoring device; require a resident to give consent to install an electronic monitoring device; establish the actions that a resident and a facility may take if consent is granted or if consent is not granted ...

- Tracking because KDVA manages Kentucky Veterans Nursing homes
- *Introduced January 27*
- *Assigned to Health Services February 3*

HB 497 (Tipton)

Amend KRS 164.515 to make the amount of tuition waived for the spouse or child of designated permanently disabled veterans a last-dollar scholarship that shall not exceed the cost of tuition and

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mandatory fees less any state or federal grants; amend KRS 164.2841 to make the amount tuition waived for the survivor of police officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter killed in line of duty last-dollar scholarship that shall not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees less any state or federal grants; amend KRS 164.2842 to make the amount of tuition waived for the survivor of police officer, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter permanently and totally disabled in line of duty a last-dollar scholarship that shall not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees less any state or federal grants; amend KRS 164.507 to make the amount of tuition waived for the non-married spouse or child of a deceased veteran a last-dollar scholarship that shall not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees less any state or federal grants; amend KRS 164.020 to delete the tuition waiver for employees and faculty of state and locally operated secondary area technology center staff.

House Committee Substitute 1 (HCS1) – Retain original provisions, except remove changes to KRS 164.020 that would have eliminated the tuition waiver for employees and faculty of state and locally operated secondary area technology center staff; amend KRS 164.515 to waive up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction for a spouse, child, stepchild, or orphan of a disabled member of the Kentucky National Guard or Reserve Component; include expiration of the benefit for a child, stepchild, or orphan upon expiration of 5 years following high school graduation, with exceptions; amend KRS 164.284 to waive up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction for a Kentuckian 65 years of age or older; require the benefit to be a last-dollar scholarship that shall not exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees less any state or federal grants; amend KRS 164.2841 to include a child or nonmarried widow or widower of emergency medical services personnel in the waiver benefit; waive up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction; include expiration of the benefit for a child upon expiration of 5 years following high school graduation, with exceptions; KRS 164.2842 to include a spouse or child of emergency medical services personnel in the waiver benefit; waive up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction; include expiration of the benefit for a child upon expiration of 5 years following high school graduation, with exceptions; amend KRS 164.507 to waive up to 128 credit hours of undergraduate instruction for the nonmarried spouse and child of a deceased veteran; include expiration of the benefit for a child upon expiration of 5 years following high school graduation, with exceptions. Additional tweaks are added by HFA3, including FAFSA requirement, limiting restriction to undergraduate hours, and credit for time served in the Armed Forces, Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service, the Peace Corps, or AmeriCorps.

- Conversion to last-dollar scholarships for 128 credit hours
- This is not an uncommon legislative tactic for benefits in general – basically, it is meant to ensure all other tuition opportunities are utilized prior to using the permanently disabled veterans’ benefit, and to ensure funds are strictly used for tuition/fees, in an effort to save funds
 - It does create a greater administrative compliance burden on the schools
- Bill is of great concern to the South Western Kentucky Military Affairs Committee, members of which plan to reach out to key senators regarding the adverse impact on local educational institutions
 - **The veterans’ community is considering this bill to be morally repugnant, especially making this demand of Gold Star Families, whose service member sacrificed his or her life for this nation**
 - **This doesn’t appear to apply to all Gold Star Families, just those under the “Missing in Action” category, in accordance with KRS 164.515**
 - Now bill of great concern to JECVO and other members of the Kentucky postsecondary education system, as well
- *Introduced January 28*
- *Assigned to Post-Secondary Education February 4*

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- *Passed committee February 10; to floor with three House Floor Amendments filed*
- *Passed House 56-36 February 25 with HCS1 and HFA3; to Senate*
 - *No further movement*
 - *Veterans' provision of "last-dollar" requirement did not do this bill any favors*

HB 499 (Griffie)

Amend KRS 138.470 to exempt from motor vehicle usage tax any motor vehicle purchased by current members of the Kentucky National Guard or reserve component, motor vehicles brought into the Commonwealth that were sold by a dealer in another state to a member of the Armed Forces on duty in the Commonwealth while that person was on temporary duty in another state, and motor vehicles registered outside the state by a veteran or member of the United States Armed Forces that were purchased while that person was a member of the Armed Forces.

- Soldiers transferring into Kentucky who purchased vehicles while deployed overseas, tax exempt, incur a Kentucky motor vehicle usage tax to register their vehicles
- Per Fort Knox leadership, many of these vehicles purchased overseas are expensive brands like Mercedes/BMW/Jaguar
 - Bought with no tax due to military status, they incur a significant motor vehicle usage tax in Kentucky, forcing some to take loans to cover the cost
 - This tax is a disincentive for Kentucky residency, or even registering their vehicles in Kentucky
 - This was generated by strong grass roots push by Fort Knox enlisted leadership and is strongly supported by Knox Regional Development Alliance, Christian County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and the military community
- This has relatively little negative budget impact - exact amount cannot be quantified - because many, if not most, soldiers transferring to Kentucky quite simply decide not to register their cars in Kentucky at all because they have to pay this tax - especially if they're registering an upscale foreign car purchased overseas
 - Eliminating this tax could increase fee collection for license plates, renewals that otherwise would not occur, so we don't anticipate a significant negative fiscal impact
- Legislative leadership remains very skeptical about any tax exemption proposals while Kentucky moves towards a zero-income tax state – a major obstacle for all tax exemption proposals
- Endorsed by National Guard Association of Kentucky
- *Introduced January 28*
- *Assigned to Transportation February 4*

HB 508 (Koch)

AN ACT relating to the protection of veterans' benefits.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 40 to limit the compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits; prohibit persons seeking compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting on a veterans' benefits matter from utilizing international call or data centers, directly or aggressively soliciting business, gaining access to personal medical, financial, or benefits log-in or password information, charging interest, and utilizing a doctor with whom they have an employment or business relationship; limit the fee for representation; require any person receiving compensation for assisting on a veterans' benefits matter to report to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs (KDVA) annually; allow KDVA to promulgate form for the report and display it on their website; establish that violators constitute a violation of the Consumer Protection Act; provide that attorneys and law firms

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seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter shall be governed federal regulations.

- This an update to the “Claim Shark” bill filed by Rep. Koch last session that limits the fees a paid VA claims advocate can charge a veteran the organization represents
 - The “Fees for representation or assistance shall not include late fees or interest and shall not exceed five (5) times the one (1) month increase in benefits, not to exceed twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500)
 - No initial or nonrefundable fee shall be charged
 - The bill also provides multiple common-sense restrictions to govern the proper behavior of such organizations
 - Forbids guaranteeing compensation results
 - Requires valid written contracts and signed written waiver when compensation is involved
 - Forbids use of call centers and aggressive tactics
 - Forbids use of secondary medical exams by a partnering physician
 - Cites Consumer Protection Act applicability
 - Adds a reporting requirement to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA)
 - Requires a provided mandatory qualifying statement – *“This business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other federally chartered veterans' service organization. Other organizations, including but not limited to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, a local veterans' service organization, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations, may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the benefits for which you are receiving services here.”*
 - A violation of this section shall constitute an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under KRS 367.170
 - Paid providers remain governed by the limitations set in federal Title 38 22 C.F.R. sec. 14.63
- Veterans can receive this service for free through VSOs and KDVA; however, they are also free to retain a paid provider if that is their preference
 - The intent of this legislation is to ensure fair treatment of the veteran
- This bill does not require VA accreditation
 - Note that the VA does not require accreditation for representation of veterans, though strongly encouraged
 - If anyone does obtain VA accreditation, they then cannot accept a fee for services, which means paid providers simply cannot pursue accreditation because it essentially puts them out of business
 - VSOs put great emphasis on VA accreditation for their veteran advocates
 - My reading of federal law is that the VA may have intended to do this for all providers; however, the enforcement clause for paid providers was removed (not explained), leading to the current situation

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- JECVO opposed the bill in House VMAPP committee because it does not require VA accreditation, which they feel is essential for proper representation of veterans
 - JECVO did acknowledge this is not currently a VA requirement
 - JECVO also cited that similar legislation recently encountered legal issues in Louisiana, rendering it invalid
 - Rep. Koch noted that this isn't the exact same legislation, so that ruling isn't believed to apply here
 - Rep. Koch sponsored HCR 44, which passed VMAPP committee unanimously on February 10, urging Congress to create an accreditation pathway through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for private companies assisting veterans with their benefits
 - If this were to occur, paid providers could then logically pursue VA accreditation
- House VMAPP committee members then passed the bill based on the perception that this legislation at least moves the issue forward with paid veterans' advocate guidelines, even though the legislation cannot practically mandate VA accreditation by those providers at this time
- *Introduced January 28*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 4*
- *Passed VMAPP unanimously February 10; to House floor*
 - *Passage on House floor highly likely; uncertain fate in Senate at this time*
- *Passed House VMAPP February 10; to House floor*
- *Passed House 93-0 February 12; to Senate*
- *On March 31, HB 508 was unexpectedly taken up and rolled into a Committee Substitute to add it to SB 198 to give it a chance at passage this session*
 - *Supported by leadership as at least a step in a positive direction, if not fulfilling the desires of JECVO and some national VSOs*
- *Passed House VMAPP committee March 31 as part of SB 198 (through House Committee Substitute 1); to House floor*
 - *Will require Senate concurrence if passes on the floor*
 - *Still at risk, as there are only two days remaining in the regular session*
 - *If not passed by this Wednesday's session (there are methods the legislature can use to expedite the process through waivers), SB 198 will have to be considered during the Veto session in mid-April, leaving it subject to the Governor's veto with no chance of an override*
- *SB 198 was then fast-tracked to a floor vote and passed House 67-19 March 31; to Senate for concurrence with amendments*
 - *Senate refused to concur with House amendments April 1*
 - *House refused to recede from House amendments April 1*
 - *Conference Committee failed to come to agreement April 1*
- *Received two readings in the Senate April 14 in a last-moment effort for consideration, but not assigned to a committee; no further movement*

HB 517 (Rabourn)

Repeal KRS 237.115, which interprets the application of the license to carry concealed deadly weapon statute as permitting postsecondary facilities, local governments, and units of state government to limit concealed carry in governmental buildings; amend KRS 150.172, 237.110, and 527.020 to conform; amend KRS 237.110 to no longer prohibit the carrying of concealed deadly weapons in

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schools and specify that the prohibition of carrying concealed deadly weapons in airports is limited to areas controlled by the Transportation Security Administration; make technical corrections; amend KRS 527.070 to add persons with valid licenses to carry concealed deadly weapons to the list of those permitted to possess weapons in schools.

- This bill allows persons with concealed weapons permits to possess weapons in schools
- *Introduced January 29*
- *Assigned to Judiciary February 5*

HB 525 (Hollway)

Amend KRS 186.577 to remove the vision testing requirement on operator's license renewal for all drivers; require vision testing for renewal of an operator's license if the applicant is 65 years of age or older; EMERGENCY.

- This bill will limit vision testing for driver's license renewals to ages 65 or older, effective immediately upon passage
- *Introduced January 29*
- *Assigned to Transportation February 5*

HB 587 (Moore)

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

Propose to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky to allow the General Assembly to provide by law a property tax exemption for the permanent residence of an owner who is a veteran with a service-connected disability; require the law to specify the amount of the exemption, the qualifications for claiming the exemption, and whether the exemption transfers to the veteran's surviving spouse; prohibit more than 1 exemption per permanent residence; disallow the exemption to be combined with an exemption under Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.

- Proposes Constitutional Amendment to establish permanent residence property tax exemption for disabled veterans
 - 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 February 6*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs February 13*

HB 590 (Bratcher)

AN ACT relating to benefits for Kentucky National Guard members.

Amend KRS 164.5161 to define "spouse"; rename the National Guard Tuition Award Program the National Guard Tuition Scholarship Program; allow current National Guard members and their spouses up to 130 total credit hours at a postsecondary institution; allow the total number of credit hours to be transferrable between the member and his or her spouse; grant authority to the adjutant general to award up to 45 additional nontransferable credit hours within the program; amend KRS 164.5165 and 164.5169 to conform.

- Renames KYNG Tuition Award Program, replacing "Award" with "Scholarship"; expands eligibility to spouses; and allows up to 45 additional qualifying credit hours
- *Introduced February 6*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 13*

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HB 604 (Stevenson)

AN ACT relating to veterans.

Amend KRS 40.050 to insert gender-neutral language.

- This is a “mule” bill, filed as a blank slate to be amended for use later, if the right opportunity presents itself
- *Introduced February 9*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 17*

HB 644 (Bratcher)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 2 to create the Kentucky General Assembly Medal of Distinction and establish the award criteria and selection process.

- This bill creates a new Kentucky medal that is awarded by the General Assembly
 - Bratcher’s intent is to loosely mirror the “Congressional” Medal of Honor, meant to be the “preeminent award conferred by the Commonwealth”
 - Wide applicability, from all members of the Armed Forces to First Responders to Citizens in general, for acts ranging from valor to outstanding service
 - It may even be awarded to “Entities operating within the Commonwealth of Kentucky or otherwise providing services to the citizens of the Commonwealth”
 - Process is the nomination by Concurrent Resolution by a member of the General Assembly, confirmed by vote of both chambers
 - LRC is tasked to create a committee to manage the process
- *Introduced February 13*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 23*
- *Passed committee March 10; to House floor*
- *Passed House March 18, 94-0; to Senate*
 - *No further movement, primarily due – once again – to the specter of fiscal impact, however minimal, as someone has to fund it*

HB 671 (Bratcher)

AN ACT relating to the protection of elected officials.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 16 to define "statewide-elected official"; require the Department of Kentucky State Police to investigate a credible threat to kill or seriously injure a statewide-elected official; require the department to make an assessment of the threat after conducting an investigation; require the department, after making a determination that a threat is a viable threat, to identify ways to mitigate or eliminate the threat.

- Tracking due to the law enforcement nature
- *Introduced February 19*
- *Assigned to State Government February 25*

HB 684 (Dotson)

AN ACT relating to constables and declaring an emergency.

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 15 to require the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC) to approve and certify within 90 days of submission an 80 hour basic training course for constables and deputy constables, and topics for in-service training for constables by the Kentucky Constables Association, Inc. (and much more) ...

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Working document

- Includes an inactive certification exemption clause for military on duty for over 365 days (while on military duty)
- *Introduced February 19*
- *Assigned to Judiciary February 26*

HB 685 (Riley)

AN ACT relating to teacher certification. NOW ADDS THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST COMPACT

Amend KRS 161.030 to require the Education Professional Standards Board to issue a 5 year teaching certificate to eligible applicants.

- Includes an inactive certification exemption clause for military on duty for over 365 days (while on military duty)
- **Adds through HCS1 a clause creating a new section of KRS Chapter 161 to enact and enter into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact, incorporating the provisions of HB 261 (Grossl)**
- *Introduced February 19*
- *Assigned to Primary and Secondary Education February 26*
- *Passed committee March 4 with HCS1 and title amendment; to House floor*
- *Passed House 98-0 March 9; to Senate*
- *Assigned to Education March 20*
- *Rolled into HB 727 March 26, stripped of the HB 261 language*
 - *On Consent as HB 727 and should pass, though without the desired HB 261 component*
 - *It did pass, March 31, 38-0; to House for concurrence*
- *HB 727 was then rolled into another unrelated bill and, in the process, was stripped of the HB 261 language*

HB 710 (McCool)

AN ACT relating to veterans.

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 February 24*
- *Assigned to VMAPP March 3*
 - *Not used*

HB 711 (McCool)

AN ACT relating to military affairs.

Amend KRS 36.230 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 February 24*
- *Assigned to VMAPP March 3*
 - *Not used*

HB 712 (McCool)

AN ACT relating to public protection.

Amend KRS 75.160 to include gender-neutral language.

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Working document

- 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 February 24*
- *Assigned to VMAPP March 3*
 - *Not used*

HB 725 (Kulkarni)

AN ACT relating to a deduction for professional membership dues.

Amend KRS 141.019, relating to income tax, to define terms; allow a deduction from gross income for professional membership dues paid for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, but before January 1, 2031; amend KRS 131.190 to allow the Department of Revenue to report on the deduction.

- Tax deduction for association and other professional dues
 - 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 February 24*
- *Assigned to Appropriations & Revenue March 3*

HB 759 (Payne)

AN ACT relating to teacher certification.

Modifies and reestablishes alternative teacher certification options as alternative routes.

- Makes one very minor change to “Veteran” verbiage clarification with no operational impact
- *Passed House March 9, 96-0*
- *Assigned to Education March 24*
- *Passed Committee March 26; to Senate floor (Consent)*
 - *Should pass at the last moment*
 - *Recommitted to Rules March 31 with floor amendment*
 - *Was expected to pass at the last moment, but pulled from Consent with no further movement*

HB 877 (Massaroni)

AN ACT proposing to amend Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to exempting property from taxation.

Propose to amend Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky to exempt property owned by seniors who are 65 years of age or older and property owned by a former member of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard, who is 100% service-connected combat-related disabled and, upon his death, property owned by his or her surviving spouse; apply to property assessed on or after January 1, 2027; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.

- 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 March 4*
- *Assigned to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs March 11*

HB 880 (Riley)

AN ACT relating to the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 313 to adopt the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact ...

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Working document

- Establishes a multistate licensing compact for the dental community, allowing them to practice in any member state
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and Council of State Governments' priority compact
 - **NOTE: WE HAVE SINCE DISCOVERED THIS IS NOT THE DOD/CSG-ENDORSED VERSION**
 - **It is not uncommon for competing agencies to create alternative versions**
- KCMA actively supports these compacts when universally endorsed by the affected community
 - The challenges here are that this compact is not endorsed by the Kentucky Board of Dentistry, and that it was filed so late in session that movement is unlikely due to lack of time for non-priority legislation
- 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 March 3*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations March 11*

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.

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Working document

- *Introduced January 8*
- *Passed Economic Development & Workforce Investment Committee February 12; to House floor*
 - *Second reading, to Rules February 13*
 - *No further movement*

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*
- *Assigned to Appropriations & Revenue February 4*

HCR 44 (Koch)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to create an accreditation pathway through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for private companies assisting veterans with their benefits.

- *Supports JECVO priority; however, it does so by encouraging Congressional action versus state legislation*
- *Multiple cosponsors*
- *Introduced January 28*
- *Passed House 95-0 February 12; to Senate*
- *No further movement*

HJR 64 (D. Lewis)

Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate a portion of Kentucky Route 2057 in Leslie County as the PFC Denver Wells Memorial Highway.

- *Introduced February 10*
- *Assigned to Transportation February 18*

HCR 66 (Freeland)

Direct the Legislative Research Commission to reestablish the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force to study disaster mitigation, infrastructure resilience, and planning for natural disasters that impact the Commonwealth; require the task force to submit recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2026.

- *Possible Kentucky Emergency Management impact*
- *Mirrors SCR 96 in Senate (Webb)*
- *Introduced February 10*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 18*
- *Passed committee March 10; to House floor with positive floor amendment*
- *No further movement*

HJR 71 (Whitaker)

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Working document

Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate a portion of Kentucky Route 160 in Letcher County as the Private Andrew Kuracka Memorial Highway.

- *Introduced February 17*
- *Assigned to Transportation February 24*

HJR 82 (Blanton)

Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate a portion of US 460 in Magoffin County as the Hospital Corpsman Fred Lamarr Salyer Memorial Highway.

- *Introduced February 25*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 4*

HR 84 (Tackett-Laferty)

A RESOLUTION encouraging the development and construction of the East Kentucky Disaster Relief Center at Bear Mountain near Pikeville, Kentucky.

- *Introduced February 25*

HJR 100 (Stevenson)

A JOINT RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Defense and the federal government to protect the earned benefits of our veterans from retaliatory and punitive measures.

- *Introduced March 3*
- *Assigned to VMAPP March 10*

HJR 101 (Flannery)

Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate the bridge located on Kentucky Route 9 in Carter County as the S/SGT David W. Harris Memorial Bridge.

- *Introduced March 4*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 10*

HJR 102 (Flannery)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Lewis County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge.

- *Introduced March 4*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 11*

HCR 105 (Johnson)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the creation of an interstate compact for a competitive electric transmission market using competitive bidding.

- *Introduced March 4*
- *Assigned to Natural Resources & Energy March 11*

HCR 107 (Koch)

Direct the Legislative Research Commission to establish the Charitable Gaming Modernization Task Force to study Kentucky's charitable gaming laws and regulations and to produce information relating to improved regulatory guidance and clarity, stakeholder input, and technological processes; establish membership; require the task force to submit recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2026.

- *Of potential interest to JECVO*

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Working document

- *Introduced March 4*
- *Assigned to Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations March 11; posted for passage March 18*

HJR 109 (Fugate)

Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate a portion of Kentucky Route 451 in Perry County as the SSgt John "Pott" Spencer, Jr. Memorial Highway.

- *Introduced March 4*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 11*

HJR 110 (Sharp)

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to conduct investigations measuring the Commonwealth's capabilities and vulnerabilities during a potential conflict in the Indo-Pacific and European regions.

- *Introduced March 4*
- *Assigned to Economic Development & Workforce Investment March 11*
- *Passed committee March 12; to House floor with positive floor amendments to make it an "emergency" (effective immediately) and add a title; posted for passage March 20*
- *Passed House 94-0 March 25; to Senate*
- *No further movement*

HCR 121 (Johnson)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to support efforts to issue an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or similar recognition of having served in an area of hostility, to all United States servicemembers who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992.

- *Introduced March 17*

HR 122 (Stevenson)

Recognize and honor the First Amendment rights of veterans and the importance of protecting the earned benefits of our veterans from retaliatory and punitive measures.

- *Introduced March 17*

SENATE

Reviewed through SB 358 (182 not used)

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*

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Working document

- 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*
- *Passed Senate 37-0 January 22; to House*
 - *No further movement*

SB 15 (Deneen)

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.

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Working document

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; 2nd reading complete*
- *Posted for passage in Senate Orders for January 20*
- *Passed Senate 31-7 on January 20; to House*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 9*
 - *No further movement*

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; 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*
- *Assigned to A&R February 24*

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*
- *Assigned to VMAPP February 11*

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- *Passed committee unanimously February 12; to Senate floor*
- *Passed Senate 36-0 February 18; to House*
 - *Rapidly running out of time, unlikely to be passed as it has not even been assigned to committee; however, could be revived up to the final day*
 - *Fiscal impact makes it a longshot*
 - *No further movement*

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 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*
- *This has been in place for multiple sessions without progress*
- *KEES funding covers tuition, fees, books, and required equipment or uniforms, all of which are provided to academy students, along with a monthly salary exceeding \$1,000*
- *Introduced January 20*

SB 139 (Smith)

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.

- *Companion bill to Rep. Wesley's HB 214 in the House, which passed the House 95-0 on January 29*
 - *HB 214 is likely to be the primary bill, so this one may not move*
- *KDVA requirement to assist with disabled veteran access*

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Working document

- 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 HB 214 has a lot of cosponsors, which is a very positive sign for movement
- *Introduced January 29*

SB 169 (Reed)

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 disabled United States Armed Forces veterans and unremarried surviving spouses of United States Armed Forces service members killed in action while performing active military duty from property taxation of property owned and maintained as a primary residence and a primary motor vehicle owned and maintained as their primary vehicle after calendar year 2027; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.

- Property tax exemption bill for veterans
 - 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 February 5*

SB 227 (Deneen)

AN ACT relating to veterans.

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 February 24*
 - *Not used to date and likely won't be needed*

SB 228 (Deneen)

AN ACT relating to public protection.

Amend KRS 75.160, relating to fire protection districts, 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 February 24*
 - *Not used to date and likely won't be needed*

SB 230 (Deneen)

AN ACT relating to military affairs.

Amend KRS 36.230 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 February 24*
 - *Not used to date and likely won't be needed*

SB 250 (West)

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Working document

AN ACT relating to securing affordable, reliable, and clean energy.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 278 to define terms; require the Public Service Commission to adopt rules and policies to prioritize securing affordable, reliable, and clean energy by prioritizing domestic fuel sources, prohibiting the use of critical materials sources or manufactured by a foreign adversary nation, giving preference to infrastructure and components built in the Commonwealth and the United States, and ensuring sufficient clean energy sources that are dispatchable and minimize disruptions; EFFECTIVE November 1, 2026.

- This national security-related bill among other things supports the intent of SB 57
- *Introduced February 25*

SB 310 (Carroll)

AN ACT relating to lump-sum line of duty death payments.

Amend KRS 61.315 to define "public safety officer," "public safety officer in training," "retired public safety officer" and "post-service act in the line of duty"; provide a lump-sum payment of \$80,000 to the families of public safety officers in training who die in the line of duty and retired public safety officers who die as a result of an attack related to their prior service as a public safety officer; make technical and clerical changes; provide that the benefit is effective for deaths occurring on or after the effective date of the Act, except that provisions impacting retired public safety officers shall be retroactive to deaths occurring on or after August 1, 2012, and provisions impacting public safety officers in training shall be retroactive to deaths occurring on or after November 1, 2024; RETROACTIVE.

- Expands Kentucky line of duty death benefit eligibility for the first responder
 - 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, so fate is very uncertain
- *Introduced March 2*

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*
 - *Rapidly running out of time, companion to HCR 16 in House; could be revived at last moment*

SJR 17 (Wise)

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.

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- *Introduced January 13*

SJR 68 (Reed)

A JOINT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act to ensure veterans with disabilities receive their full United States Department of Defense retirement pay and United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation without offset.

- *Introduced January 29*

SCR 96 (Webb)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION reestablishing the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force to study preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, risk assessment, infrastructure resilience, and planning for natural disasters that impact the Commonwealth.

- Possible Kentucky Emergency Management impact
- Mirrors HCR 66 in House (Freeland)
- *Introduced February 11*

SCR 124 (Clemons)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Kentucky's congressional delegation to support amending the Gun Control Act of 1968 to allow users of medical cannabis to exercise their Second Amendment right to bear arms.

- *Introduced February 26*

SJR 126 (Smith)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Private Hargis Salyer, Jr. Memorial Highway in Magoffin County.

- *Introduced February 26*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 2*

SJR 129 (Higdon)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Lt. Brian Hatt Memorial Highway in Marion County.

- *Introduced February 26*
- *Assigned to Transportation March 2*

END