

2024 KCMA Kentucky General Assembly military-veterans legislation tracker

Working document

Complete through Session End, April 15, 2024

BILLS THAT PASSED

HB 1 (Petrie)

House Executive Branch Appropriations Bill – tracking because the Senate Committee Substitute added.

- *Passed the House 96-0 on February 1*
- *Passed the Senate 38-0 on March 13 with the Committee Substitute*
- *Final Free Conference Report approved March 29, 2024 by votes of 77-19 in the House and 35-1 in the Senate*
 - *\$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to each Murray State University and the University of Louisville budget unit to support construction, renovation, and operations for the University's cybersecurity program;*
 - *Creates the Kentucky Cybersecurity Center program, as envisioned by HB 319 (did not pass – no need as addressed in HB 1)*
 - *\$1M to Kentucky VALOR for veterans licensing and DOD Skillbridge support, administered through the KDVA budget*
 - *\$750K per fiscal year to Kentucky Vets for Hyperbaric Chamber HBOT treatment for veterans, administered through the KDVA budget*
 - *Did not add \$35M to Economic Development to create and manage a Defense Industrial Base Board, as initially proposed*
- *Vetoed by Governor; overridden by General Assembly, delivered to Secretary of State*

HB 6 (Petrie)

AN ACT relating to appropriations measures providing funding and establishing conditions for the operations, maintenance, support, and functioning of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its various officers, cabinets, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, subdivisions, agencies, and other state-supported activities.

- *Funds Kentucky National Guard/Department of Military Affairs/Department of Veterans Affairs budgets*
- *Passed House 77-19 on February 1*
- *Passed Senate 37-1 with Committee Substitute on March 13*
- *House refused to concur with Senate Committee Substitute; Free Conference Committee Report adopted by Senate 36-1 on March 27 and House 72-26 on March 28*
- *Governor vetoed 23 lines on April 9*
- *Veto overridden on April 12; delivered to Secretary of State*

HB 30 (Meredith)

Creates a new section of KRS Chapter 40 to establish the Kentucky Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Suicide Prevention Program.

- Creates this program within the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA), in collaboration with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) and in conjunction with additional community partnerships, as deemed appropriate
- The mission of the program shall be to raise awareness of and reduce death by suicide within the population of service members, veterans, and their families
- Provides support and guidance to communities aiding in the development of strategic planning designed to reduce suicide among service members, veterans, and their families
- Promotes training opportunities and provides educational materials to increase the capacity to raise awareness, identify, and engage service members, veterans, and their families at risk of suicide
- Requires an annual written report to the Governor and LRC
- *Passed House 95-0 January 31*
- *Passed Senate 37-0 March 22 with Committee Substitute, which was concurred on by the House on March 27 by a 97-0 vote*
- *Signed by Governor April 4*

HB 56 (Fleming, Willner)

Create a new section within KRS Chapter 335.010 to 335.170 to declare the purpose of the Social Work Licensure Compact

- **KCMA Agency Legislation**
- Supported by Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB); reviewed by Kentucky Board of Social Work
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLLO) and Council of State Governments' priority programs
- 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 eight of the first nine DOD-priority compacts
- *Passed House Licensing & Occupations Committee January 31; to House floor for vote*
- *Recommitted to House Licensing & Occupations with intent to create an omnibus bill for Social Work*
 - *Passed L&O as an omnibus bill*
- *Passed House 95-0 on February 27*
- *Passed Senate 34-0 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 5*

HB 179 (Heavrin)

AN ACT relating to insurance for loss of income and declaring an emergency

- Adds disability income insurance and paid family leave insurance as an option for military and first responders
- *Passed House 92-1 on January 29*
- *Passed Senate 36-0 on March 27*
- *Signed by Governor April 5*

HB 200 (Bratcher)

Amend KRS 40.010 to include the United States Space Force in the definition of "Armed Forces"; amend KRS 40.400, relating to the bonus for Vietnam veterans, to include the United States Space

Force in the definition of "Armed Forces"; amend KRS 156.730, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, to correct a citation to federal law; amend KRS 156.735 to include the children of National Guard and Reserve personnel within the rights granted under that compact; amend KRS 154.12-203 to include the U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command in the membership of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs; amend KRS 186.041 to include United States Space Force as an eligible branch of the military to request a special military license plate; amend KRS 186.162 to include the Legion of Merit Medal as an eligible status; and amend KRS 186.166 to include the Legion of Merit Medal for perpetual license plate production.

- **KCMA Agency Legislation**
- This legislation passed the House unanimously last year but died on the last day in the Senate without a vote due to a logjam of bills
 - The House and Senate VMAPP Chairs have prioritized passage for 2024
- This excellent legislation will add the National Guard/Reserve to Military Interstate Childrens' Compact Commission (MIC3) protection and makes a legally-required technical correction to MIC3 federal statute citation
 - MIC3 protects K-12 students during military-related school transfer processes
 - The MIC3 program is managed by KCMA at the direction of the Governor
- This bill also adds U.S. Space Force to military component definition in Kentucky statutes, which reflects reality and protects the state veterans' rights of Space Force veterans returning to the Commonwealth
- It adds Space Force and the Legion of Merit medal to Kentucky specialty motor vehicle license plates
 - The new license plates are a no-brainer; Space Force veterans need state acknowledgment and are now requesting this plate through KDVA
 - The Legion of Merit is roughly equivalent to a peacetime version of the Bronze Star Medal, albeit with a higher status, and merits inclusion
- Corrects the name of the KCMA-member Army Reserve Aviation Command in our KCMA Kentucky Revised Statute
- *Passed House 91-0 on February 2; to Senate*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 5*

HB 256 (Pollock)

AN ACT relating to the promotion of stronger homes to resist losses due to catastrophic weather events and making an appropriation therefor.

- Creates the Strengthen Kentucky Homes Fund to assist in emergency recovery
- Require property insurance companies to provide a premium discount or rate reduction for properties that have received a qualifying certificate of compliance under certain circumstances
- *Passed House 91-0 on March 7*
- *Passed Senate 37-1 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 5*

HB 397 (Koch)

Amend KRS 12.245 to include military orders documenting a military assignment transfer to Kentucky as valid proof of military service; ensure occupational licensing compacts in Kentucky take precedence for a United States military service member, Reserves or National Guard member, veteran, or their spouse.

- **KCMA Agency Legislation**

- Kentucky's law – KRS 12.245 – goes further than the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) as it extends this protection to veterans who honorably served and their spouses
- These two additions ensure we are in full compliance with SCRA
 - Add submission of military orders documenting transfer to a military assignment in Kentucky, in accordance with the SCRA law
 - KRS 12.245 does not specify military orders
- Adds the clause from SCRA that occupational licensing compacts active in your state take precedence - This further supports occupational licensing compacts, and is in accordance with SCRA
- *Passed House 95-0 on February 27*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 9*

HB 444 (Bratcher)

Amend KRS 227A.060 to modify experience and education requirements for an electrician or master electrician license; require an electrician applicant or master electrician applicant to have 8,000 hours or 16,000 hours of verifiable experience, respectively, which may be reduced by designated education or teaching; authorize a master electrician or electrician applicant to qualify for licensure through teaching or attending an associate's degree or diploma program at a college within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System or at another accredited college or university; enable a military veteran to meet master electrician or electrician experience requirements through applicable supervised military occupational specialty experience; direct the department of Housing, Buildings and Construction to promulgate administrative regulations to establish an application form to allow submission of military experience; accept either a DD-214 form or a signed statement from the applicant's commanding officer to verify relevant military experience; amend KRS 227A.100 to renew electrician licenses once every two years; allow a licensee to request either a physical or electronic license.

- Adds military experience to qualification eligibility
- *Passed House 96-0 on March 6*
- *Passed Senate 32-5 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 9*

HB 453 (Johnson)

Amend KRS 620.040 to require the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to determine the military status of any parent or guardian subject to an investigation and to notify a Department of Defense family advocacy program of an investigation involving a member of the United States Armed Forces.

- **DOD Priority Legislation and KCMA Agency Legislation**
- DOD coordinates with Kentucky to obtain information regarding allegations of child abuse and neglect involving children of military families
- The proposed policy reflected in HB 453 represents one of the DOD top Priority Policy concerns for 2024, which seeks to identify military children subject to child abuse and neglect allegations, and to notify the appropriate military installation Family Advocacy Program (FAP)
- DOD is required by Section 1787 of Title 10, United States Code, to establish the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) to address prevention of, and response to, child abuse and neglect cases involving children in military families
- DOD has Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between its military services and community agencies to fulfill this statutory obligation but faces statutory barriers that inhibit communication and coordination

- The policy represented in HB453, which directs the collection and sharing of military affiliation with the appropriate military authorities, would not only complement DOD statutory responsibility, but it would also support development of more consistent agreements between military protective authorities and Kentucky agencies to allow better coordination of services to abused and neglected military children
- DOD requires Family Support Programs to share all information received with the service criminal investigation elements (and vice versa)
- *Passed House 95-0 on February 22; to Senate*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 9*

HB 469 (Fugate)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 160 to define "military-connected student" and "purple star school"; establish the Purple Star School Program and set requirements for eligibility; designate the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA) as the governing body of the program.

- **KCMA Agency Legislation**
- Kentucky has already implemented a thriving Purple Star Schools program in coordination with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
 - The KCMA has the unique honor of serving as chair of the ad-hoc Kentucky Purple Star Schools Advisory Board
 - The advisory board, as an ad-hoc organization, does not have oversight authority despite its active role in managing the program
 - It makes sense for KCMA to provide this oversight, in coordination with KDE and CHFS, as the state's authority on military community and family support
 - Supported nationally by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)
 - Department of Defense priority program for military family support
 - Complimentary program to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, also managed in Kentucky by KCMA
- Kentucky survey data for grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 identify over 40,000 military-connected youth
 - These are students with parents, siblings, caregivers or close relatives serving in our nation's Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves
- Military families face unique challenges
 - Their loved ones may be deployed in the service of our nation
 - Family members often deal with separation or relocation
- Purple Star increases protective factors, and reduces risk factors
 - It provides a caring school climate and increases school engagement with parents and the community
- Purple Star Schools designate school staff as points of contact, require professional development for supporting staff, host a military recognition event, and create a website page with resources and information for military families
- The Purple Star Program is easy to implement and does not require funding
- The Purple Star Award means your school is dedicated to helping military-connected students gain the essential educational skills to be college, workforce and life-ready
- *Leadership prioritized for last-moment consideration*
- *Passed House 97-0 on March 21*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 on April 12*
- *Signed by Governor April 16*

HB 471 (Freeland)

Amend KRS 159.075 to allow the use of military orders as proof of residency for enrollment or course registration in a school and prohibit in-person enrollment or course registration when prevented due to official military duties.

- **KCMA Agency Legislation**
- Rep. Freeland in 2019 sponsored, at the request of the Defense State Liaison Office of Department of Defense (DOD), a bill that created Kentucky's outstanding military Advance Enrollment law, KRS 159.075
- In late February 2024, DOD released a Penn State University report on state support to military connected children
 - The report showed Kentucky as GREEN in Advance Enrollment, thanks to KRS 159.075
 - However, the report has Kentucky rated RED in the associated subarea because the legislation (and now statute) did not include the following two areas:
 - "A specification that military orders may be used to establish residency for enrollment," and
 - "A specification that families do not need to appear in person to enroll"
- DOD tracks these type of issues for deciding new mission locations
- The Kentucky Department of Education reports they already do both of these things; however, adding them has no impact on their operations and helps support DOD recognition of Kentucky's already outstanding efforts
- *Passed House 92-0 on February 23; to Senate*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 4*

HB 715 (Dietz)

Amend KRS 36.474 to remove the post-deployment provision relating to eligibility for the military family assistance trust fund; make technical correction; amend KRS 36.477 to expand the Kentucky National Guard Adoption Assistance Program to include former members of the Kentucky National Guard and allow adoption of stepchildren to qualify; EMERGENCY.

- **DMA Agency Legislation**
- Common sense bill designed to increase availability of MFAST and adoption funding
 - Original legislation was very tightly defined and challenging to qualify for
- *Passed House VMAPP on March 5; passed House floor 92-0 on March 7*
- *Passed Senate 38-0 on March 28*
- *Signed by Governor April 4*

SB 45 (Yates)

Amend KRS 16.010 to define "missing adult"; create a new section of KRS Chapter 16 to require the Department of Kentucky State Police to create and operate the Kentucky Ashanti Alert System to provide public notification through the use of media providers and highway signs when an adult is missing and may have been abducted or kidnapped or may be in physical danger. Known as the Kentucky Ashanti Alert System.

- Affects Division of Emergency Management in Department of Military Affairs
- *Passed Senate 32-3 on February 23*
- *Passed House VMAPP on February 12 with Committee Substitute that retains original provisions, except require that law enforcement must have reasonable cause to believe that the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary and that public notification is the most appropriate method of recovering the missing adult.*
- *Back to the Senate for concurrence*
- *Passed Senate with concurrence, 32-1, on March 27*

- *Signed by Governor April 4*

SB 91 (Higdon)

State transportation budget bill

- Places a necessary governmental expense (NGE) funding cap of \$50M (annually) on the Kentucky National Guard emergency response budget, which is base-funded at \$4.5M
- Places a necessary governmental expense (NGE) funding cap of \$25M (annually) on the Kentucky Department of Emergency Management emergency response budget
- *Passed Senate 37-0 on February 20*
- *Passed House with Committee Substitute 84-10 on April 15*
- *Senate concurred with House Committee Substitute 36-1 on April 15*
- *Delivered to Governor on April 19*

SB 127 (Yates)

Creates the Kentucky Aerospace, Aviation & Defense Investment Fund Advisory Council.

- Outgrowth of the KCMA Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grant study in 2018-19 of the Kentucky Aerospace Industry and establishment of an Aerospace Council, which was then placed under the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
- *Passed Senate 37-0 on February 7*
- *Passed House 97-0 on March 22 with Committee Substitute that retains original provisions; add references to aerospace throughout; add a member of the Kentucky Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense Investment Fund Advisory Committee with professional experience in Department of Defense contracts related to aerospace; amend KRS 183.525, regarding the Kentucky Aviation Economic Development Fund, to allow moneys in the fund to be used for programs supporting aviation education and workforce development; allow certain administrative expenses; APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY*
- *Back to Senate for concurrence*
- *Senate concurred with House substitute with one change related to funds usage, 37-0, on March 28*
 - *Establishes, but does not fund, council*
- *Signed by Governor April 5*

SR 262 (West)

Urge the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs to explore the opportunities surrounding moving contractor operations currently housed at Bluegrass Station to the Blue Grass Army Depot.

- *Passed Senate by voice vote on April 15*
- *Non-binding; all parties have been notified*

BILLS THAT FAILED

HB 34 (Doan)

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 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
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 39 (McCool)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 40 to prevent the compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits.

- Forbids compensation for advising, assisting or referring to another person, any individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter, except as permitted under federal law
- Requires written contracts and disclaimer/disclosure statement when compensation is involved
- No person shall guarantee, either directly or by implication, that any individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits
- Forbids excessive or unreasonable fees
- Violations shall constitute an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under KRS 367.170
- *Passed House 94-1 on February 29; to Senate*
 - *NOTE: The Committee Substitute is concerning to JECVO and the VFW because, per paragraph 4(a), it allows fees for services up to five times the amount of the monthly benefit*
 - *If a veteran goes from zero to 100 percent based on the advocacy, the fee could be as much as \$17,500 for the associated \$3,500 monthly benefit*
- *Passed Senate VMAPP on March 14 with Committee Substitute to address lawyer participation*
 - *Languished without a final hearing, on hold in House Rules*
 - *Would have required reconciliation with the House*

HB 42 (Calloway)

Amend KRS 139.010 to define "disability" and "service animal"; amend KRS 139.480 to exempt veterinarian services and charges for veterans' service animals from the sales and use tax.

- Applies to veterinarian services and charges sold to or purchased by a disabled veteran in relation to the veteran's service animal
- "Disability" means a physical or mental impairment, including a sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or post-traumatic stress disorder, that substantially limits one (1) or more of the major life activities of an individual
- "Disabled veteran" means a person with a disability, if the disability has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to affect a veteran that is an active or retired

member of the active duty or reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States and the VA has used one (1) or more of the veteran's disabilities to assign a disability rating to the veteran

- "Service animal" means any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability
 - Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition
 - The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability
- *Passed House VMAPP Committee January 30; to House floor*
 - *Sent to A&R for fiscal review on January 31*
 - *No movement since*

HB 77 (Johnson)

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

- **KCMA Agency Legislation**
- Supported by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB)
- This is a brand new compact
 - Legislation has been passed in Nevada and is currently pending in Washington, Nebraska, Ohio and Georgia
- U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and Council of State Governments' priority programs
- 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 eight of the first nine DOD-priority compacts
- *Assigned to House Licensing & Occupations Committee January 18*
 - *Uncertain future – some constituencies are calling for further evaluation over the interim*
 - *Sponsor has now elected to defer to the interim for further studies*

HB 86 (Wesley)

Amend KRS 40.315 to expand interment eligibility in Kentucky state veterans' cemeteries to include eligible National Guard and Reserve service members and their families

- The 2023 General Assembly approved the KDVA initiative to allow eligibility for veterans without Kentucky residency, but qualified as veterans under the VA standard definition
 - Many members of the Kentucky National Guard and Reserve do not earn enough operational federal days to meet the 180-day standard, especially those who are not in a frequently deployed military specialty, such as the 202nd Kentucky Army National Guard Band
- This closes that loophole to allow their burial in a KDVA operated ceremony
 - State law cannot mandate VA cover the related expenses; however, it can allow for burial access
- It does require the servicemember completed their initial period of service and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
- It also allows for death while on state active duty or while serving under Title 32 of the United States Code

- In this case of death on state active duty or under federal Title 32, the eligibility for interment of the person's spouse, surviving spouse, minor child, and dependent incapacitated child shall be determined pursuant to federal law
- *Passed House 90-0 on February 9, to Senate*
- *Passed Senate 37-0 with Committee Substitute*
- *Now posted for passage on April 12 through the reconciliation process*
 - *House failed to concur with Senate Committee Substitute (no action taken)*

HB 123 (Thomas)

Amend KRS 141.019 to exclude all distributions from military pension plans received by retired members of the United States military and their surviving spouses or former spouse under a survivor benefit plan from income taxation for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, but before January 1, 2029; require reporting by the Department of Revenue; amend KRS 131.190 to conform.

- This legislation would exempt all DOD-paid military retirement income tax
- No movement for not just years, but decades; considered unfunded mandate
- KDMA and KCMA priority, administration endorsed, not in budget bill but growing support a strong plus
 - Endorsed by Governor Beshear and by Kentucky's Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations (JECVO)
- Policy exists in varying forms in some 35 states, including our surrounding states
- Should this proposal progress, it will almost certainly be written into budget legislation versus passing as a stand-alone bill
- *Assigned to Appropriations & Revenue for fiscal assessment, February 7*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 129 (McPherson)

Amend KRS 141.010 to define "veteran"; amend KRS 141.019 to exclude from income tax wages earned from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2028, in Kentucky by a resident veteran.

- This legislation is far broader than HB 123, though expect the two bills to be advocated for in a combined manner
- HB 123, which would exempt military retirement income from the state income tax, could incur an estimated fiscal note between \$4-to-9M
 - That exemption would apply to only a few thousand veterans
 - As of the Fall of 2022, per DOD reporting, Kentucky has 28,936 retirees receiving DOD retirement paychecks
 - Kentucky's average military retirement is \$28,404, which is below the \$31,110 threshold
- This fiscal note would be far more expensive than HB 123 as it exempts all income earned by Kentucky veterans
- Per Veterans Data.Info (<https://veteransdata.info/states/2210000/KENTUCKY.pdf>), there are 250,427 veterans in Kentucky
 - The total combined income of 250K-plus veterans could run well into the hundreds of millions of dollars, if not in the billions, and could incur a significant loss of revenue to the state
 - KCMA does not have the tools to make that estimate and will have to defer to Revenue
- We always say that Kentucky does everything within our power to be as military and veterans' friendly as possible
 - This would certainly qualify as meeting that intent

- Legislative leaders have stated their intent to take Kentucky to a zero income tax state by approximately CY2031
 - One of the talking points used for the military retirement income tax exemption is that if we're heading in that direction anyway, let veterans lead the way and get there first
 - This legislation would certainly accomplish that objective
- Should this language pass muster, it almost certainly would be in an omnibus budget bill versus a stand-alone bill format
- *Assigned to Appropriations & Revenue for fiscal assessment, January 16*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 139 (Thomas)

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 164 to establish the Kentucky Cybersecurity (KentuckyCYBER) Program and governing board within the Council on Postsecondary Education; establish the purpose and duties of KentuckyCYBER Governing Board; create the KentuckyCYBER fund.

- This is a reattack on last year's SB 33, which failed to get a vote on the final day of session
 - The interim period saw a concerted effort to better educate legislators on the potential of a Kentucky Cybersecurity Center, including the creation of a cyber committee and increased stress on the statewide mission
- This legislation does not establish the funding amount, which will occur during the budget process
 - Entering intent in the 2023 session was for appropriation of \$1,040,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 and \$10,700,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the KentuckyCYBER Fund
- This program will establish a cybersecurity ecosystem through a Kentucky Cybersecurity Center leadership model, similar to the very successful Georgia Cyber Center (<https://www.gacybercenter.org/>), where the combined talent/resources of private industry, academia, government and military will:
 - Deliver affordable and relevant cybersecurity training and education to Kentucky students;
 - create/develop a Kentucky cybersecurity workforce;
 - provide cybersecurity expertise/solutions to all parties, including government policymakers at all levels.
- In an ever-evolving world, cybersecurity experts and measures are more critical than ever to:
 - provide the expertise and training necessary to create a robust cyber workforce,
 - ensure viable organizational operations' continuity/productivity,
 - protect sensitive personnel and organizational information, and
 - have the innovation capabilities necessary to adapt to rapidly changing environments.
- Towards this end, this legislation does the following:
 - Create a network of cyber centers across Kentucky
 - Engage Kentucky education elements at all levels from K-12 to collegiate
 - Engage business partnerships
 - Educate state and federal agencies
 - Create an innovation ecosystem for military, law enforcement, state, federal, and local government, education, and private sector companies
 - Develop nonacademic, industry-based credentialing and training programs to provide reskilling and upskilling across the state to complement academic programs and provide the workforce needed to meet cybersecurity challenges

- Accelerate the adoption of cybersecurity systems in the state by combining the assets of higher education, state and federal agencies, and private companies.
- *House right now has prioritized the HB 319 version (see below)*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 141 (Hart)

Amend KRS 211.190 to make water fluoridation programs optional; allow the governing bodies of water systems subject to regulation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to decide whether they participate in water fluoridation programs; provide that a water fluoridation program in place on the effective date of the Act continues until action is taken by its governing body to end its participation; provide that any decision regarding participation in a water fluoridation program made by the governing body of a water system shall be binding on all water systems it supplies.

- Allows communities to opt out of water fluoridation; concerning for health of National Guard personnel and families
- *Passed House State Government committee on February 8; no movement since*

HB 149 (Massaroni)

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 United States Constitution and has satisfied any outstanding balance to the Kentucky National Guard; provide that the Act may be cited as the Defend the Guard Act.

- The “Defend the Guard” Act is, from a National Guard perspective, a bill that severely restricts the ability of the Governor and the Commonwealth to support Department of Defense
- Part of a national initiative in the name of “state rights”
- 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?
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 168 (McCool)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 337 to require the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs to create and distribute a veterans' benefits and services document to employers and 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
- *Assigned to House VMAPP February 16*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 212 (Wesley)

Amend KRS 95A.292 to allow rescue squad members to participate in the Alan "Chip" Terry Professional Development and Wellness Program; and 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.

- Applies to Kentucky Department of Military Affairs' firefighters at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base and Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center
- Amended in House to add new Section 3 to provide the Act may be cited as Gavin's rights
- *Passed House 96-0 on February 27; to Senate, no movement*

HB 219 (Dosssett)

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
- *Passed House 94-0 on February 21; to Senate*
- *No movement in Senate; passage unlikely*

HB 226 (Bratcher)

Amend KRS 150.170 to exempt any current member of the Armed Forces of the United States from paying the nonresident fee for hunting and fishing licenses.

- May be a small increase in fee income for Kentucky as this makes it a bit more attractive for military personnel, primarily Army soldiers at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox, to apply
- Positive approach to recognize soldiers and other military personnel, such as recruiters, assigned to Kentucky yet maintaining official residency in another state
- Shows Kentucky values our military community as we strive to be our nation's most military friendly state, with over 34,000 military personnel from all components assigned to our Commonwealth
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 262 (Petrie)

Amend the 2022-2024 State/Executive Branch biennial budget to implement a cap for disaster or emergency aid funds under the Military Affairs budget unit in fiscal year 2023-2024 and for the necessary government expense under the Adult Correctional Institutions budget unit in fiscal year 2023-2024; APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY.

- Initially capped at \$50M; raised by Committee Substitute to \$75M
- *Passed House 80-15 on February 1*
- *To Senate Appropriations & Revenue; no further movement*

HB 319 (Imes)

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 164 to establish the Kentucky Cybersecurity (KentuckyCYBER) Program and governing board within the Council on Postsecondary Education; establish the purpose and duties of KentuckyCYBER Governing Board; create the KentuckyCYBER fund

- Appropriation required, not specified – Entering intent last year was for appropriation of \$1,040,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 and \$10,700,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the KentuckyCYBER Fund
- KentuckyCYBER shall facilitate cooperation among universities, primary education facilities, and business to create a secure cyberinfrastructure
- Leaves open the question of location(s)
- *Passed House 98-0 on February 29; to Senate*
- *Assigned to A&R on March 4; no further movement*

- *Funds for related cyber programs were appropriated in HB 1 - \$10M to the University of Louisville and \$10M to Murray State University*
 - *Accomplishes basic intent of bill*

HB 345 (Fleming)

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 164 to define terms; establish the Kentucky Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense Investment Fund Advisory Committee; to be cited as the Aerospace Education Reinvestment Opportunity (A.E.R.O.) Act.

- Establishes the Kentucky aerospace, aviation, and defense investment fund to be administered by the Council for Postsecondary Education for the purpose of funding public and private partnerships to provide aviation training scholarships and aviation and aerospace equipment grants
- *Assigned to House A&R February 13*
- *Bill itself is dead for this session due to no movement; however, a \$35M appropriation was placed in the Senate Committee Substitute to HB 1*
 - *SCS1 to HB 1 was non-concurred with by the House, so fate will be resolved in conference committee, with fate uncertain – appears to have been dropped during conference*

HB 363 (Burke)

Amend KRS 342.0011 to allow "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 physical injury.

- Workers comp would include psychological injuries suffered by Guard personnel on State Active Duty
- Concern of legislature and state workers comp program is this adoption would likely create significant additional fiscal burden
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 389 (Callaway)

Amend KRS 138.470 to exempt active members of the Armed Forces assigned to Kentucky who are on temporary duty in other locations and members of the Kentucky National Guard from motor vehicle usage tax on vehicles purchased from Kentucky motor vehicle dealers; EFFECTIVE July 1, 2024; EMERGENCY.

- Expands the current motor vehicle usage tax exemption from active duty (on orders) to all National Guard and Reserve personnel, in any status
- *No movement; dead for this session*

HB 409 (Stevenson)

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.

- KDVA agency legislation, totally support the intent
 - Reduces the disability percentage required for tuition exemption from 100 percent to 50 percent; eliminates "intent" to obtain a diploma to use to the benefit
 - The current requirements are simply too strict and limiting – we should encourage greater use of these benefits by lowering the threshold and eliminating the discriminator that once a certification is earned the benefit ceases
 - Also, you can't really enforce "intent" – support removal

- Failed to progress in the past three sessions, due to significant fiscal note and lack of universal post-secondary education support
- Democratic sponsor means commitment from majority party leadership is essential
- *No movement; dead this session*

HB 410 (Stevenson)

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

- “Women’s Veterans’ Day” is a a deserved acknowledgement of then-President Dwight Eisenhower officially integrating women into the regular Armed Forces
- This provides an enhancement to Veterans Day without replacing it, honoring the unique contributions of women veterans
- Congress has designated June 12 as Women Veterans’ Recognition Day
- The Emergency clause makes it effective immediately upon passage
 - Necessary because standard legislation will not become effective until late June or early July 2024
- *No movement; dead this session*

HB 412 (Stevenson)

An ACT relating to veterans.

- Simply a “mule” bill submitted with neutral language so that, if required, it can be amended into substantial legislation at a later time
- *No movement; dead this session*

HB 433 (Dossett)

Amend KRS 141.020 and 141.040, relating to the exclusions from income tax earned by nonresident disaster response employees and businesses, to remove the sunset date of January 1, 2025.

- *No movement; dead this session*

HB 503 (Stevenson)

Amend KRS 12.245, 12.354, 14A.1-070, 16.040, 40.010, 40.310, 40.650, 42.0146, 148.0211, 158.105, 158.140, 161.048, 164.512, 164.515, 186.041, 186.163, and 186.416 to make certain LGBTQ and qualifying veterans, as defined, eligible for state veterans' benefits.

- In the post World War II era, many members of the Armed Forces were forced out of service due to LGBTQ association
 - Now, however, LGBTQ members may serve in the Armed Forces provided they meet military standards, along with all servicemembers
- This bill seeks to provide a state remedy for those who were forced out under prior standards
 - While these benefits may still conflict in areas with federal law - states can't define federal policy or force federal compliance/acknowledgment - states can offer state-specific benefits, which in Kentucky would be primarily assessed through the recommendation of KDVA, which should play the lead role in determining what options are realistic to support
- This legislation has not moved in prior sessions and will require majority party support for any true assessment
- *No movement; dead this session*

HB 601 (Camuel)

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

- The credit shall be equal to fifty percent (50%) of the amount of eligible expenses incurred during the taxable year and shall not exceed \$3,000 for veterans, \$2,000 for all others
- *No movement; dead this session*

HB 682 (Massaroni)

Amend KRS 16.010 to define "missing child;" create a new section of KRS 16.010 to 16.199 to require the Department of Kentucky State Police to create and operate the Kentucky IAN Alert System to provide public notification through the use of media providers and highway signs when a child is missing and may be in physical danger.

- Affects Kentucky Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Military Affairs
- *No movement; dead this session*

HJR 22 (Imes)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Fort Campbell 101st Airborne Division Memorial Highway in Trigg County.

- Redesignates Kentucky Route 1062 in 24 Trigg County, from the intersection with Donaldson Creek Road to the intersection with 25 Old Canton Pike, as the "Fort Campbell 101st Airborne Division Memorial Highway"
- Honors the soldiers who lost their lives in the March 30, 2023 crash of two Army Black Hawk helicopters from Fort Campbell in Trigg County during a training exercise
- Makes perfect sense to honor the nation's most deployed military force and a Kentucky icon; ideal way to do so
- *No movement; withdrawn*

HCR 31 (Dossett)

Urge local governments to facilitate the creation of long-term recovery groups prior to the occurrence of disasters.

- Of interest to the emergency response/first responder community and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management
- Also related to the national Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) effort
- *Adopted favorably by House VMAPP March 12; reassigned to A&R, no further progression*

HJR 95 (Bentley)

Direct the Transportation Cabinet to designate a portion of Kentucky Route 503 in Greenup County as the PFC Ernie West Memorial Highway; direct signs denote PFC West was a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

- *No movement*

HJR 98 (Tipton)

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Anderson County Veterans Memorial Highway.

- *No movement*

SB 19 (Deneen)

Amends KRS 138.460 to provide a tax credit to active duty members of the Armed Forces for taxes paid to another state which are substantially identical to the taxes paid in this state, whether or not the other state grants a similar credit.

- Simplified version of legislation from last session (Rep. Bratcher), which was requested by Army senior enlisted leadership at Fort Knox
- Applies to first-time motor vehicle for titling or registration by servicemembers who previously paid a similar tax on that vehicle in another state
 - Credit would equal the amount of tax paid to the prior state

- Army senior enlisted leaders note the existing tax situation creates a form of double jeopardy for soldiers transferring into Kentucky, and creates a disincentive for them to live in Kentucky (versus Indiana or Tennessee) and possibly claim Kentucky citizenship
 - Soldiers often purchase more expensive (value) vehicles at lower prices overseas, such as BMWs or Mercedes, then get hit with repeating high motor vehicle registration taxes as the Army moves them across the United States
- Changes statute to gender-neutral
- *Assigned to Appropriations & Revenue for fiscal assessment, January 5*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

SB 36 (Thomas)

Amends KRS 218A.500 to allow the United States Department of Veterans Affairs health care system to operate a syringe services program.

- Very simple legislation that extends the existing right of local health departments to operate this type of program in Kentucky to the federal VA health care system
- The VA health care system is highly professional and should easily be able to manage this responsibility
- Positive impact on both KCMA and KDVA and the veterans community in Kentucky as it would expand the capability of VA health care services in the Commonwealth
- *Assigned to Senate VMAPP January 3*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

SB 60 (Boswell)

Amend KRS 150.170 to prohibit the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife from imposing a hunter education requirement for a person to obtain a hunting or fishing license or permit.

- **Removes veterans from the requirement to purchase a license/permit**
- *No movement; dead for this session*

SB 78 (Southworth)

Amend KRS 117.125 to require that voting systems contain components and subcomponents that are only manufactured, integrated, and assembled in the United States; require that the suppliers of components and subcomponents be accredited by the Defense Microelectronics Activity of the United States Department of Defense.

- KCMA has no expertise on the need for this legislation and cannot evaluate that aspect
- The second section appears to meet intent
 - The Defense Microelectronics Activity of the United States Department of Defense was created by the Trusted Access Program Office (TAPO) of the U.S. Government to manage integrated circuit supply chains, anticipate potential threats posed by outsourcing practices, formally assess system vulnerabilities and employ trusted suppliers and/or pursue other means of risk mitigation
 - TAPO is entering its fourth year of operation in support of the U. S. Government, and can only be used by validated government organizations
 - TAPO brokers cost-effective access to trusted suppliers of customized leading edge microelectronic technologies in order to improve the security of mission-critical U.S. Government information and operations
- *Assigned to State & Local Government Committee on January 12*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

SB 94 (Yates)

Amend KRS 154.12-330 to give preference to veterans in the issuance of small business loans; create new section of KRS Chapter 151B to require monthly veteran workforce reports; create new sections

of Subchapter 2 of KRS Chapter 154 to require annual job training reports by the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs – and a lot more

- UNFUNDED MANDATE
- Just too much going on here; no progress in multiple previous sessions, no chance of passage as an unfunded mandate
- KDVA requirements infringe on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' mission and would require approximately \$2M in additional budget resources to KDVA to implement
- KCMA only has two staff and doesn't have the resources to manage the new requirements without additional employee(s), office space and funding
- *Assigned to Senate VMAPP on January 10*
- *No movement; dead for this session*

SB 133 (Southworth)

Places restrictions on the power of the Governor and the Director of Kentucky Emergency Management.

- *No movement; dead for this session*

SB 351 (Southworth)

AN ACT proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to exempting the homesteads of veterans and surviving spouses from taxation.

- Exempts from property taxation the homesteads of veterans who were honorably discharged and certified as having a service-connected permanent and 100 percent total disability and the homesteads of the surviving spouses of Armed Forces' members who died from service-connected causes while on active duty
- *No movement; dead for this session*