



Weekly Legislative Report

KACP KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 14

Thursday - the legislature did not meet this past Friday - marked the ninth day of the 60-day regular session. As of Thursday, 87 bills had been filed in the Senate; in the House, 305 bills have been filed.

GOV. BESHEAR'S BUDGET

Gov. Andy Beshear delivered his budget address Thursday night; it includes a \$600 annual increase in the KLEFPF training stipend, which is double the amount what House Republicans have included in their budget plan. But keep in mind, the Governor's budget is basically a recommendation. It is the General Assembly that enacts the budget.

Once the House passes its version of the budget bills, the Senate will take up the bill.

KACP's legislative team is continuing to advocate for an increase in the training stipend, a COLA adjustment added annually to KLEFPF or a combination of both as recruiting and retention tools.

KACP will continue to regularly meet with Sen. McDaniel to monitor those efforts.

LEGISLATION KACP SUPPORTING

HOUSE

HB56 First responder COVID-19 death benefits

Sponsored Rep. Thomas Huff, R-Shepherdsville, the bill which would be retroactive, would amend the current statute on death benefits to include COVID-19 on the list of illnesses that can qualify a deceased first responder's family – including the families of law enforcement – for death benefits of \$80,000. Bill has passed the House State Government Committee and awaits action by the full House.

HB71 Cost of care

Sponsored by Kim Banta, R-Fort Mitchell, Rep. Cherlynn Stevenson, D-Lexington, the bill would a pet owner responsible for the cost of care – including vet bills and boarding the animals – when animals are seized from a situation featuring fighting, hoarding or other forms of neglect. This saves cities and counties the cost of caring for the seized animals. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB79, Mental Health

Filed by Rep. Bill Wesley, R-Ravenna, the bill amends state law to include telecommunicators as eligible participants in the Law Enforcement Professional Development and Wellness Program. Recommitted to Appropriations & Revenue.

HB135, Retirement benefits

Filed by Rep. Buddy Wheatley, R-Covington, the bill changes the retirement benefits for members of the State Police Retirement System or in a hazardous position who were hired after Jan. 1, 2014, but before Jan. 1, 2023, from Tier 3 to Tier 2. Bill not yet assigned to committee.

HB141, Income tax exclusion for police officers

Filed by Rep. Ryan Dotson, R-Winchester, the bill would exclude law enforcement officers from paying state income tax. Could be included in a larger tax reform bill. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB154, DUI blood tests

Filed by Rep. Patrick Flannery, the bill would remove the penalty enhancement for refusal of a blood test. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB169, Retiree health benefits for hazardous duty members

Filed by Reps. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, and Buddy Wheatley, D-Covington, the bill would increase the hazardous duty under age 65 retiree health subsidy to \$40 per month for each year of hazardous duty service who began participating in the retirement system on or after July 1, 2003, and who are eligible for a fixed-dollar retiree health subsidy not tied to the premium. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB206, Law enforcement officer certification

Filed by Rep. Rachel Roberts, R-Newport, and co-sponsored by two former KSP Troopers - Reps. Sal Santoro, R-Florence, and John Blanton, R-Salyersville - the bill would prohibit anyone who has been convicted of various misdemeanor offenses from being certified as a police officer. Assigned to Committee on Committees.

HB239, Constables

Filed by Rep. Adam Koenig, R-Erlanger, the bill prohibits any constable elected for the first time after Jan. 1, 2023, from exercising general police powers unless certified, leaving all other constables unchanged. Assigned to Committee on Committees.

SENATE

SB63, Personal information

Filed by Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton, would exempt records revealing a law enforcement officers address from Open Records requests; would also allow officers to request that their personally identifiable information be designated as confidential and not publicly posted. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

LEGISLATION KACP OPPOSES

HOUSE

HB155, Certifying constables

Filed by Rep. Ryan Dotson, R-Winchester, Rep. Bill Wesley, R-Ravenna, the bill would establish program – paid for by KLEFPF – for certifying and training constables. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB224, Cannabis

Filed by Rep. Nima Kulkarni, the bill makes possession of a personal use quantity of cannabis exempt from civil or criminal penalty. Assigned to Committee on Committees.

SENATE

LEGISLATION KACP TRACKING/MONITORING

HOUSE

HB29, Firearms legislation,

Filed by Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mt. Vernon, the bill prohibits the enforcement of a federal ban or regulation of firearms. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB63, School Resource Officers (SROs)

Filed by Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, the bill would require the assignment of SROs to schools by Aug. 1, 2022. **No funding is provided in the bill.** Awaiting action in House Education Committee.

HB122, Concealed carry

Filed by Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, the bill would lower the age requirement for carrying a concealed weapon from 21 to 18. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB124, Concealed carry/public buildings

Filed Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, the bill would prevent postsecondary education facilities, local governments and units of state government from prohibiting the carrying of concealed deadly weapons. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB158, Firearms

Filed by Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, the bill would prohibit law enforcement from enforcing of any federal law that does not exist under the laws of Kentucky and limited firearms ownership. Bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

HB236, Hate crimes

Filed by Rep. Nima Kulkarni, D-Louisville, the bill would define hate crimes and require law enforcement agencies to possess a written policy and procedures related to hate crimes. Assigned to Committee on Committees.

[HB258](#), Distracted driving

Filed by Rep. James Tipton, R-Taylorsville, the bill would allow the hands-free use of a personal communications device while driving. The legislation would make it illegal for a driver to use their hands to operate a personal communications device, such as a mobile phone, text messaging device, stand-alone computer, a GPS system, a personal digital assistant or any device capable of displaying a video, movie or visual image. Assigned to Committee on Committees.

[HB292](#), Gun storage

Filed by Rep. George Brown Jr., D-Lexington, the bill would make it a crime to unlawfully store a firearm and establish elements of the crime for recklessly allowing access to an unsecured firearm by a minor. Assigned to Committee on Committees.

SENATE

[SB23](#), related to destroying firearms

Filed by Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, the bill requires the destruction of confiscated firearms. Assigned to Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection (VMAPP) Committee.

OTHER ISSUES KACP IS SUPPORTING; AWAITING ON BILLS TO BE FILED

Virtual training

For months, KACP has been working with Rep. Kim Moser, R-Taylor Mill, and KLC on legislation that would increase the number of training classes that DOCJT offers. KACP believes that modernized virtual training will help retention and recruitment by eliminating the need for officers to regularly travel to Richmond for training. It will also save cities money and appeal to younger officers who have been raised on computers.

KACP has met several times with officials from the DOCJT and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. While all sides agree that some level of virtual training should be increased, there is still some disagreement over how to implement those changes and the number of type of classes that would be offered virtually.

KACP will continue working with Rep. Moser and KLC on the legislation.

Amendments to KRS [70.290](#)

Another way to retain officer is to increase the amount of time a law enforcement officer must spend with a department before being able to move on. Too many officers are being hired by a department, going through training – which must be paid by cities and counties – and then leaving the department for a higher-paying job in another community or state.

KACP is working on legislation that would increase the mandated time an officer must spend with a department from three to five years as outlined in KRS [70.290](#). We also are asking for changes that would put Public University law enforcement departments and state agencies under the same rules as cities and counties.

COVID bonus pay

Since 2022 is a session in which the legislature enacts a two-year budget, and with the state sitting on a projected \$2 billion surplus, there has been talk from Gov. Beshear and some legislators about offering a

COVID bonus to front-line workers and first-responders. If those discussions advance, KACP will work to ensure that law enforcement is included in the bonus payout.

Mental health transport

For years law enforcement has struggled with being compensated and supported for transporting suspects or individuals suffering mental health episodes to hospitals or mental health facilities. KACP is working with KSA on a legislative remedy to this confounding problem.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The session is scheduled to last 60 days, the maximum allowed under the state constitution in even-numbered years.

Jan. 17 – No session in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Feb. 21 – No session on observance of Presidents' Day

Feb. 25 - Last day to introduce House bills

March 1 - Last day to introduce Senate bills

March 31 to April 12 – 10-day veto recess

April 13 and 14 – Final two days of session

Click [here](#) to see the 2022 session calendar

FOR MORE INFO

As always, questions, suggestions, comments or concerns can be directed to Executive Director Shawn Butler, who can be reached at 859-743-2920 or sbutler@kypolicechiefs.org or KACP lobbyist Patrick Crowley, who can be reached at 859-462-4245 or pcrowley@strategicadvisersllc.com