



Weekly Legislative Report

KACP KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 24

Friday marked the 36th day of the 60-day regular session. As of Friday, 224 bills had been filed in the Senate; in the House, 604 bills have been filed.

THE LATEST ON LEGISLATION

It was an eventful week for KACP in Frankfort. In addition to holding an Executive Board/General Membership meeting, about a dozen chiefs posed for pictures with Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton and Rep. Kim Moser, R-Taylor Mill. And then, thanks to the office of Senate President Robert Stivers, the chiefs were granted Senate floor privileges and had their photo taken in the chamber. In short, it was a great day in the Capital.







A NOTE ON LEGISLATION: The session has hit a point where it is apparent many bills will not move or be voted on this session. Those include bills KACP supports, opposes and has been monitoring. For the sake of brevity, those bills have been removed from the report. If any of those bills begin to move, they will be returned to the legislative report.

Legislation was also filed that addresses major KACP legislative priorities.

Virtual training

After more than two years of work, research and lobbying, the virtual online training bill has been filed by Rep. Kim Moser, R-Taylor Mill. Once again, we thank Rep. Moser for sticking with KACP through a long process and for keeping her commitment to getting the bill filed. We also thank Rep. Sal Santoro, R-Richwood, a retired KSP officer, for co-sponsoring the bill.

The full bill - HB565 - can be reviewed by clicking [here](#). KLC continues to be a huge proponent of the bill and has worked hard to keep it moving.

For now, the bill has been assigned to the Committee on Committees. When it is reassigned to a committee, watch for Legislative Alerts in your email asking you to contact your representative and ask for their support in committee.

Employment contracts

Sen. Johnny Turner, R-Harlan, has filed [SB206](#), which will extend law enforcement contracts to four years. Sen. Phillip Wheeler, R-Pikeville, who has been a staunch KACP supporter, co-sponsored the bill. Adjustments are being made to include university and airport officers, so the bill will be modified by the time it has a hearing in the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection Committee.

Legislative update

There was a lot of movement last week among the legislation KACP is supporting and following.

[HB206](#), Law enforcement officer certification

Filed by Rep. Rachel Roberts, D-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. Passed the House, awaiting a Senate committee assignment. ***KACP supports***

[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. The bill passed out of the House Local Government Committee last week and could be heard on the House floor as early as Monday. ***KACP supports***

[HB414](#), Public safety personnel

Filed by Rep. John Blanton, R-Salyersville, the bill would make it easier for cities to recruit and retain public's safety personnel by making changes to current law, including removing the age limit for new hire and limitations to the number of retired police officers a city is allowed to employ. It would also allow agencies to operate under an 80-hour, 14-day work period instead of a 40-hour, seven-day period. The bill passed the House and awaits a Senate committee assignment. ***KACP supports***

[SB63](#), Personal information

Filed by Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton, would exempt records revealing a law enforcement officer's address from Open Records requests; would also allow officers to request that their personally identifiable information be designated as confidential and not publicly posted. Passed by the Senate, awaiting House committee assignment. ***KACP supports***

New bills filed

[HB562](#), First responders

Filed by Rep. Ashley Tackett Laferty, D-Martin, the bill would allow a law enforcement officer to take 48 hours leave after being involved in a critical incident. Assigned to Committee on Committees. ***KACP is supporting***

[HB572](#), Fish and Wildlife officers compensation

Filed by Rep. David Hale, R-Wellington, the bill would establish qualification requirements, salary schedules and rate structures for Fish and Wildlife officers. Assigned to Committee on Committees. ***KACP is supporting.***

LEGISLATION KACP SUPPORTING

HOUSE

[HB48](#), False reporting of crimes

Filed by Rep. Phillip Pratt of Georgetown, the bill increases the penalties for falsely reporting an incident that results in an emergency response and creates a new law to allow law enforcement to seek civil damages arising from the false reporting of a crime. Passed House, awaiting action in the Senate Judiciary Committee ***KACP is supporting***

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. The bill is retroactive, meaning any first responders who have died due to COVID-19 complications since March 2, 2020, would qualify. Passed House, assigned to Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee ***KACP is supporting***

HB154, DUI blood tests

Filed by Rep. Patrick Flannery, the bill would remove the penalty enhancement for refusal of a blood test. Passed House; assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee. ***KACP is supporting***

HB137, KLEFPF payments

Filed by Rep. Melinda Gibbons Prunty, R-Belton, the bill would allow the following to receive KLEFPF training stipend: An officer serving on a joint task force; and investigator employed by a county attorney; a process server for juvenile courts within a consolidated local government. Passed House, awaiting action in Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee ***KACP is supporting***

HB479, Related to Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund

Filed by Rep. Chris Fugate, R-Chavies, the bill deletes reference to the payment made from the fish and game fund under definition of a “police officer” for fish and wildlife conversation officers and makes the funding source the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program. Assigned to House Committee on Committees. ***KACP is supporting***

HB329, Enhanced criminal penalties for crimes committed during an emergency

Filed by Rep. Ed Massey, R-Hebron, the House Judiciary Chairman, the bill provided enhanced penalties for criminal offenses, including theft, during a declared emergency. This bill was inspired by incidents and reports of looting following the recent western Kentucky tornadoes. Passed out of committee, awaiting action by the full House. ***KACP is supporting***

SENATE

SB120, Local school districts police departments

Filed by Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton, the bill would allow local school boards to establish a police department for their local school districts. Passed Senate Education Committee, awaiting action by the full Senate. ***KACP is supporting***

SB179, Criminal offenses during a declared emergency

Filed by Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton, and several other western Kentucky senators, the bill would enhance penalties for criminal offenses that occur during a declared emergency arising from a natural or man-made disaster - legislation inspired by the aftermath of the deadly and devastating tornadoes that ravaged western Kentucky in December. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee. ***KACP is supporting***

LEGISLATION KACP TRACKING/MONITORING

HOUSE

HB63, School Resource Officers (SROs)

Filed by Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville, the bill would require school districts that can afford a school resource officer at each school to have them in place by Aug. 1. If funds or personnel are not available, the bill directs the school district to work with the state Center for School Safety to address those issues. Passed the House, awaiting action in the Senate Education Committee.

SENATE

SB176, Facial recognition technology

Filed by Sen. Whitney Westerfield, R-Crofton, the bill requires the KLEC to adopt a model facial recognition technology by Jan. 1, 2023, to govern the use of facial technology recognition technology. Assigned to Senate Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection Committee. ***KACP is opposed***

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

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

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