

NEWS

- Legislative Update: Bills dealing with scholarship funding and alcohol shipment move. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/26/legislative-update-bills-dealing-with-scholarship-funding-and-alcohol-shipment-move/>]
- State launches site as fraudulent unemployment insurance claims continue to plague the system. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/26/state-launches-site-as-fraudulent-unemployment-insurance-claims-continue-to-plague-the-system/>]
- Kentuckians asked to pay back unemployment insurance claims would not have to under legislation passed by state Senate. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/26/kentuckians-asked-to-pay-back-unemployment-insurance-claims-would-not-have-to-under-legislation-passed-by-state-senate/>]
- State leaders, industry experts discuss key issues and solutions to address Kentucky's current and future workforce needs. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/26/state-leaders-industry-experts-discuss-key-issues-and-solutions-to-address-kentuckys-current-and-future-workforce-needs/>]
- Legislative Update: House passes policies focused on education and underground excavation. Click to read more [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/legislative-update-house-passes-policies-focused-on-education-and-underground-excavation/>] .
- Recovery Ready Communities legislation heads to full Senate. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/recovery-ready-communities-legislation-heads-to-full-senate/>]
- Kentucky small businesses tell lawmakers new policies are needed to recover from COVID-19 pandemic. Click to read more [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/kentucky-small-businesses-tell-lawmakers-new-policies-are-needed-to-recover-from-covid-19-pandemic/>] .
- National and state chamber leaders say 2021 is the year to invest in infrastructure. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/national-and-state-chamber-leaders-say-2021-is-the-year-to-invest-in-infrastructure/>]
- Bill changing how Kentucky companies deal with safety regulations moves forward. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/bill-changing-how-kentucky-companies-deal-with-safety-regulations-moves-forward/>]
- Op-Ed: Now more than ever, Kentucky communities need flexibility to address critical water infrastructure needs. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/op-ed-now-more-than-ever-kentucky-communities-need-flexibility-to-address-critical-water-infrastructure-needs/>]
- Legislative Update: Bills addressing issues faced by employers and childcare centers due to COVID-19 and racial equity move forward. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/24/legislative-update-bills-addressing-issues-faced-by-employers-and-childcare-centers-due-to-covid-19-and-racial-equity-move-forward/>]
- Legislation removing barrier to higher education scholarship funds passes House. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/24/legislation-removing-barrier-to-higher-education-scholarship-funds-passes-house/>]
- Kentucky Transportation Secretary says state must face reality more revenue is necessary for quality roads and bridges. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/24/kentucky-transportation-secretary-says-state-must-face-reality-more-revenue-is-necessary-for-quality-roads-and-bridges/>]
- Bill filed to generate money for Kentucky's ailing roads and bridges. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/23/bill-filed-to-generate-money-for-kentuckys-ailing-roads-and-bridges/>]

- Gov. Andy Beshear issues executive order about schools reopening in-person learning. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/23/gov-andy-beshear-issues-executive-order-about-schools-reopening-in-person-learning/>]
- Water permitting legislation moves to state Senate. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/23/water-permitting-legislation-moves-to-state-senate/>]
- Biden administration says student testing must be done to gauge academic attainment during the pandemic. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/23/biden-administration-says-student-testing-must-be-done-to-gauge-academic-attainment-during-the-pandemic/>]
- Education bills dealing with scholarship funds and the Kentucky Board of Education move forward. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/23/education-bills-dealing-with-scholarship-funds-and-the-kentucky-board-of-education-move-forward/>]
- Legislative Update: To-go alcohol, flagrant non-support, and repayment to coal companies move forward. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/22/legislative-update-to-go-alcohol-flagrant-non-support-and-repayment-to-coal-companies-move-forward/>]
- Op-ed: Voices of Recovery Drive the Kentucky Comeback. Click to read more. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/15/op-ed-voices-of-recovery-drive-the-kentucky-comeback/>]

FROM THE CAPITOL

This week, we saw a bill filed to increase investment in Kentucky's roads and bridges—a top priority of the Kentucky Chamber. House Bill 561, sponsored by Rep. Sal Santoro, was introduced on the final day to file bills. It seeks to increase the motor fuels tax by 10 cents to make up for the shortfall the state experiences and creates a multimodal fund. We need your help! Tell your legislator you support House Bill 561 [<https://p2a.co/hg4Vdd2>] to increase investment to improve our safety, economic development, and much more.

Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray also testified in front of lawmakers [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/24/kentucky-transportation-secretary-says-state-must-face-reality-more-revenue-is-necessary-for-quality-roads-and-bridges/>] this week to stress the state must face the reality that more revenue is necessary for maintenance of current infrastructure and investments in our future.

The Kentucky Chamber held its Small Business Day event Thursday where small businesses from across the state met with lawmakers virtually and testified in front of lawmakers about policies important to COVID-19 recovery. Small business owners and Chamber members Kaelyn Query and Conrad Daniels explained liability protections, relief on unemployment insurance and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, infrastructure and broadband investment, ensuring equity, and more. Read more on The Bottom Line. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/kentucky-small-businesses-tell-lawmakers-new-policies-are-needed-to-recover-from-covid-19-pandemic/>]

The House passed pieces of legislation aimed at addressing issues that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. House Bill 413, sponsored by Rep. Russell Webber, suspends taxable wage base and holds the 2020 tax schedule for 2021 and 2022 when it comes to unemployment insurance as employers face a huge increase in the face of high unemployment rates as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. And House Bill 278, sponsored by Rep. Patrick Flannery, would allow small businesses and self-employed individuals in Kentucky who have received a forgivable PPP loan to deduct expenses paid with the loan. Read more here. [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/24/legislative-update/>]

[bills-addressing-issues-faced-by-employers-and-childcare-centers-due-to-covid-19-and-racial-equity-move-forward/](https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/bills-addressing-issues-faced-by-employers-and-childcare-centers-due-to-covid-19-and-racial-equity-move-forward/)]

Legislation to help improve Kentucky's criminal justice system and ensure successful reentry also saw movement this week with Recovery Ready Communities [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/25/recovery-ready-communities-legislation-heads-to-full-senate/>] legislation moving to the full Senate, expansion of access to Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship (KEES) money to those with a prior felony conviction [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/24/legislation-removing-barrier-to-higher-education-scholarship-funds-passes-house/>] and legislation to raise the felony threshold for flagrant nonsupport from \$1,000 to \$5,000 [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/2021/02/22/legislative-update-to-go-alcohol-flagrant-non-support-and-repayment-to-coal-companies-move-forward/>] passing through the House.

OTHER UPDATES

Many other important bills took steps through the legislative process this week ahead of the last full week before conference committees begin meeting on March 8. Then, there will be a break to give the governor an opportunity to veto any legislation.

Make sure you are following all relevant news from the Capitol on The Bottom Line [<https://kychamberbottomline.com/>] and download our app by searching Bottom Line KY in your app store.

KEY BILLS

COMPETITIVENESS

- LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR (HB 4 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb4.html>]) Eliminates existing dates by which the General Assembly must adjourn in any regular session and gives legislature the authority to extend the length of its legislative sessions by up to 10 days upon the vote of a 3/5 majority. Awaits passage on Senate floor.
- RECOVERY READY COMMUNITIES (HB 7 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb7.html>]) Establishes an advisory council to develop a framework for a Recovery Ready Community certification in response to substance use disorders. Passed Senate Committee.
- RETIREMENT SYSTEM CALCULATION (HB 8 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb8.html>]) Changes the Kentucky Employees Retirement System's nonhazardous unfunded liability payment from a value that is paid as a percent of pay on each employee to a set dollar amount (level dollar). In Senate Committee.
- BENEFIT MANDATES (HB 32 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb32.html>] , HB 33 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb33.html>] , HB 34 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb34.html>] , HB 35 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb35.html>] , HB 40 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb40.html>] , SB 284 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb284.html>] , SB 285 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb285.html>]) Requires changes to wages, paid leave, and other benefits. SB 284- Assigned to Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee. SB 285- Assigned to Senate State and Local Government Committee.
- PREVAILING WAGE (HB 55 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb55.html>]) Creates a prevailing wage law for all public works projects.

- WORKERS' COMPENSATION (HB 59 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb59.html>]) Establishes lifetime medical benefits for workers' comp claims. Assigned to Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.
- EXEMPTIONS FOR DISASTER RESPONSE EMPLOYEES (HB 84 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb84.html>]) Provides tax relief for disaster response employees and disaster response entities. Passed House, assigned to Senate Appropriation and Revenue Committee.
- FELONY THEFT (HB 126 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb126.html>]) Increases the felony theft / fraud thresholds to \$1,000. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.
- COVID-19 RELIEF (HB 191 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb191.html>]) Establishes COVID-19 relief programs. Assigned to House Appropriations and Revenue Committee.
- EXECUTIVE BUDGET (HB 192 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb192.html>]) Executive branch budget. Free Conference Committee formed.
- KYTC BUDGET (HB 193 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb193.html>]) Transportation Cabinet budget. Free Conference Committee formed.
- LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BUDGET (HB 194 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb194.html>]) Legislative branch budget. Free conference committee formed.
- JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET (HB 195 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb195.html>]) Judicial branch budget. Free conference committee formed.
- ADOPTION LEAVE (HB 210 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb210.html>]) Requires employers that provide leave for birth parents to provide the same leave for an adoptive parent. Passed House, received in Senate.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTING (HB 211 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb211.html>]) Requires the Economic Development Cabinet to include information on the size and racial composition of program recipients. Introduced in House.
- CHILD AND MATERNAL REPORTING (HB 212 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb212.html>]) Requires the child and maternal fatality annual report to include a demographic analysis by race, income, and geography. Assigned to House Health and Family Services Committee. Awaits passage on House floor.
- STATE EMPLOYEE REPORTING (HB 213 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb213.html>]) Requires the Personnel Cabinet to include state employee demographic information by program cabinet and department in the annual report. Introduced in House.
- SPORTS WAGERING (HB 241 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb241.html>]) legalizes fantasy sports contests, sports wagering, and online poker in the Commonwealth. Introduced in House.
- TEACHERS RETIREMENT REFORM (HB 258 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb258.html>]) Reforms the teachers' retirement system to include a combination of a defined benefit and supplemental benefit for new members after Jan. 1 2022. Assigned to State and Local Government Committee.
- PPP TAX DEDUCTION (HB 278 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb278.html>] /SB 265 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb265.html>]) Conforms with federal law to allow deductions paid with proceeds from a forgiven loan under the Paycheck Protection Program. HB 278- Passed House. SB 265 Assigned to Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION (HB 282 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb282.html>]) Eliminates the requirement that physicians that perform evaluations in occupational disease claims be 'B' readers who are licensed in Kentucky and are board-certified pulmonary specialists. Introduced in House.
- TAX CREDIT (HB 333 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb333.html>]) Establishes the growth fund tax credit. Introduced in House.

- BROADBAND (HB 348 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb348.html>]) Creates the Office of Innovation in the Department of Agriculture to oversee the broadband deployment fund. Passed House Committee.
- MINIMUM WAGE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (HB 358 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb358.html>]) allows local governments to pass an ordinance setting employees' minimum wages at a rate higher than the state minimum wage for employers located within that government's jurisdiction. Introduced in House.
- COMMISSION/ COMMITTEE ON RACE (HB 364 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb364.html>] / SB 10 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb10.html>]) Creates a Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity. HB 364 awaits passage by House; SB 10 passed Senate.
- DATA CENTERS (HB 372 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb372.html>]) Establishes a data center tax credit. Introduced to House Appropriations and Revenue Committee.
- FLAGRANT NONSUPPORT (HB 402 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb402.html>]) Increases the amount qualifying for flagrant nonsupport from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Passed House.
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (HB 406 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb406.html>]) Expands eligibility for UI benefits and increases the taxable wage base. Introduced in House.
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (HB 413 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb413.html>]) Suspends taxable wage base and holds the 2020 tax schedule for 2021 and 2022 and requires all benefits paid due to a declared emergency come from a pooled account and not individual employers reserve accounts. Passed House.
- DIRECT SHIPMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (HB 415 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb415.html>]) Clarifies requirements to hold direct shipper license and allows the usage of a third party to fulfill orders. Passed House floor.
- SALES AND USE TAXES (HB 417 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb417.html>]) provides for a refund of sales and use taxes paid to providers of communications service, Internet access, and multichannel video programming services. Introduced in House.
- TEACHER RETIREMENT (HB 436 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb436.html>]) Provide that the TRS board of trustees shall not be subject to reorganization by a Governor. Introduced in House.
- YOUTH ATHLETICS (HB 471 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb471.html>] / SB 106 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb106.html>]) Establishes rules requiring schools that participate in interscholastic athletics to designate all athletic teams, activities, and sports based upon the biological sex of the students eligible to participate. Introduced in House. Introduced to Senate Education Committee.
- OSHA RULES (HB 475 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb475.html>]) Requires state Occupational Safety and Health regulations be no more stringent than the corresponding federal rule. Passed House Committee.
- PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING (HB 481 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb481.html>]) makes the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission subject to Executive Branch Ethics Committee requirements, raises tax on historical horse racing, and restricts wagering at simulcast facilities to pari-mutuel wagering on simulcasting. Introduced in House.
- CALL CENTERS (HB 488 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb488.html>]) requires employers intending to relocate a call center from Kentucky to a foreign country to notify the secretary of the Labor Cabinet at least 120 days prior to such relocation and requires the secretary to compile a list of employers that have relocated a call center to a foreign country. Introduced in House.
- TRANSPORTATION REVENUE (HB 561 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb561.html>]) Creates meaningful new revenue to improve Kentucky's roads and bridges and establishes a multi-modal transportation fund. Introduced in House

- TAX CREDIT SUNSETS (HB 575 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb575.html>]) Eliminates various tax credits. Assigned to House Appropriation and Revenue Committee.
- WEST END DEVELOPMENT (HB 587 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb587.html>] /588 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb588.html>] ; SB 100 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb100.html>] /125 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb125.html>]) Establishes the West End Opportunity Partnership that offers investment and economic solutions to Louisville's West End neighborhoods. HB 587/588 Assigned to House Appropriations and Revenue Committee; SB 100 Introduced in Senate; SB 125 Assigned to Senate Appropriation and Revenue Committee.
- UNEMPLOYMENT FORGIVENESS (HCR 22 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hcr22.html>]) Calls on Congress to forgive Kentucky's Federal UI loan balance and suspend loan repayment penalties in the event of nonpayment. Introduced in House.
- LIABILITY PROTECTIONS DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY (SB 5 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb5.html>]) Provides liability protection for owners of premises during a declared emergency and provides governmental immunity for those providing essential services during an emergency. Awaits passage by Senate.
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS (SB 7 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb7.html>]) adds language to set waiver of overpayment criteria, allocation of CARES Act money, waiver application deadlines, require program integrity provisions, and make an appropriation by allocating CARES money to UI trust fund. Passed Senate.
- CAPS ON NONECONOMIC DAMAGES (SB 17 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb17.html>]) Constitutional amendment to allow the GA to set caps on noneconomic damages from lawsuits. Assigned to Senate State and Local Government Committee.
- JUVENILE JUSTICE (SB 36 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb36.html>]) Returns discretion to local prosecutors and local judges in local communities, instead of creating automatic transfers of minors in certain cases from District to Circuit Court. Received in House.
- RECOVERY MEDICAL COSTS IN TORT ACTIONS (SB 54 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb54.html>]) Limit the amounts that are recoverable for medical costs in tort actions. Awaits action in Judiciary committee.
- ALCOHOL TAKEOUT AND DELIVERY (SB 67 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb67.html>]) Allow alcohol to be purchased to go or for delivery in conjunction with a meal. Passed Senate
- DISTILLING LICENSING (SB 68 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb68.html>]) Makes changes to distilling licenses. Passed Senate.
- EMPLOYEE AGE RESTRICTION ON ALCOHOL (SB 69 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb69.html>]) Makes changes to employee age restrictions for employers that sell alcohol. Assigned to Senate Licensing and Occupations Committee.
- BLIGHTED PROPERTY (SB 105 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb105.html>]) Makes changes related to rehabilitation of an abandoned or blighted property. Awaits passage on Senate floor.
- HISTORIC HORSE RACING (SB 120 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb120.html>]) Clarifies language to ensure historic horse racing is included in the legal definition of parimutuel wagering, in order to protect the status quo of operations currently at racetracks. Signed by Governor.
- PAYCHECK PROTECTION (SB 142 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb142.html>]) Provides that the withholding of an employee's dues shall cease upon receipt of a written request from the employee. Assigned to Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee.
- DRUG FREE WORKPLACE (SB 144 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb144.html>]) Creates an appeal process for public employees who violate a drug free workplace policy. Introduced in Senate.

- CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT (SB 155 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb155.html>])

Requires racial and ethnic community criminal justice and public safety impact statements for certain legislation and administrative regulations. Introduced in Senate.

- WORKERS' COMPENSATION (SB 157 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb157.html>])

Provides that contractors shall not be liable for payment of compensation to subcontractors with no employees. Assigned to Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee.

- SMOKERS PROTECTED CLASS (SB 258 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb258.html>])

Removes the protected class for smokers. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

EDUCATION

- KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (HB 25 [

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb25.html>]) Removes the requirement that an eligible high school student and eligible postsecondary student not be a convicted felon for KEES eligibility purposes. Passed House.

- DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS (HB 153 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb153.html>] / HB 383 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb383.html>]) Adds two career and technical education courses per year to the Dual Credit Scholarship. Passed House.

- KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION (HB 178 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb178.html>]) Requires the same representation of political parties and racial diversity as the state's university boards on the state board of education and prevents the board from being reorganized every four years after an election. Passed House.

- FAFSA REQUIREMENT (HB 253 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb253.html>]) Makes completion of the FAFSA a high school graduation requirement. Awaits passage on House floor.

- EARLY LITERACY (HB 270 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb270.html>] /SB 115 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb115.html>]) Expands evidence-based reading intervention supports to help ensure grade-level literacy before a student reaches fourth grade. SB 115 Passed Senate.

- EARLY ENTRY INITIATIVE (HB 271 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb271.html>] /SB 114 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb114.html>]) Pilot program to increase national board-certified teachers. HB 271 Assigned to House Education Committee.

- EXPAND KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (HB 338 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb338.html>]) Expand KEES eligible institutions in Kentucky. Awaits passage on House floor.

- TAX DEDUCTION (HB 354 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb354.html>]) Allow an exclusion of amounts contributed to a qualified tuition programs.

- PRESCHOOL WORKGROUP (HCR 31 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hcr31.html>]) Establishes the Kentucky Preschool Program Task Force to study preschool programs.

- SUPERINTENDENT SCREENING (SB 77 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb77.html>]) Require greater minority representation on a screening committee in a school district with a minority student population of 50% or greater. Passed Senate.

- SEEK (SB 107 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb107.html>]) When a district's state per pupil SEEK amount is less than the district's 1991-1992 state per pupil amount, the district's state portion per pupil SEEK amount be increased by the difference between the 91-92 amount and the current calculation. Introduced in Senate

- FUNDING FORMULA (SB 135 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb135.html>]) Adjusts the parameters used for postsecondary education performance based funding model. Passed Senate.

- CHILD CARE (SB 148 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb148.html>]) Restricts regulations a local governments can impose on certified family child care home. Prescribes what regulations the

Cabinet for Health and Family Services may promulgate regarding child care centers during an emergency. Passed Senate.

HEALTH CARE

- PROHIBITING REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS (HB 36 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb36.html>]) Prohibits the required immunization of any person by any state agency or instrumentality. Introduced in House.
- MENTAL HEALTH PARITY REQUIREMENTS (HB 50 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb50.html>]) Defines “classification of benefits” and “nonquantitative treatment limitation” and modifies mental health parity requirements by requiring parity coverage for nonquantitative treatment limitations and medical necessity criteria. Passed by Senate Health and Welfare Committee.
- EXEMPTIONS FOR DISASTER RESPONSE BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES (HB 84 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb84.html>]) Provides exemptions for disaster response employees and disaster response entities from income tax beginning on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2025. Passed House, assigned to Senate Appropriation and Revenue Committee.
- TAXATION OF TOBACCO VAPOR PRODUCTS (HB 85 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb85.html>]) Applies the vapor products tax (passed last year) to an open vaping system when the actual price includes both the components and the liquid solution; also applies the tax to the liquid solution when it is sold separately. Introduced to Appropriations and Revenue.
- CAP ON COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION INSULIN (HB 95 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb95.html>]) cap the cost-sharing requirements for prescription insulin at \$30 per 30 day supply; amend statutes to require the Kentucky Employee Health Plan to comply. Passed House.
- PROHIBITING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS (HB 101 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb101.html>]) prohibit a public or private postsecondary educational institution from requiring a student to receive any vaccination for disease unless the student is participating in an educational program that involves the delivery of health care services. Introduced in House.
- ADDICTION TREATMENT (HB 102 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb102.html>] /SB 51 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb51.html>]) prohibit insurers from requiring or using certain utilization reviews for certain prescription drugs used to treat alcohol or opioid use disorder; require insurers to report the number and type of providers prescribing medication for addiction treatment. SB 51 Passed Senate, assigned to House Health and Family Services Committee.
- MEDICINAL CANNABIS (HB 136 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb136.html>] / SB 92 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb92.html>]) creates a medicinal cannabis program under the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and requires the ABC to implement and regulate the medicinal cannabis program; also establishes process for attaining a medicinal cannabis card and establishes restrictions on possession and use of medicinal cannabis by cardholders. Introduced in House.
- TELEHEALTH (HB 140 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb140.html>]) Establishes minimum standards for telehealth under the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); reestablishes requirement of CHFS and MCO's to study the impact of telehealth on the state's health care delivery system; prohibits certain practices in telehealth. Passed House, assigned to Senate Health and Welfare Committee.
- REGULATION OF TOBACCO AND VAPOR PRODUCTS (HB 147 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb147.html>] / SB 81 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb81.html>]) Establishes minimum standards for tobacco and vapor products under the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); reestablishes requirement of CHFS and MCO's to study the impact of tobacco and vapor products on the state's health care delivery system; prohibits certain practices in tobacco and vapor products. Passed House, assigned to Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb81.html>) Permits city or county governments to impose restrictions or requirements on the use, display, sale, and distribution of tobacco products or vapor products that are stricter than those imposed under state law. Introduced in both chambers.

- PHARMACY BENEFITS IN THE MEDICAID PROGRAM (HB 177 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb177.html>]) Requires the Department for Medicaid Services to establish and implement a preferred drug list, reimbursement methodologies, and dispensing fees for Medicaid managed care organizations and the state pharmacy benefit manager within 30 days after the effective date of this Act. Passed by House Health and Family Services Committee.

- PHARMACY BENEFITS IN THE MEDICAID PROGRAM (HB 222 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb222.html>]) Requires the Department for Medicaid Services to contract with an independent entity to monitor all Medicaid pharmacy benefit claims; establish eligibility requirements for an entity seeking to contract with the department to monitor pharmacy benefit claims; establish requirements for analyzing and monitoring claims. Passed House, received in Senate.

- VACCINATIONS: (SB 8 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb8.html>]) Provides exemptions from mandatory vaccines based on conscientiously held beliefs. Assigned to House Health and Family Services Committee.

- OUT OF NETWORK BILLING (SB 19 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb19.html>]) Requires the commissioner of insurance to establish a database of billed health care service charges; require an insurer to reimburse for unanticipated out-of-network care; prohibit balance billing from a provider who has been reimbursed as required; provide for an independent dispute resolution program to review reimbursements provided for unanticipated out-of-network care. Assigned to Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

- PATIENT PROTECTION (SB 20 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb20.html>]) Takes steps to stop deceptive lawsuit advertising that fails to warn patients it is dangerous to stop taking prescribed medication before consulting with a physician. Assigned to Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee.

- MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT (SB 21 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb21.html>]) Permits voluntary transport to a hospital or psychiatric facility with authorization of the originating and receiving hospital or facility and a patient's signed written agreement to be voluntarily transported and to not be physically removed during transport. Assigned to House Health and Family Services Committee.

- VACCINATION REQUIREMENT (SB 37 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb37.html>] / SB 98 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb98.html>]) Prohibits an employer from requiring vaccination of an employee. Both assigned to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

- SURGICAL SMOKE (SB 38 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb38.html>]) Directs the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to promulgate administrative regulations requiring the use of a smoke evacuation system during any surgical procedure that is likely to produce surgical smoke. Assigned to House Health and Family Services Committee.

- INSURANCE PREMIUMS (SB 44 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb44.html>]) Requires health benefit plans to accept, and count towards the insured's contributions, premium and cost-sharing payments made on behalf of an insured from state or federal government programs, Indian or tribal organizations, and certain tax-exempt organizations. Awaits passage on Senate floor.

- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (SB 45 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb45.html>]) Redefines "cost-sharing" and define "generic alternative," "health plan," "insured," and "person"; prohibit an insurer or pharmacy benefit manager from excluding any cost-sharing amount paid by or on behalf of an

insured when calculating the insured's contribution to any applicable cost-sharing requirement. Awaits passage on Senate floor.

- COPAYMENTS BY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS (SB 55 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb55.html>]) Prohibits the cabinet or a managed care organization contracted to provide services from instituting copayments, cost-sharing, or similar charges to be paid by any medical assistance recipients, their spouses, or parents, for any assistance provided pursuant KRS Chapter 205, federal law, or any federal Medicaid waiver. Passed Senate, received in House.
- MEDICAID MANAGED CARE CONTRACTS (SB 56 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb56.html>]) Limits the number of state-managed care organization (MCO) contracts to operate the Medicaid program to three. Passed Senate, received in House.
- DIRECT CARE STAFF (SB 61 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb61.html>]) Defines "direct-care staff member," "Facilities or programs," and "recipient;" requires direct-care staff who provide care for a client with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia within the client's home to receive initial and ongoing training that is approved by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Assigned to House Health and Family Services Committee.
- PNEUMOCONIOSIS FUND (SB 141 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb141.html>]) Provides guidelines for distribution of funds remaining in the Kentucky coal workers' pneumoconiosis fund. Passed Senate, received in House.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- UTILITY RATES (HB 127 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb127.html>]) Requires the Public Service Commission to consider affordability when setting rates.
- MINING PERMITS (HB 137 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb137.html>]) Requires performance bonding for mine permits.
- UTILITY SERVICE (HB 207 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb207.html>]) Prohibits a local government entity from taking action that has the purpose or effect of impairing a consumer's ability to use a utility service. Passed House, received in Senate.
- UNDERGROUND UTILITIES (HB 303 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb303.html>]) Increases public safety by protecting underground utility facilities. Passed House.
- MIXING ZONES (HB 386 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb386.html>]) requires that mixing zones for bioaccumulative chemicals of concern established on or before September 8, 2004, remain in effect until explicitly extinguished by the Energy and Environment Cabinet. Passed House, assigned to Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee.
- UTILITY ACQUISITION (HB 465 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb465.html>]) Bolsters existing precedent to provide a local option for addressing water and wastewater challenges through partnership with the private sector. Assigned to House Natural Resources and Energy Committee.
- ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION (HB 489 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb489.html>]) Expands the voluntary environmental remediation tax credit. Introduced in House.
- STREAM AND WETLAND MITIGATION (HB 535 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb535.html>] /SB 261 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb261.html>]) Directs the state to initiate a new procurement system to satisfy its significant and growing mitigation liabilities using the "Full-Delivery" model. HB 535 Passed House Committee/ SB 261 Assigned to Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

- PNEUMOCONIOSIS FUND (SB 141 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb141.html>])

Provides guidelines for distribution of funds remaining in the Kentucky coal workers' pneumoconiosis fund. Passed Senate, received in House.

- UNDERGROUND UTILITY (SB 172 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb172.html>]) Includes exempted activities in the process of ceasing operations when damage occurs to an underground facility and notification of appropriate authorities. Awaits passage on Senate floor.

- SOLAR PV SITING (SB 266 [<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/sb266.html>]) Creates new siting restrictions for solar PV. Introduced in Senate