KY Broadcasters Association
2020 General Assembly Wrap-up, provided by Top Shelf Lobby

HB 174 – Rep. Chris Freeland introduced HB 174 in response to the Marshall County High School shooting case on behalf of parents of some of the victims. The bill was intended to exempt court documents, photographs or videos depicting the death, killing, or abuse of a person. The bill was controversial because of its impact on the First Amendment, and on its attempt to regulate what is considered public record upon the conclusion of a trial.

HB 174 passed the House in late February. It died in the Senate when the General Assembly abbreviated the legislative session in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

HB 553 – Sponsored by Rep. Mark Hart, HB 553 would have allowed for a tax refund for sales and use tax paid for tangible property used for communications service, internet access, or multi-channel video programming services. The bill gained lots of attention amongst broadband providers and others in the communications industry, but ultimately did not get a hearing in the House.

SB 178 – Senator Ralph Alvarado sponsored SB 178, sought to regulate advertisements, namely television ads, that he defined as 'deceptive lawsuit advertisements.' This would apply to ads that used phrases like 'Public Service Announcement,'' health alert,' or 'medical alert.' It also sought to include new disclaimers in ads for lawsuits against certain medical procedures or prescription drugs.

SB 178 passed the Senate in mid-March, but died in the House before getting a hearing in the Judiciary Committee.

SB 245 – SB 245 was sponsored by Sen. Whitney Westerfield, and was introduced in early March. Sen. Westerfield sought to broadly define the term 'right of publicity' to include the likeness, voice, gestures, mannerisms, etc. of a 'sports personality,' and then prohibit the use of that right of publicity without clear written consent. SB 245 was assigned to Sen. Westerfield's Judiciary Committee, but never got a hearing in the 2020 session.