

Commerce Lexington Inc. Bill Tracker as of 4/7/2017

2017 Regular Session – Bills to Become Law

For more information, visit <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/17RS/record.htm>

Jobs/Economy

- **Right-to-Work (HB 1)**: Prohibits requiring a worker to join a union, or pay union dues, as a condition of employment. Passage of this law is an important economic development tool. Many CEO's consider RTW an important determinant when considering where to locate their business. Studies have shown that RTW states are adding jobs at double the rate of non-RTW states. Kentucky joins many of our competitor states in becoming the 27th RTW state in the nation.
- **Paycheck Protection (SB 6)**: Viewed as a companion bill to HB 1, SB 6 prevents a worker from being enrolled in a labor union or having money withheld from their paycheck unless the worker provides written permission.
- **Repeal of Prevailing Wage (HB 3)**: Repeals state law requiring employers to pay prevailing wage for public projects. This allows state and local governments and public schools to build projects at the same cost as those in the private sector, ultimately saving governments and taxpayers millions of dollars.
- **Alcohol Modernization (HB 100)**: Supported by the Kentucky Distillers Association, the bill modernizes laws to level the playing field for distillers, strengthen the production standards for Kentucky whiskey and allow the sale of vintage bottles.
- **Telecommunications Modernization (SB 10)**: Applies previous modernizations to Kentucky's out of date telecommunications laws statewide to encourage more investment in new technologies.
- **Real ID Licensing (HB 410)**: Allows voluntary travel-friendly ID for domestic air travel to comply with federal Homeland Security law. Acceptable forms of ID include: passports, a volunteer travel ID, or supplemental forms of ID to accompany a driver's license that doesn't reflect travel ID.
- **Judgement Interest Rate (HB 223)**: Lowers the interest rate compounded on a judgement from 12% to 6%.
- **Workers' Compensation Nominating Commission Reorganization (HB 299)**: Makes changes to the commission that nominates administrative law judges for appointment by the Governor.
- **Dog Bites/Property Owner Protections (HB 112)**: Protects property owners from lawsuits related to dog bites.
- **Criminal Justice Reform (SB 120)**: Makes several changes to criminal justice system including sentencing requirements and removes the prohibition on convicted felons for applying for a professional license.
- **Public Private Partnerships (SB 187/HB 390)** makes technical revisions to the P3 law that was passed in 2016. The SB 187 bill language was added to HB 390.
- **Franchises (SB 151)**: Protect the franchisor-franchisee relationship, codifies the joint employer standard and protects businesses from certain joint employment claims.
- **Public Benefit Corp (HB 35)**: Allows for businesses to incorporate as a public benefit corporation (b-corp).
- **Small Farm Wineries (HB 183)**: Modified alcohol laws to help increase competitiveness for small farm wineries.
- **Administrative Reg Review (HB 50)**: Requires a review process for administrative regulations.
- **Economic Development Cabinet: HB 257**: Allows the Economic Development Board to set the salaries of the secretary and up to two additional staff members
- **TIF Incentives (HB 388)**: Provides tax incremental financing for a mixed-use economic development project.
- **Planning and zoning (HB 72)**: Requires the filing of a bond when appealing a circuit court decision related to planning and zoning.
- **Limited Liability Corps (SB 235)**: Clarifies statutes related to LLC based on uniform amendments made nationwide.
- **Transportation (HB 174/HB184)**: Changes in weight limits for trucks hauling agricultural and metal products
- **Aviation Tax Credit (HB 368)**: Allows companies like Amazon that contract with air carriers to receive a tax credit for fuel.

Tax and Pension Reforms

- **Pension Transparency (SB 2)**: Requires more transparency and accountability for the state pension systems, including fees and transactions with third-party services.

- **Taxpayer Rights** ([HB 245](#)): Allow the Commissioner to respond to the public's and taxpayer questions and publish responses.
- **Pension Spiking** ([SB 104](#)): Provides some relief for our growing pension problem by ending spiking of pension benefits.
- **Pension Systems** ([HB 351](#)): Clarifies conditions and assumptions for determining the employer's cost to cease participation in the state pensions systems and cost to buy-out liabilities.

Education and Workforce

- **Workforce Investment Transparency** ([HB 189](#)): Brings more oversight and transparency to the state's area development districts by establishing new hiring and reporting procedures.
- **Education Reform Omnibus Bill** ([SB1](#)): Reforms various aspects of Kentucky's education system including the establishment of a review process of state standards and accountability systems. Several responsibilities are transferred from the Kentucky Department of Education to local school districts.
- **Charter Schools** ([HB 520](#)): Creates a process for establishing public charter schools statewide to include authorizers, accountability, standards, governance, certified teachers and equitable student funding. Local school boards would be the primary authorizers with the option for the Mayors in Louisville and Lexington to be authorizers. It includes with an appeals process to the Kentucky Board of Education.
- **Executive Branch Budget** ([HB 471](#)): Makes changes to the Executive Branch Budget including an amendment with the funding allocations for public charter schools.
- **Performance Based Funding** ([SB 153](#)): Ties the state funding investment in higher education to an institutions ability to meet key performance measures and outcomes such as graduation rates.
- **University Boards** ([SB 107](#)): Permits the Governor to add or remove public university board members.
- **School Calendar** ([SB 50](#)): Establishes calendar committees that make recommendations to local school boards. If a school board schedules the first student attendance day no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, the district receives flexibility in how they achieve their required instructional hours.
- **Alternative teaching certification for Veterans** ([SB 117](#)): Paves the way to allow Veterans with a bachelor degree (and who meet other additional criteria) to be issued a provisional teaching certificate.
- **Dual Credit Scholarship Program** ([HB 206](#)): Creates the Dual Credit Scholarship Program to help students enroll in a dual credit course for general education courses and career and technical education courses that leads to an industry-recognized credential. Allows for use of KEES money for courses.

Healthcare

- **Medical Review Panels** ([SB 4](#)): Establishes the framework for utilizing medical review panels to avoid unnecessary and costly litigation.
- **Tobacco Cessation Programs** ([SB 89](#)): Requires insurance coverage for tobacco cessation programs.
- **Nursing Home Advertising** ([SB 150](#)): Requires fair treatment of nursing homes by advertisers.
- **Drug Offenses** ([HB 333](#)): Puts in place a 3-day prescribing limit for pain pills. Makes it a felony to illegally sell or distribute fentanyl, carfentanil and related drugs.

Energy and Environment

- **Nuclear Energy** ([SB 11/](#) [HB 90](#)): Lifts the ban on nuclear power plant construction in Kentucky.
- **Coal Mine Permit** ([HB 234](#)): Amends the requirements for permitted areas relating to coal mining.
- **Coal Industry Workers Comp** ([HB 377](#)): reforms workers comp assessment on coal companies for black lung cases
- **Energy and Environment** ([SB 249](#)): Makes several changes to boards and commissions associated with the Energy and Environment Cabinet and requires full payment of water permit application fees at time of filing.
- **Radiation** ([SB 248](#)): Clarifies the definition of Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Material and Technologically Enhanced Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Material.