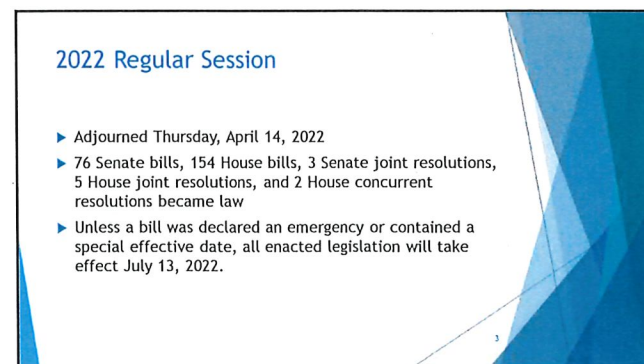


1



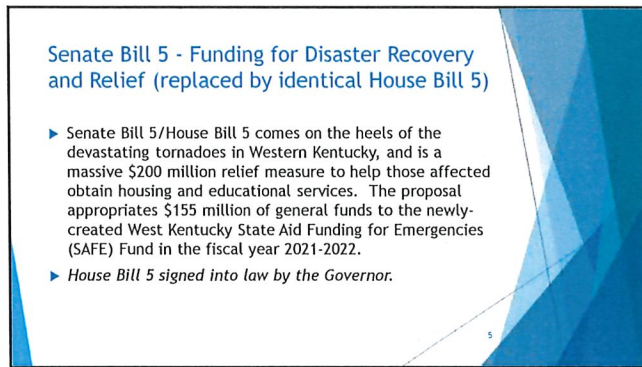
2



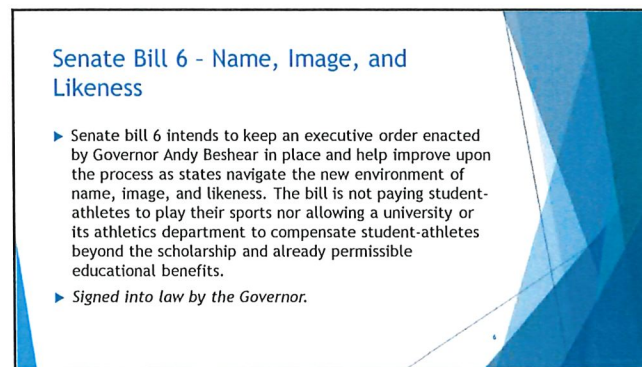
3



4



5



6

Senate Bill 8 - Child Welfare

- ▶ Senate Bill 8 expands the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board and its mission to include all forms of child abuse and neglect. It also updates the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and expands the ability for family preservation services. Additionally, Senate Bill 8 provides resources for Kentucky Child Advocacy Centers.
- ▶ Signed into law by Governor.

7

Senate Bill 10 - Nursing

- ▶ Senate Bill 10 intends to improve the process for out-of-state- and foreign-trained nurses to practice in Kentucky without compromising standards of patient care. It would also improve student access to nursing programs and update the Kentucky Board of Nursing membership requirements to give nurses more of a voice.
- ▶ Signed into law by the Governor.

8

Senate Bill 11 - Long-term Care Facilities

- ▶ Senate Bill 11 aligns Kentucky's assisted living social model with that in many other states. It calls for making Assisted Living licensed long-term care and allows existing Personal Care Homes to convert to licensed Assisted Living.
- ▶ Signed into law by the Governor.

9

Senate Bill 23 - Theft of Mail (Porch Piracy Bill)

- ▶ Senate Bill 23 updates the felony theft of mail statute by including protection for packages delivered by common carriers or other delivery services.
- ▶ The current statute has not changed since it first passed in 1982. Unfortunately, numerous theft rings have taken advantage of this loophole in the law. Senate Bill 23 aims to update the statute and put common carriers under the same umbrella of protection granted to the USPS.
- ▶ *Signed into law by Governor.*

10

Senate Bill 64 - Peer Counseling for Public Safety Employees

- ▶ Senate Bill 64 establishes a peer support counseling program to provide confidential emotional and moral support to public safety employees who have been in or exposed to an emotionally traumatic experience during their course of employment.
- ▶ *Signed into law by Governor.*

11

Senate Bill 66 - Coroners (Nathan's Law)

- ▶ Senate Bill 66, also known as Nathan's law, requires coroners and deputy coroners to attend four hours of grief training to learn about the process and procedures for death notifications.
- ▶ *Signed into law by Governor.*

12

Senate Bill 94 - Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program

- ▶ Senate Bill 94 expands eligibility and access to funds from the Work Ready Scholarship program to students with intellectual disabilities to attend higher education institutions.
- ▶ *Signed into law by the Governor.*

13

Senate Bill 135

- ▶ Senate Bill 135 establishes deadlines for county clerks to maintain portals for the electronic filing and searching of recorded instruments.
- ▶ *Signed into law by Governor.*

14

Partisan/Controversial Bills

15

Senate Bill 1 - Education

- ▶ Senate Bill 1 allows for local superintendents - rather than school councils - to determine the educational curriculum for local school districts. SB 1 would also alter the principal hiring process by requiring the principal to be selected by the superintendent after consultation with the school council.
- ▶ Senate Bill 138, CRT, was added into this bill.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

16

Senate Bill 138 - Critical Race Theory

- ▶ Senate Bill 138 is part of a larger national movement to ban Critical Race Theory (CRT) from being taught in schools. SB 138 requires schools to provide instruction in social studies that aligns with a list of concepts such as "all individuals are created equal" and "Americans are entitled to equal protection under the law," among several others. It also calls for topics on public policy or social affairs to be taught in an age-appropriate manner for students, and for educators to integrate two dozen core documents from American history into lessons.
- ▶ *Provisions added to Senate Bill 1.*

17

Senate Bill 3 - Congressional Redistricting

- ▶ Senate Bill 3 redraws the United States Congressional Districts in Kentucky following the data of the 2020 census.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

18

Senate Bill 65 - Labor Cabinet Deficient Administrative Regulations

- ▶ Senate Bill 65 nullifies a Labor Cabinet regulation that would employ a medical director to adjudge Workers' Compensation claims. Following an initial review, Senate Bill 65 implements a subsequent study conducted by an impartial physician employed by the Department of Workers' Claims rather than the insurance carrier's reviewing physician.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

19

Senate Bill 83 - Transgender Women's Athletics

- ▶ Senate Bill 83 bans transgender girls in middle and high school from participating in women's athletics. Further, it orders the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) to create regulations requiring members of women's teams to correspond with the gender on their birth certificates.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

20

Senate Bill 216 - Elections

- ▶ Senate Bill 216 establishes new and updates existing voting procedures in the state. The bill would prohibit credit cards or other non-issued government photo identification to be used as identification when voting.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

21

House Bill 4 - Unemployment Insurance

- ▶ House Bill 4 reduces UI benefits depending on what the unemployment rate is at the time. Currently, anyone who receives UI benefits can remain on the rolls for up to 26 weeks. Under House Bill 4, eligibility for UI benefits is reduced down to 12 to 24 weeks based on the unemployment rate. It also increases work search requirements, scales benefits back after six weeks, reduces unemployment taxes on businesses, and extends benefits to people participating in job training programs.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

22

Budget

23

Expanding Broadband

- ▶ The budget directs an additional \$100 million from the federal infrastructure bill and more than \$2.3 million in state funds over two years to support the expansion of high-speed internet across the commonwealth and establish the Office for Broadband. Kentucky's Broadband Deployment Fund launched during the 2021 session included \$300 million in state funds to address the connectivity needs of unserved and underserved communities. Combined with at least 50% of required matching federal investments, a minimum of \$600 million will support broadband expansion in Kentucky, creating more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs.

24

Transportation Projects

- ▶ \$250 million will be invested in major infrastructure projects across the commonwealth. One transportation upgrade included in the budget is a joint project with Indiana to continue renewing the Sherman Minton Bridge. Another notable project is the revamp of the Brent Spence Bridge in northern Kentucky.
- ▶ Funding was further added to complete the Mountain Parkway, as well as complete the I-69 bridge and corridor in Western Kentucky.

25

Site Identification and Development Program

- ▶ \$50 million each year will go to developing mega sites in addition to \$100 million in Fiscal Year 2023 for counties to develop.

26

Supporting Higher Education

- ▶ This part of the budget provides increased funding for post-secondary education institutions by \$80 million each year, on top of an additional \$17 million provided in the previous budget to restore some of the \$250 million in cuts Kentucky institutions have suffered since 2008.
- ▶ Additionally, \$40 million will be matched dollar-for-dollar with private donations for the Bucks for Brains program. The fund helps students prepare for employment and nurtures an entrepreneurial climate. There was also a \$683.5 million investment in the asset preservation fund for the first time.

27

Improving Salaries for State Employees

- ▶ An 8% overall pay raise for state employees will go into effect on July 1, 2022. The raise is the first for state workers since 2015. It also included funding to hire more than 200 social workers.
- ▶ State workers may also receive in an increase up to 12% in 2023-2024 depending upon the results of a study conducted by the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet.

28

Protecting Children, Seniors, and Families

- ▶ Increased funding will be provided to domestic violence centers, rape crisis centers, and child advocacy centers, as well as the full funding for senior meals and a rate increase for residential and therapeutic foster care providers. Additionally, there is a \$2 per child, per-day increase in the reimbursement rate for the child care assistance program.

29

Veterans

- ▶ The budget also includes increases in funding to expand veteran services, including boosting staffing at four Kentucky veteran cemeteries. Additionally, the funding of more than \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2023-24 will be used to phase in operations at the new veterans center in Bowling Green.

30

Notable Finalized Bills (Vetoed and Overridden)

31

House Bill 3 - Abortion

- ▶ House Bill 3 is an omnibus abortion bill, requires minors to have parental consent before undergoing an abortion procedure. It would also ban the online sale of abortion medication and limit abortion to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy.
- ▶ In the Governor's veto, he noted the absence of any exceptions for cases of rape and incest. The Senate overturned the veto by a vote of 31-6.
- ▶ *Delivered to the Secretary of State.*

32

House Bill 7 - Welfare and Family Services

- ▶ House Bill 7 creates new rules around the presumptive eligibility for government benefit recipients and seeks more oversight from the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It also establishes penalties for fraudulent sales of benefit cards.
- ▶ House Bill 7 requires the state to determine eligibility for and act on the Medicaid coverage of at least the 175,000 Kentuckians, including many children and seniors, within 60 days, rather than over the full 12-months. As a result, tens of thousands of eligible Kentuckians are likely to lose health insurance, and therefore their ability to fill prescriptions, see a doctor, or have other forms of health care covered.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

33

House Bill 8 - Revenue

- ▶ House Bill 8 is a tax reform measure that reduces the state personal income tax rate to four percent. It also places new taxes on electric vehicles and nonessential services such as elective cosmetic surgery, body modifications, photography, research polling, bodyguard services, and marketing.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

34

House Bill 9 - Education

- ▶ House Bill 9 dovetails on legislation passed in 2017 that paved the way for charter schools in Kentucky. HB 9 codifies the funding mechanism for charter schools, authorizes two pilot charter school projects in northern Kentucky and the West End of Louisville, and makes changes to the appeal process if a charter school application is denied by a local school board.
- ▶ HB 9 channels funds away from public schools and into private hands. HB 9, as written, allows private entities to buy textbooks, desks, and buildings, all with public funds.
- ▶ *Delivered to Secretary of State.*

35

Senator Reginald L. Thomas

Senate Democratic Caucus Chair
 702 Capitol Ave., Ste. 254
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 office: 502-564-3470
reginald.Thomas@lrc.ky.gov

36
