

Legislative Report

January 12, 2026
Prepared by: Jennifer
Breiwa Smith

Bill Information

HB35 SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY (BANTA, KIM)

AN ACT relating to scholarship eligibility for proprietary schools.

Amend KRS 164.786 to include a proprietary school in the definition of "participating institution" for the purpose of the Dual Credit Scholarship Program; amend KRS 164.787 to include a proprietary school in the definition of "eligible institution" for the purpose of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program.

RECENT STATUS

1/7/2026 - Introduced



HB42 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (LEHMAN, MATTHEW)

AN ACT relating to intercollegiate athletics in the Commonwealth.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to declare findings; set mandated annual varsity athletic game requirements for the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University in various sports; ensure existing contracts of public postsecondary institutions are not violated.

RECENT STATUS

1/7/2026 - Introduced



HB90 EDUCATIONAL LOBBYING (GROSSL, VANESSA)

AN ACT relating to educational lobbying.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 160 to define "lobbying" and "public school or school district"; prohibit a public school or school district from expending any moneys to compensate an external individual or entity to lobby; permit employees of public schools or school districts to engage in lobbying services; permit schools to compensate external individuals or entities to represent their interest before the executive or legislative branch of the federal government; create a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to prohibit a public postsecondary education institution from expending moneys to compensate an external individual or entity to engage in lobbying services; permit employees of public postsecondary education institutions to engage in lobbying services; permit public postsecondary education institutions to compensate external individuals or entities to represent their interest before the executive or legislative branch of the federal government.

RECENT STATUS

1/7/2026 - Introduced



HB94 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (GROSSL, VANESSA)

AN ACT relating to postsecondary education.

Amend KRS 164.2951 to require the Council on Postsecondary Education to develop, implement, and maintain statewide transfer pathways available between the public postsecondary education institutions in selected baccalaureate programs; require the council to publish on its website a list of the available transfer pathways; require participating postsecondary education institutions to accept transfer credit, earned or accepted at the prior institution within pathways as general education or program-specific general education credit before applying credit as elective; require the council to provide written notification to public postsecondary education institutions and coordinate credit transfer discussions upon receiving notification of an institution seeking to make changes to curricula impacting lower-division courses.

 **RECENT STATUS**

1/7/2026 - Introduced



HB96 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WORKING GROUP *(TIPTON, JAMES)*

AN ACT relating to the postsecondary education working group and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 164.092 to change the membership of the postsecondary education working group of the Council on Postsecondary Education; require the working group to convene on a calendar year basis rather than a fiscal year basis; EMERGENCY.

 **RECENT STATUS**

1/7/2026 - Introduced



HB130 SCHOLARSHIPS *(AULL, CHAD)*

AN ACT relating to scholarships.

Amend KRS 164.7879 to require the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to annually adjust the Kentucky education excellence scholarship (KEES) based on the Consumer Price Index; permit the authority to annually adjust KEES supplemental awards based on the Consumer Price Index; require that KEES award adjustments be paid at the most recent calculation for the academic term in which a student utilizes their award; prohibit decrease in KEES awards; amend various statutes to conform.

 **RECENT STATUS**

1/7/2026 - Introduced



HB240 EDUCATION RESIDENCY *(GORDON, DEANNA)*

AN ACT relating to residency as defined by the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Amend KRS 164.020 to require the Council on Postsecondary Education to consider individuals born in Kentucky as Kentucky residents when determining residency for tuition and admission purposes in the state postsecondary education system; provide that the Act may be cited as the Welcome Back to My Old Kentucky Home Initiative.

 **RECENT STATUS**

1/8/2026 - Introduced



HB253 READING INSTRUCTION *(TIPTON, JAMES)*

AN ACT relating to reading and language arts instruction.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 158 to define terms; require the Kentucky Department of Education to establish an approved list

of reading curriculum and interventions that do not use a three-cueing system; prohibit school districts from using any curriculum or program that employs a three-cueing system; prohibit the use of a three-cueing system in teacher professional development; require the Educational Professional Standards Board to promulgate administrative regulations establishing curriculum for each approved educator preparation program; amend KRS 158.307 to require rather than allow local boards of education to develop a policy on dyslexia; require rather than allow the policy to include listed items; amend KRS 164.304 to require postsecondary institutions offering teacher preparation programs to include instruction on dyslexia by the 2027-2028 school year, rather than the instruction being contingent on funding availability; amend KRS 164.306 to specify that educator preparation programs shall use evidence-based reading instruction and intervention programs and shall not provide instruction on a three-cueing system; amend KRS 161.028 to require the board to include in the standards set for teacher preparation programs that the programs shall use evidence-based reading instruction and intervention programs and shall not provide instruction on a three-cueing system.

RECENT STATUS

1/8/2026 - Introduced



HB275 KEES SCHOLARSHIPS (RABOURN, FELICIA)

AN ACT relating to KEES scholarships for students attending noncertified schools.

Amend KRS 164.7874 to define "eligible noncertified school graduate"; amend definitions of "KEES award," "KEES award maximum," and "KEES base amount" for an eligible noncertified school graduate; amend KRS 164.7879 to establish an equivalent grade point average for eligible noncertified school graduates based on the graduate's ACT score; amend KRS 164.7881 and 164.7884 to conform.

RECENT STATUS

1/8/2026 - Introduced



HB298 KEES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF NON-CERTIFIED SCHOOLS (BAKER, SHANE)

AN ACT relating to KEES scholarships for students attending noncertified schools.

Amend KRS 164.7874, relating to KEES awards, to define terms; amend KRS 164.7879 to establish the use of a specified equivalent grade point average for eligible graduates of certain private, parochial, or church schools based on the Advanced Placement exam score, dual credit courses grade point average, or a combination of both; amend KRS 164.7881 and 164.7884 to conform.

RECENT STATUS

1/9/2026 - Introduced



SB14 PAID MATERNITY LEAVE (DENEEN, MATTHEW)

AN ACT relating to paid maternity leave for state employees.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 61 to define "full-time position" and "qualifying employee"; permit a qualifying employee paid leave of absence of up to 30 days for the birth of a child; require leave of more than 1 child during a singular pregnancy to be taken concurrently; require the employee to use the leave within one year of the child's birth; require the employee to use the leave as a continuous 30-day block or as a 20-day block with the remainder to be used intermittently as full days; require the employee to request advance approval before using the leave; require the employee to use the paid leave before other types of accrued leave; require compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act; specify that any other type of leave not specified does not qualify for paid maternity leave; prohibit an employee from converting the unused balance of paid maternity leave to other types of paid leave, benefits, or compensation; require any administrative regulation in conflict with this Act to be amended, withdrawn, or repealed within 90 days of the effective date of the Act.

RECENT STATUS

1/6/2026 - Introduced

SB22 DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PRGRAM (HIGDON, JIMMY)

AN ACT relating to the dual credit scholarship program.

Amend KRS 164.786 to define "eligible high school apprentice" and "eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program"; include eligible registered teacher apprenticeship programs in the dual credit scholarship program; establish student and school district eligibility and participation requirements in the eligible registered teacher apprenticeship scholarship program.

RECENT STATUS

1/6/2026 - Introduced

SB61 KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS (ARMSTRONG, CASSIE CHAMBERS)

AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 164.7879 to increase the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship base amount for each eligible grade point average; increase the supplemental award amounts; require a supplemental award for eligible Cambridge Advanced International scores; amend KRS 164.7882 to increase the award amount for an eligible student enrolled in a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program; amend KRS 164.7874, 164.7881, 164.7884, and 164.7885 to conform; EFFECTIVE July 1, 2026.

RECENT STATUS

1/9/2026 - Introduced

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.