

Week in Review

February 18, 2022

The House and Senate adjourned Friday, February 18th ending the 7th week of the 2022 Regular Session General Assembly. Wednesday this week marked the 30th legislative day, meaning that by Friday, the session is just over halfway complete.

Senate Bill 138, a scaled back version of legislation that's been floating around since the summer, got a hearing and a vote in Senate Education this week. Sen. Max Wise carried the bill, and explained the changes in the Committee hearing on Thursday. The bill seeks to give greater direction from Frankfort on certain historical issues, including racism, slavery etc. The new version of the bill uses policy language that most local school districts already have in place. The bill is waiting for action on the Senate floor.

Gov. Andy Beshear issued an executive Order this week freezing the taxable value of motor vehicles at 2020 levels, to offer relief to Kentuckians who have seen the value of their vehicles (and thus their tax burden) increase because of the ongoing rise in inflation. Alongside this effort, Beshear suggests that the General Assembly at least temporarily cut the state sales tax down to 5%.

The House Education Committee this week passed a bill meant to prohibit transgender girls from participating in the sports that they choose. House Bill 23, sponsored by Rep. Dotson from Madison County, attracted strong responses from the community, both for and against, prompting public rallies from both sides of the issue. The bill was amended and limited so that it would interfere less with the operation of the KY High School Athletics Association, the regulatory body that oversees most athletics in Kentucky.

Legislators will continue to file new bills until the deadlines for new bills in the House (Feb. 28) and Senate (March 2). Friday was the 32nd Legislative Day of the session. Top Shelf will continue to keep you up to date on all the news and actions coming out of Frankfort.

[2022 Regular Session Calendar](#)

Legislation of Interest

HB 212 – House Bill 212, sponsored by Rep. Michael Meredith, was the only bill delivered to the Governor this week. It requires fiscal courts to initiate reapportionment proceedings in 2023, instead of this year. It is waiting on the Governor’s desk for action.

HB 499 – HB 499, primarily sponsored by Rep. Samara Heavrin, would create a new program to support employers who provide child care or child care assistance to their employees. The bill is supported by the majority of advocacy groups trying to expand child care coverage and to get Kentuckians back into the workforce.

HB 174 – House Bill 174, sponsored by Minority Party member McKenzie Cantrell, would extend Medicaid eligibility for new mothers who qualify for up to 12 months after they give birth. The bill passed the House Friday, February 28th.

SB 140 – Senate Bill 140, sponsored by Sen. Max wise, establishes new guidelines and requirements for the use of step therapy. The new protocols created by Sb 140 would be applied to multiple health care insurance or payor programs in Kentucky. The bill is waiting for Committee assignment in the House,