

Disability Laws

HB 132, N. Wilson, AN ACT relating to home and hospital instruction.

- Helps students with disabilities keep up with school even if they're forced to miss for health reasons

HB 242, S. Heavrin, AN ACT relating to child dependency, neglect, and abuse reports.

- Hopes to improve state DNA reports and long-term improve abuse and neglect laws by allowing researchers to use confidential data

SB 26, B. Storm, AN ACT relating to parental rights.

- Protects the custody rights of parents with disabilities. Ensures disability status cant be sole basis for terminating parental rights, requires supports/services be offered. Amendment strengthened the bill to apply to most custody or termination decisions made through the CHFS. Amendment broadened the bill.

Senate Bill 103, D. Carroll, AN ACT relating to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

- Prevents OVR from making decisions that unilaterally change who can get paid for providing employment services, and gives deference to in-state providers and CRPs.

Senate Bill 178, M. Nemes, AN ACT relating to the Education and Labor Cabinet reorganization.

- Updates KRS to reflect OVR and Disability Determination Services Restructure

Disability Bills That Passed Both Chambers

HB 136, J. Bauman, AN ACT relating to corrections data reporting.

- Requires better data collection by the court system, this could bleed over into better collection of guardianship data

HB 695, A. Bowling, AN ACT relating to the Medicaid program and declaring an emergency.

- Creates the Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board and empowers it to do a series of 4-6 reports every 5 years.
- Adds reporting requirements to patients and providers to prevent fraud or ineligible participants
- Several other changes which I'll discuss Monday

Senate Bill 4, A. Mays Bledsoe, AN ACT relating to protection of information and declaring an emergency.

- Creates a framework for harnessing AI and protecting against its harms

Senate Bill 25, R. Mills, AN ACT relating to land use

- Last second amendments changed the purpose of the bill to include:
- Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board
- Expansion of Auditor's authority to work with iTwist and the CHFS ombudsman
- Requires each department and program cabinet in KRS 12.020 to submit a report to the LRC on suggestions to improve efficiency
- Many other non disability related changes

SB 27, B. Storm, AN ACT relating to Parkinson's disease.

- Creates programs to research Parkinsons and develop healthcare to treat and prevent the disease

SB 43, D. Douglas, AN ACT relating to operator's licenses.

- Protects a disabled drivers rights in medical review boards...By requiring more doctors on the board relevant to the specific case, requiring a board consider a drivers doctors medical opinion, limiting the ability of community members to report someone
- Last minute amendment added HB 161 to allow 3rd parties to issue drivers licenses

House Bill 684, J. Decker, AN ACT relating to elections.

- Includes provisions of HB 405 to make it easier for caretakers of a child or people with a disability to vote early/absentee

Senate Bill 84, S. Rawlings, AN ACT relating to judicial review of state agency action.

- Takes the Supreme Court decision in Loper Bright and puts it into state law to limit administrative regulations and decisions.

Disability Bills That Passed Both Chambers as Amendments

HB 61, S. Bratcher, AN ACT relating to Medicaid-covered nonemergency medical transportation.

- Parts of this bill passed as amendment to Senate Bill 27

House Bill 9 (Now on SB25), A. Bowling, AN ACT relating to boards of the Kentucky General Assembly and declaring an emergency.

- Identical versions of this bill passed as part of Senate Bill 25 and as part of House Bill 695 House Bill 785 (Parts on HB 695), K. Moser, AN ACT relating to the Medicaid program.

- Parts of this bill passed (in similar form) as part of the enhanced requirements on MCOs in House Bill 695

Senate Bill 257 (NOW IN SB25), L. Tichenor, AN ACT relating to the Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts.

- Language similar to this bill passed in the Senate Bill 25 House Bill 405 (NOW ON HB 684), A. Moore, AN ACT relating to voters qualified for excused in-person absentee voting.

- This passed as part of the elections bill HB 684

Senate Bill 85, S. Meredith, AN ACT relating to offices within the Auditor of Public Accounts and declaring an emergency.

- This passed in Senate Bill25, Sections 19-31

Disability Bills That Could Still Pass After the Veto Period

HB 39, A. Neighbors, AN ACT relating to interpreters.

- Protects and expands the workforce of interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearings. Creates new pathways to licensure

HB 79, K. Moser, AN ACT relating to licensed occupations.

- Helps the state understand how many medical providers we have by requiring that state boards collect workforce participation data. This will help. Might be a hostage of Meredith/Moser

House Bill 423, K. Moser, AN ACT relating to prior authorization.

- This bill would make it easier for your doctors to get approval for your medical care by allowing them to skip the usual permission process with insurance companies if they have a good track record, starting in 2026 and 2027. Might be a hostage of Meredith/Moser

HCR 67, J. Nemes, A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the establishment of the Kentucky Restoration of Voting Rights Task Force.

- Creates a interim task force to study how to protect or restore the right to vote

SB 58, R. Webb, AN ACT relating to designating a special needs trust to receive state-administered retirement benefits.

- Allows state employees to give their pension to a special needs trust in their will

Senate Bill 93, K. Berg, AN ACT relating to coverage for hearing loss.

- Requires various insurances to cover hearing aids, cochlear implants, and various other hearing loss devices. Amendment limits coverage to children

SCR 89, J. Higdon, A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the establishment of the Kentucky Restoration of Voting Rights Task Force.

- Creates a interim task force to study how to protect or restore the right to vote

Senate Bill 111 , D. Carroll, AN ACT relating to juvenile justice.

- Could still pass as part of House Bill 805
- Establishes healthcare options for high acuity youth with severe behavioral health problems.

This bill can pass after the veto period