

2024 Kentucky General Assembly

NKY Chamber Legislative Outcomes



Advocacy

Pro-Business Legislative Wins



AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE HOUSE BILL 7

Establishes regulations for autonomous vehicle operations, benefiting employers facing workforce shortages and hazardous work conditions.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY HOUSE BILL 15

Establishes a data privacy framework prioritizing consumer need, offering manageable terms for businesses, and aligning Kentucky with neighboring states' data protection standards.

KY DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TRANSPARENCY HOUSE BILL 122

Requires the KY Department of Revenue to publish administrative writings and opinions. Provides KY Businesses and residents greater transparency.

VOLUNTARY PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE HOUSE BILL 179

Allows Kentucky employers to offer voluntary paid family leave as an insurance product, providing temporary wage replacement for workers caring for sick family members, bonding with a new child, or supporting injured military or first responder family members.

EMPLOYER LIABILITY STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HOUSE BILL 320

Changes the statute of limitations from five years to three years for employment-related claims, bringing Kentucky closer to the federal guidelines and those of neighboring, competing states. It may also save Kentucky businesses administrative costs associated with protecting against possible litigation.

CERTIFIED CHILDCARE COMMUNITIES HOUSE BILL 561

Establishes a Certified Child Care Community Designation Program encouraging local governments to increase child care and early childhood education services through voluntary zoning reforms and local programming. It aims to expand access to child care in our region and invites regional partners to improve local zoning requirements, spurring economic growth.

DISTRIBUTION OF CRAFT DISTILLED SPIRITS SENATE BILL 50

Permits small craft distillers to distribute up to 5,000 gallons of distilled spirits per year directly to a licensed retailer.

Pro-Business Legislative Wins

STUDENT TEACHER RECRUITMENT PILOT PROGRAM HOUSE BILL 377

Establishes a Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness and Stipend Pilot Program. Program may award up to \$5,000 to an eligible, qualified student teacher. Funding for the pilot program was included in **House Bill 6**.

MILITARY LICENSURE COMPACT HOUSE BILL 397

Ensures military orders documenting an assignment transfer to KY as valid proof of military service, ensuring occupational licensing compacts in KY for military service members, Reserves or National Guard members, veterans, and their spouses.

BEAUTY SERVICES SENATE BILL 14

Eases requirements for beauty service providers by expanding language options for certification tests, providing interpreters for oral exams, capping retest fees, and other measures. It aims to reduce barriers for immigrants entering the beauty industry and joining Kentucky's workforce.

BUILDING TRADE PROFESSIONS SENATE BILL 164

Allows licensed proprietary schools, public schools districts or state area technology centers to establish academic or training equivalencies for licensure. Requires the Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction to honor these agreements for professions like electricians, plumbers, and HVAC technicians.

TALENT ATTRACTION & RETENTION PROGRAM SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 176

Establishes a Workforce Attraction and Retention Taskforce to study how Kentucky can best attract and retain talent outside its borders, addressing the ongoing workforce shortages. Funding was included in **House Bill 263** to support a study of a future build-out of a statewide campaign and regional grant program.



Safeguarding Business Prosperity

Each legislative session, numerous bills are introduced that could negatively impact the business community in NKY.

The NKY Chamber is pleased to have played a part in monitoring and blocking several pieces of legislation that, if passed, would have detrimental impacts on business growth and prosperity, including:

BURDENSOME PRIVACY DATA MANDATE
SENATE BILL 15

RETRACTIONS OF PRO-BUSINESS MEASURES RELATED TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION, PREVAILING WAGE, and UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
HOUSE BILLS: 210, 508, 523, and SENATE BILL 185

LIMITING EMPLOYER RIGHTS, SAFETY & WORKPLACE STANDARDS
HOUSE BILLS: 128, 195, 196, 237, 288, 297, 417, 539, 797, and SENATE BILLS 42 and 66.

Missed Opportunities

LIMITED LIABILITY ENTITY TAX
HOUSE BILLS 55 AND 120
Proposes the repeal of the Limited Liability Entity Tax, creating an exemption for very small businesses.

SECOND CHANCE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
HOUSE BILL 124
Proposes a system for ex-offenders to petition a licensing board or public employer to determine eligibility before enrolling in required professional licensing training.

KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS (KEES)
SENATE BILL 7
Proposes allowing additional KEES scholarships for students attending non-certified schools.

CHILD CARE SERVICES EXPANSION
SENATE BILL 203
Proposes a comprehensive package of investments in affordable, accessible early childhood education and care supporting Kentucky's workforce.

Funding Wins



APPROPRIATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

HOUSE BILL 1

Developed one-time investments totaling \$2.7 billion. NKY received \$193 million for various projects:

- **LIFE LEARNING CENTER**
\$12 million to support an integrated pathway to treatment, million, and community reintegration in partnership with Odyssey, Inc.
- **NKY PORT AUTHORITY & KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**
\$125 million to plan, design, and build a Commonwealth Center for Biomedical Excellence. The site will also house NKU Salmon P Chase Law School and the University of Kentucky Medical School.
- **CINCINNATI/NORTHERN KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**
\$20 million for economic development projects
- **CHILDREN'S HOME OF NKY**
\$6 million for community-based service funds
- **CITY OF COVINGTON**
\$10 million for infrastructure at Covington Central Riverfront
- **SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 1**
\$5 million for consent decree
- **LIFE SCIENCE CENTER FOR EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES**
\$2.5 million
- **COVINGTON PARTNERS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION**
\$1 million
- **CITY OF FORT THOMAS**
\$5 million for Tower Park Community Complex
- **CITY OF TAYLOR MILL**
\$500,000 to study sewer expansion on Locust Pike
- **CAMPBELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT**
\$7.5 million for General James Taylor Park
- **KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**
\$5 million for Brownfield site readiness
- **DEVELOPMENT OF SPARKHAUS**
\$6 million for creating a community asset where Northern Kentucky entrepreneurs can access the tools they need to grow their businesses.

Funding Wins



APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH

HOUSE BILL 6

The state's two-year spending bill totals \$30 billion. The legislation contains historic funding levels in several critical areas, such as early childhood education/care, K-12 education, post-secondary education, and more.

• EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CHILDCARE FUNDING (STATEWIDE)

Over \$55 million for various critical new and established early childhood education/childcare programs.

• HOLLY HILL CHILD AND FAMILY SOLUTIONS

\$6.5 million for renovations of Campbell County campuses

• LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL

\$5 million in financial assistance through the School Facilities Construction Commission

• BIG BONE LICK STATE PARK NATURE CENTER

\$3.12 million for park renovations

• NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

\$23.1 million for asset preservation bond funds in each of the next two fiscal years

\$52 million to renovate Steely Library

\$20 million for online programs

\$36 million to expand/renovate the NKU soccer complex

\$21 million to renovate/expand the NKU Civic Center building

\$4.5 million for phase one renovations of Nunn Hall

\$4.5 million for event center technology

\$3 million in agency bonds for parking garage repairs

Bond authorization for residence hall renovations and to expand Herrmann Science Center

Funding Wins



REVENUE BILL HOUSE BILL 8

- Contains no new sales taxes on business purchases
- Taxpayer transparency requirements for the KY Department of Revenue
- A new tax amnesty program
- New income tax credit for sales and use taxes paid on items associated with qualified broadband investments

BIENNIAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PLAN HOUSE BILL 266

This legislation allocated over one billion dollars for Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties in the two-year road plan. **This includes nearly \$34 million for the Fourth Street Bridge, \$655 million for the Brent Spence Bridge, and nearly \$56 million for KY 536, three top NKY Chamber priority projects.**

BOONE COUNTY
\$136,397,610

CAMPBELL COUNTY
\$75,917,000

KENTON COUNTY
\$807,646,043

NKY Chamber Advocacy



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