

Senator Higdon leads bipartisan effort to restore voting rights

FRANKFORT — Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, and Sen. Keturah Herron, D-Louisville, presented Senate Bill (SB) 80 in the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Wednesday. The committee's approval of the measure is Higdon and Herron's latest effort to advance the bipartisan proposed constitutional amendment that would allow Kentucky voters to decide whether to restore voting rights to individuals convicted of certain nonviolent felonies who have fully paid their debt to society.

SB 80 proposes amending Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky to automatically restore voting rights to individuals upon completion of their term of imprisonment, probation and parole. The measure maintains permanent exclusions for individuals convicted of the most serious offenses including violent crimes, sexual offenses, crimes against children, treason and election-related crimes.

Herron has long supported efforts to expand civic participation and create a more consistent restoration process for Kentuckians who have completed their sentences.

Throughout her legislative service, she has emphasized that reintegration includes restoring a person's role in civic life. She views SB 80 as an important bipartisan step forward that would provide clarity in the Constitution while allowing voters to weigh in directly on how Kentucky approaches restoration.

"SB 80 represents a meaningful step forward for many Kentuckians who have served their time and returned home ready to contribute to their communities," said Herron. "When someone has completed their sentence, including probation or parole, there should be a clear and consistent standard. This proposal allows the people of Kentucky to decide whether our Constitution should reflect that reality. While I believe there

is more work ahead in the area of restoration, this measure moves us in the right direction."

Higdon said the proposed amendment is another attempt in a multi-year bipartisan effort to bring clarity and permanence to Kentucky's restoration process.

"This effort is about accountability and constitutional clarity," Higdon said. "Once someone has served their sentence, completed probation or parole and paid their debt in full, I believe it is appropriate to let the people of Kentucky decide whether voting rights should be restored."

The measure has advanced in the Senate in past sessions but has not reached final passage.

If approved by three-fifths of both the Senate and House of Representatives, the amendment would then appear on a statewide ballot for consideration by Kentucky voters. A simple majority would be required to amend the Constitution of Kentucky.



APOSTOLIC

BETHEL STAR APOSTOLIC

114 East Main Street, Lebanon
 Pastor: Eld. Michael J. Johnson Sr.
 Phone: (270) 692-0332
 Alternate: (270) 699-3611
 1590 AM Radio Broadcast: Sunday, 11 a.m.
 Services: Sunday worship, 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and Tuesday missionary, Bible class, Wednesday prayer and Friday youth, 7 p.m. nightly.

BAPTIST

CENTRAL BAPTIST

Corner of Lee Ave. and St. Rose Road
 Phone: (270) 692-8172
 Pastor: Bill Proctor
 Services: Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday prayer meeting, 6 p.m.
 Van service is available.

FIRST BAPTIST

231 North Depot St., Lebanon
 Pastor: Rev. Tommy Calhoun
 Phone: (270) 692-4582 or (270) 692-5579
 Services: Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m.
 Communion, first Sunday.
 Van transportation available.

GRACE BAPTIST

350 East Main St., Lebanon
 Pastor: Rev. Clellan Hays
 Phone: (270) 692-2150
 Services: Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday prayer meeting, Bible study and youth, 6 p.m.

Lebanon Baptist

144 East Mulberry St., Lebanon
 Pastor: Craig Dunbar
 Phone: (270) 692-3031
 www.lebanonbaptistky.com
 Services: Sunday School, 9:45 am
 Sunday worship, 11:00 am
 Wednesday night meal, 5:30 pm
 Wednesday night worship, 6:00 pm

STEWART'S CREEK BAPTIST

145 Stewart's Creek Road, Lebanon
 Pastor: Doug Davis
 Phone: (859)-324-0492
 Service: Sunday School, 10am
 Sunday Worship, 11am
 Women's Bible Study 3rd Thursday of each month at 12:40 pm

METHODIST

BRADFORDSVILLE METHODIST

203 Central Avenue, Bradfordsville
 Pastor: Rev. Robert Barr
 Services: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.;

LEBANON METHODIST CHURCH

236 N. Spalding Ave., Lebanon
 www.lebanonmethodist.org • 270-692-2761
 Pastor: Rev. Troy Elmore
 Sunday School: 9:15am
 Sunday Children's Church: 10am
 Sunday Worship Service: 10am
 Service will also broadcast on Facebook Live
 Follow us on Twitter: @Lebanon_umc
 Wednesday Bible Study: 11am
 Wednesday and Sunday Youth Ministry 6pm

CATHOLIC

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC

235 South Spalding Avenue, Lebanon
 Phone: (270) 692-3019
 Pastor: Rev. Mark M. Hamilton
 Email: staugustinechurch@kyol.net
 Web site: www.staugustinechurch.net
 Masses: Saturday, 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

HOLY NAME OF MARY CATHOLIC

3295 Highway 208, Lebanon
 Phone: (270) 692-6491
 Pastor: Rev. Mark M. Hamilton
 Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.

SHERMAN CHAPEL AMEZ

Rev. George Phillips
 PO Box 1101
 Lebanon, KY 40033
 130 Chandler Street
 Sunday Worship 11 am
 Sunday School 9:45-10:45 am
 Bible Study 5 pm to 6pm

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER CENTER

4625 Shortline Pike, Hwy. 1195, Lebanon
 Pastor: Troy Mattingly
 Phone: (270) 699-5412
 Services: Sunday - 10-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday night Bible study and youth group, 6:30 p.m.
 Nursery available.

OPEN ARMS COMMUNITY

2205 Danville Highway, Lebanon, KY
 Web site: www.openarmschurch.me
 Pastors: Casey Baker and John Russell
 Phone: (859) 583-4089
 Services: Sunday worship, 10 a.m.
 Nursery and children's classes available.
 Sunday worship/fellowship, 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday small groups, 6:30 p.m. for children, youth, and adults.

Cobb sentenced to 10 years

BY DENIS HOUSE

DHOUSE@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

A man charged with seven counts of distribution of matter portraying a sex performance by a minor under 12 years of age will spend 10 years behind bars.

Roger Leroy Cobb appeared before Judge Todd Spalding in Marion Circuit Court Division on Feb. 19 for a pretrial conference, where he pleaded guilty to the charges, receiving 10 years on each count, which will run concurrently. He must also register as a sex offender for life.



Roger Cobb

Lana Burnworth had a hearing where she stipulated to violations of the terms of her pretrial diversion by the use of controlled substances and absconding. The court imposed a 45-day sanction with her release date to be no sooner than March 21, 2026. She will also complete long-term

treatment, which is now a condition of supervision.

- Jeffrey C. Carmickle pleaded guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense-methamphetamine (1 year), drug paraphernalia-buy/possess (12 months), and no operator's/moped license (90 days), all to run concurrently.

- Alyssa Groves' case was on the docket on a motion of the Commonwealth to revoke her pretrial diversion because of a new domestic altercation. The Court will impose a sanction of credit for time served instead of revocation, and she was released and must complete anger management classes as a condition of supervision.

- Steven M. Janik violated his diversion by absconding and failing to complete treatment. The Court heard testimony from three indi-

viduals, including Janik, and Janik has been sanctioned on multiple occasions pursuant to Andrews v. Commonwealth. The Court concluded that Janik cannot be managed by Probation and Parole and has failed to comply with supervision, and revoked his diversion, and the felony sentence was imposed, with a final sentencing set for March 19 at 9:00 a.m. The Court will consider treatment options at final sentencing.

- William Robertson failed to timely provide documentation for the PSI interview and will remain in custody without bond. He is charged with cultivation of marijuana, five plants or more, second or greater offense, and first-degree persistent felony offender. His final sentencing was passed to March 5 at 9:00 a.m.

- Jason Stansbury was sentenced to two years probated for two years on the charge of first-degree criminal mischief.

Hayes has pretrial conference set for sex-related charges

BY DENIS HOUSE

DHOUSE@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

A man charged with multiple sex-related offenses against a minor appeared in Marion Circuit Court Division 2 on Feb. 19.

Travis Hayes is charged with two counts of first-degree rape, one count of first-degree sodomy, and first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, illegal sex act under 16 years of age. He appeared before Judge Kaelin Reed, who set a pretrial conference date of April 16 at 1:00 p.m.

- Timothy Buckler is scheduled to enter a plea on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. He is charged with first-degree enhancement trafficking in a controlled substance, second or greater offense (greater than or equal to 4 grams of cocaine, enhancement trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (heroin), first-degree enhancement trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (greater than or equal to 10 dosage units drug unspecified, and enhancement trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (fentanyl)).

- Laura Ewing is scheduled to enter a plea on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. She is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (methamphetamine), first-degree promoting contraband, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, and possession of marijuana.

- Zachary Latawiec is scheduled to enter a plea on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. He is charged with first-degree criminal abuse-child 12 or under, and first-degree wanton endangerment.

- Jonathan Murphy will be sentenced on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. He pleaded guilty to first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense

(greater than or equal to 4 grams of cocaine), first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (greater than or equal to 2 grams of methamphetamine), first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (drug unspecified), first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (opiates), second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (less than 10 dosage units drug unspecified Schedule 3), first-degree promoting contraband, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, and failure of owner to maintain the required insurance/security, first offense.

- Kathy Nicely had a review set for March 5 at 1:00 p.m. to review her SSC evaluation. She pleaded guilty and was sentenced on the following charges: First-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (methamphetamine, 1 year pretrial diverted for 2 years, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, 12 months probated for 24 months, and possession of marijuana, 45 days probated for 6 months.

- Reese Rupa pleaded guilty and was sentenced on the following charges: First-degree criminal trespassing (12 months probated for 24 months), theft by unlawful taking or disposition, all others, \$500 but under \$1,000 (12 months probated for 24 months).

- Monique Shilling-Parks is scheduled to be sentenced on April 2 at 1:00 p.m. Shilling-Parks is charged with two counts of first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (methamphetamine), and a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

- Kelly Mae Smothers pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 3 years probated for 5 years on the charge of a

convicted felon in possession of a firearm, 12 months probated for 24 months for drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, 45 days probated for 6 months for possession of marijuana, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of substances, first offense (DUI minimum). She has a SCIP set for Dec. 3 at 1:05 p.m.

- George Thompson pleaded guilty and was sentenced on the following charges: A convicted felon in possession of a firearm (3 years probated for 3 years), first-degree possession of a controlled substance (3 years probated for 3 years, and drug paraphernalia-buy/possess (12 months probated for 24 months).

He also pleaded guilty and was sentenced on these charges: First-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, cocaine (1 year probated for 1 year), and drug paraphernalia-buy/possess (12 months probated for 24 months).

- Christopher Wheatley is scheduled to enter a plea on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. He is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, license to be in possession, and one headlight.

- Jonathan Murphy had his arraignment and is scheduled to be sentenced on March 19 at 1:00 p.m. He pleaded guilty to tampering with physical evidence, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (cocaine), first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (hydrocodone), first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (opiates), operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol .08, second offense, and drug paraphernalia-buy/possess.

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