

# SEN. RICK GIRDLER'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Week six of the 2026 Regular Session

By Sen. Rick Girdler

As we close out week six of the 2026 Legislative Session, the work in Frankfort continues at a steady and productive pace. Committee meetings are running full schedules, bills are advancing to the Senate floor and meaningful discussions are taking place on issues that matter to our communities back home.

At this point in the session, more than 100 pieces of legislation have passed at least one chamber. That reflects the serious effort underway to address the priorities of Kentucky families and ensure state government remains responsive and accountable. While there is still important work ahead, we are making real progress on policies focused on economic stability, affordability, public safety, education, agriculture and government transparency.

This week, the Senate approved the following measures.

**SB 2** ensures administrator pay increases do not exceed the average percentage raise given to classroom teachers within the same district. The bill maintains existing waiver flexibility while updating and cleaning up outdated statutory language.

**SB 4** creates a statewide leadership development program for new principals beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. First- and early-career principals would participate in a structured practicum focused on instructional leadership, school safety and accountability, with most costs covered by the state.

**SB 45** protects agritourism and working-animal operations from unreasonable local regulations while preserving existing health, safety and animal welfare standards. The measure supports family farms and rural economies.

**SB 71** expands required training for local school board members, with a focus

on finance, ethics, open meetings and superintendent evaluation. The measure strengthens oversight and promotes greater consistency and accountability in district governance.

**SB 118** strengthens consumer protections for credit personal property insurance sold with closed-end loans. It limits coverage terms, requires clear disclosure, prohibits cost-inflating practices and ensures refunds of unearned premiums.

**SB 136** streamlines unemployment insurance fraud procedures by requiring suspected cases to be referred directly to federal and local authorities within 30 days. The bill clarifies accountability and protects due process standards.

**SB 141** modernizes Kentucky's public notice laws by clarifying where and how required notices must be published while preserving transparency and controlling taxpayer costs. The bill establishes objective standards for qualifying newspapers, updates timelines, allows limited digital publication standards and ensures public agencies receive fair advertising rates while maintaining print requirements and expanding statewide online access.

**SB 153**, which I am proud to co-sponsor, strengthens protections for homeowners by targeting fraudulent contractor practices, particularly after natural disasters. The measure enhances disclosure requirements and enforcement tools to safeguard families during recovery.

**SB 155** establishes a framework for responding to animal health emergencies, authorizing coordinated action to protect livestock, agriculture and food supply chains.

**SB 158** sets transparency standards for optional financial products tied to vehicle purchases, ensuring they are clearly disclosed, separately priced and not

required as a condition of financing.

**SB 160** improves oversight of child care centers by clarifying corrective action standards, ensuring fair review processes and maintaining strong safety protections for children.

**SB 172** promotes electric rate stability by allowing regulators to extend the recovery period for utility fuel costs, helping reduce sudden rate increases for households and businesses.

**SB 183** requires proxy advisory firms to base shareholder voting recommendations on financial factors and disclose when non-financial considerations influence their advice. Violations are treated as deceptive business practices under Kentucky law.

As we move into week seven, we will continue advancing responsible legislation while preparing for deeper budget discussions. I remain committed to supporting policies that protect taxpayers, strengthen our rural communities and keep Kentucky moving forward. It's an honor to represent you in Frankfort. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at 502-564-8100 or email me at [Rick.Girdler@kylegislature.gov](mailto:Rick.Girdler@kylegislature.gov). You can learn more about bills, committees, and other updates from the Kentucky General Assembly at [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov).

*Sen. Rick Girdler, R-Somersets, represents the 15th Senate District, including Clinton, Cumberland, Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne Counties. Girdler serves as vice chair of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee. He is also a member of the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor; Families and Children; and Natural Resources and Energy. Additionally, Girdler serves on the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.*

2/19/26

# Super Crossword REPTILIAN EMPIRE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soft drink giant
  - 9 Pappy
  - 12 "Botch-—" (old hit song)
  - 15 Masticate
  - 19 Oval wind instruments
  - 20 Took too far
  - 22 Put concrete on
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 Partially
  - 26 Heir, often
  - 27 Penta- plus one
  - 28 Spitting beast
  - 30 Everything
  - 31 Unusual
  - 34 "Our Gang" novelist Roth
  - 37 Actress Peet of "Trust Me"
  - 39 Riddle, part 2
  - 44 Leonardo of "Titanic"
  - 45 Curvy letter
  - 46 Given a permanent post
  - 47 Cereal grain
  - 48 Computer menu option
  - 50 Prefix with chemistry
  - 53 Curiosity's planet
  - 54 Riddle, part 3
  - 60 Palatable
  - 61 Computer menu option
  - 62 Revise, as a manuscript
  - 63 Yank's home
  - 66 Try to be like
  - 69 A couple of
  - 71 Mice, e.g.
  - 73 House divs.
  - 74 Kinda
  - 77 And higher, as in price
  - 80 Perfect
  - 81 Riddle, part 4
  - 85 Dalai —
  - 88 Contaminate
  - 89 Big burden
  - 90 Sports draw
  - 91 Paper-folding craft
  - 94 Part of BTW or OTC
  - 96 "Allow me to assist"
  - 99 End of the riddle
  - 103 Allergy sufferer's device
  - 104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
  - 105 Audit org.
  - 106 Spy's device
  - 107 With 112-Across, "Hold on!"
  - 109 Sneak attack
  - 112 See
  - 107-Across
  - 115 Akron's state
  - 117 Riddle's answer
  - 123 Painter Vincent van —
  - 124 Fastening feature of many a face mask
  - 125 Ultimate consumers of products
  - 126 With 83-Down, Italian veal dish
  - 127 'Zine staffers
  - 128 Antis' votes
  - 129 Occupied, as an inn
  - 11 Biden's party: Abbr.
  - 12 Basketball coach Rupp
  - 13 Re-sol linkup
  - 14 Boiled, salted soybeans
  - 15 1040 pro
  - 16 Dance similar to the tango
  - 17 Unsaintly soul
  - 18 Marshy habitats
  - 21 Holy artifact
  - 24 Trade show
  - 29 "So true!"
  - 31 Fertilizable cells
  - 32 Chip go-with
  - 33 Actress Bo
  - 35 "The risks outweigh the benefits"
  - 36 Intense beam
  - 38 Some reunion-goers
  - 39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
  - 40 Living ink squirter
  - 41 Assistant
  - 42 Idaho's capital
  - 43 Person doing penance
  - 44 One searching for water with a diving rod
  - 49 Tariff
  - 51 Sporty truck, in brief
  - 52 Daiquiri base
  - 55 "Cool" cash amount
  - 56 Very little, as of salt
  - 57 Tantrum
  - 58 Brian of electronica
  - 59 Give as a bonus
  - 63 Like wasted food
  - 64 In a theatrical manner
  - 65 Snoozing
  - 67 Shoe tip
  - 68 Like Nin's writings
  - 70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko
  - 72 Baseball great
  - 75 Old Pan Am competitor
  - 76 "Shy" singer DiFranco
  - 78 ETs' craft
  - 79 Fail to keep one's cool
  - 81 Return to base after a fly ball
  - 82 — nous
  - 83 See 126-Across
  - 84 "Likewise"
  - 85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
  - 86 Wyoming tribe members
  - 87 Small swine breeds
  - 92 Several
  - 93 Plant-eating sea mammal
  - 95 Catches in a snare
  - 97 "Planet Money" ailer
  - 98 Includes
  - 100 People lugging things
  - 101 Politician Mo, Mark or Tom
  - 102 Ship's rigging
  - 108 "If only — known!"
  - 110 — of March
  - 111 Taboo thing
  - 112 Litigated
  - 113 Poet Pound
  - 114 "— la vie!"
  - 116 "Well well!"
  - 118 Charged atom
  - 119 Animal park
  - 120 Rx watchdog
  - 121 Dude
  - 122 Suffix of enzymes

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