

Crossing the finish line: Key transportation legislation becomes law

A strong transportation industry and reliable infrastructure are key drivers of economic growth and public safety, making them a top legislative priority. This session, we passed several transportation-related measures aimed at helping give young drivers the opportunity to gain more experience behind the wheel, expanding access to driver's licensing services, supporting the transportation industry, and strengthening Kentucky's transportation infrastructure.

This week, I would like to highlight the transportation-related measures that passed and became law this session including:

Improving Beginning Driver Safety: HB 15 allows those 15 years of age and older to apply for a driver's instruction permit and extends the validity of a driver's instruction permit from three to four years; requires an individual be 16 and have held an instruction permit for 180 days before obtaining an intermediate license; and mandates an individual hold their intermediate license for 180 days and be at least 17 years old before applying for an operator's license.

Supporting Kentucky Farmers: HB 157 establishes a Friends of Kentucky Agriculture special license plate to benefit the agricultural program trust fund.

Regulating Driveway License Plates: HB 188



DANIEL ELLIOTT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

outlines the process for driveway businesses to apply for and obtain driveway plates and sets guidelines for their use.

Incorporating Existing Roads into Hal Rogers Parkway: HB 443 requires the Transportation Cabinet to include KY Route 80 in Perry, Knott, and Floyd counties in the Hal Rogers Parkway in order to become eligible for further funding.

Keeping Kentucky Roads Safe: HB 444 establishes a reporting requirement from the court to a licensing

agency when a conviction occurs to be recorded on the driver's record and trigger any disqualifying action, allows a holder of a commercial driver's license who is under the age of 21 to receive a hazardous materials endorsement to transport hazardous materials in intrastate commerce, and prohibits individuals under the age of 21 from operating a school bus.

Combating Predatory Practices of Towing and Storage Facilities: HB 493 establishes a towing and storage facility certificate, requires notification of a vehicle held for potential evidence in a civil or criminal investigation

to be sent to owners, mandates facilities to develop a rate sheet, and implements penalties for violations.

Funding Local Road Projects: HB 546 creates the Local Access Road Program to replace the County Priority Projects Program, implementing the same application process, but requiring a 10 to 20% match based on the same population rankings established for the Kentucky Product Development Initiative. The measure also includes language requiring the Transportation Cabinet to enter into a MOU with Indiana to use tolling revenues to finance the

I-69 Ohio River Crossing Project and makes a \$150 million GARVEE bond budgeted for in FY 2026 contingent on tolling. Emergency.

Ensuring Equal Reimbursement Rights for Cable Operators and Broadband Providers: HB 682 amends statute to include cable operators and broadband providers in the definition of "utility" for reimbursement of costs associated with relocation of their facilities.

Reducing Temporary Tag Fraud: HB 783 enhances the process for motor vehicle dealers

to apply for and use temporary tags on sold motor vehicles while also establishing penalties for violations.

Honoring Kentuckians through highway and bridge designations: HJR 5 honors various Kentuckians by naming portions of state highways and erecting commemorative roadway signs in their honor.

Investing in Local Roads and Infrastructure Maintenance: HJR 46 authorizes the release of \$23.9 million in funds appropriated in 2024 for local road projects.

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The Casey County News

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WEDNESDAY - 4:00 PM

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Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

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@ Somerset Community College in Somerset, Kentucky, for the Fall Semester of 2025 needs to obtain a scholarship application from the college by calling 606-679-8501. The legal residence of all applicants must be continuous in Casey County for one year immediately preceding the date of application. Application deadline is May 15, 2025.

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0300 PETS

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