

Celeste Carrender

Celesta “Celeste” Carrender age 49, of Somerset, KY passed away March 10, 2025 at Hospice of Lake Cumberland. Graveside service was held March 12th at Southern Oaks Cemetery. Southern Oaks Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.



John Crabtree

John H. Crabtree, 63, of Bronston, KY passed away March 6, 2025. Visitation: March 14th from

12-2pm. Funeral: March 14th at 2pm at Southern Oaks Funeral Home. Burial: Southern Oaks Cemetery. Southern Oaks Funeral Home entrusted with arrangements.



Mitchell Russell

Mitchell P. Russell, age 80, of Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 10, 2025.

Preceded in death by his parents William Julian and Rose Ella (nee Gallagher) Russell.

Mitchell was the devoted father of Mitchell Russell Jr., and the proud grandfather of Megan Geiser and Jake Russell. He was also a cherished uncle to Joy Cheek, Lesley Carroll, Morgan Hughes, Shelby Smith, and Seth Russell. Mitchell was the loving brother of Tommy Russell and Linda Russell Barker. Mitchell honorably served in the United States military from February 12, 1962, to June 11, 1966. During his service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal, was recognized as a Rifle Expert with the M-14, and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal (1st Award).

Mitchell’s family and friends will remember him for his kindness, humor, and the lasting impact he had on everyone’s lives. His love for his family and his dedication to those close to him were at the heart of everything he did.

Visitation will be held at Neidhard Young Funeral Home 7401 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH on Monday, March 17, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with a memorial service to follow at 1:00 PM.

House Bill would make it easier to lower Kentucky income tax

BY LIAM NIEMEYER
KENTUCKY LANTERN

FRANKFORT — Kentucky’s Republican-controlled House voted Tuesday to make sprawling changes to the state’s tax laws and also to make it easier for lawmakers to incrementally lower the state’s income tax rate in the future

The 107-page measure that emerged for the first time in the final days of this year’s session was inserted into a “shell” bill by the House budget committee Tuesday morning and approved by the full House Tuesday afternoon, despite protests by Democrats that the changes were moving too fast and without public notice.

Rep. Anne Donworth, D-Lexington, on the House floor questioned how the bill’s widely ranging provisions — from making a statement in support of “alternative jet fuels” to levying a tax on hemp-derived beverages — relate to each other.

The vehicle for making the changes, House Bill 775, sponsored by House Majority Whip Jason Nemes, R-Louisville, was originally a four-page bill making



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House budget committee chairman Jason Petrie, R-Elkton, said the new version of House Bill 775 would “begin a conversation” but he doubts “it survives the General Assembly’s full process in its current iteration.”

small changes in laws governing tax increment financing districts.

The bill would change a law enacted by the legislature in 2022 that created guardrails for gradually lowering the individual income tax by half a percentage point only when several metrics predict that state finances could sustain the loss of revenue. If approved by the Senate, the new law could potentially allow the GOP-controlled legislature to reduce the tax rate from 0.1% to 0.5% each year depending on how much General Fund

revenues exceeded General Fund expenditures.

The 2022 law only allows the legislature to approve a half-percent reduction each legislative session if specific fiscal triggers in the state budget are met; if the triggers aren’t met, then the legislature keeps the income tax rate as is.

All 16 Republicans present on the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee voted to advance the expanded piece of legislation. The minority of Democrats on the committee voted against or passed on the

bill, concerned about the numerous changes to state law and the lack of notice to the public.

Rep. Ken Fleming, R-Louisville, explaining his support for the bill, said lawmakers previously looked at potentially lowering the income tax by smaller increments, calling the newly unveiled framework a “good process.” He said the framework would give “more flexibility” to “make sure we attract workforce and help businesses as well as put more money in people’s pockets.”

Moving the goalposts again

Committee chair Jason Petrie, R-Elkton, told the committee the new version of HB 775 would “begin a conversation” but he doubted “it survives the General Assembly’s full process in its current iteration.”

It’s long been a Republican goal to completely eliminate the income tax. Economic analysts with the progressive think tank Kentucky Center for Economic Policy (KCEP) have warned further cuts in the state’s income tax revenue could threaten adequately funding government services including education.

Jason Bailey, the executive director for KCEP, in a statement said HB 775 “moves the goalposts once again on the legislature’s income tax cut triggers, allowing additional cuts even as the costs of those already in place grow.” He said the proposed framework for reducing income tax cuts could allow for tax revenues to be cut by over \$100 million if General Fund revenues exceed spending by “just one penny in one year.”

“Continuing down this path will require more and more cuts to the state budget, sacrificing investments in education, Medicaid and infrastructure in order to provide more tax breaks that go overwhelmingly to the wealthy,” Bailey said in his statement.

Moore stands up speaks on HB 775 in the background while Nemes, in the foreground, listens.

Democrats expressed concern in the committee and on the House floor that the public, let alone lawmakers, didn’t have enough time to understand the numerous changes being put forward in the legislation. Republicans voted down an effort by Rep. Adam

Moore, D-Lexington, to lay the bill on the clerk’s desk to provide more time for lawmakers to go through the bill’s changes.

Rep. Tina Bojanowski, D-Louisville, who voted against the bill in the committee, said she didn’t believe there was transparency in the process of advancing the bill because the substitute language wasn’t available to the public when the committee voted on the bill. The substitute language is available publicly on the Legislative Research Commission’s website as of Tuesday afternoon.

“If you are not talking to the Republicans and you’re just trying to get your information from the media, how would they know?” Bojanowski told reporters after the committee meeting. “Transparency I think is the most important thing we can do here, and if they’re going to make the change ... I can’t prevent that from happening. But hopefully the public could chime in and give their perspectives.”

‘Shell bills’ controversial
The practice of

SEE BILL, 5

Setting Boundaries with an Overbearing Mother-in-Law

Dear Annie: My husband, “Jake,” and I have been married for eight years. We have a 5-year-old son, “Caleb.” For the most part, we have a solid marriage, but there’s one issue that keeps coming up -- his mother, “Linda.”

Linda has always been a little overbearing, but ever since Caleb was born, it’s gotten worse. She stops by unannounced at least twice a week, criticizes my parenting (“You should really be making his lunches from scratch”) and overstays her welcome. Last month, she gave Caleb ice cream right before bed, even though I’d told her not to. When I said something, she laughed and told me to “lighten up.”

I’ve told Jake how much this bothers me, but he avoids conflict. He says, “That’s just how she is,” and tells me to let it go. But I can’t keep letting it go; it’s exhausting. I don’t want to start a family war, but I also don’t want to keep feeling disrespected in my own home.

How do I handle this when my husband won’t step up? -- Tired of the Third Parent



ANNIE’S MAILBOX

Annie Lane

Dear Tired: Just because your husband is used to his mother’s behavior doesn’t mean you have to accept it. The first step is having a conversation with Jake. Explain to him that his mother’s presence affects your sense of privacy and control in your own home, and that you need him to back you up on this for the sake of your marriage. Then, together, you can establish some ground rules for his mother’s visits.

Dear Annie: I feel, in many ways, like it’s time for me to leave

-- as in, life. I keep finding reasons to give up. I don’t have a real plan. I’ve thought of an overdose, but for one, so many attempts are made that way that aren’t full suicides (Am I crying for attention or really doing something here?), and two, I worry so much I’d screw it up and end up worse than dead.

Life has lost all light. It’s one thing to be like, “Well, you’re a grown-up now, of course life isn’t fun and games anymore!” But this goes so far beyond that. I dread waking up, and I sleep more these days. I go to bed earlier and earlier just to be done with the day already.

I’ve endured financial trouble. I’ve lost friendships. I’ve had massive, consistent weight gain, insomnia and chronic

pain. The country is in a bad place. Any of these would be enough to push me over the edge. So why haven’t I done it yet? Am I just lazy?

I’ve been in counseling for almost 30 years and on meds for 25. Sometimes they help, sometimes not. I just feel so hopeless, terrified, miserable and empty. I can’t keep going like this much longer. -- Hopeless and Helpless

Dear Hopeless and Helpless: My heart breaks reading your letter. I can feel your pain and your struggles. But I need you to hear this: You matter -- so much. The fact you wrote and sent this letter at all tells me you are incredibly strong and still fighting to be here.

Therapy and medication, which you’ve

pursued, are great treatment options. You have to find your right fit, though, and now sounds like the perfect time to explore changing things up to work better for you. I’d also highly recommend an appointment with your primary care physician. I wouldn’t be surprised if the way you’re feeling is being influenced by something else going on in your body.

Depression makes it easy for us to believe nothing will ever change, but that’s not true. Every day and every baby step forward is progress. If you feel

yourself in that dark place, don’t hesitate to contact the suicide prevention hotline at 988 or visit <https://988lifeline.org/>.

Annie Lane’s second anthology -- “How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?” featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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