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•UPDATE *Continued from page seven*

priority legislation, such as SB 1, which establishes the Kentucky Film Office within the Cabinet for Economic Development to attract more film and television productions to the commonwealth. The office will serve as a central hub for filmmakers and coordinate with local film commissions and tourism agencies to streamline permits, incentives, and workforce development while marketing Kentucky as a premier filming destination. The bill also creates the Kentucky Film Leadership Council to oversee tax incentives and set industry policies to ensure efficient and responsible growth. Funded through state allocations, application fees, and a portion of the bed tax, the office will work to bring more production to Kentucky and create jobs and economic opportunities for local businesses. Supporters say the bill will help Kentucky compete with other states by simplifying the filming process and ensuring tax incentives are administered effectively, which benefits a range of workers from construction crews and electricians to small business owners.

SB 6, priority legislation, improves transparency in Kentucky's education funding by ensuring that the full cost of public education is accurately reported. The bill requires the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding model to include state-paid fringe benefits—such as teacher pensions and health insurance—in per-pupil funding calculations. Currently, these costs are not factored into state education funding reports, which leaves an incomplete picture of total taxpayer investment. SB 6 does not change how schools receive funding but provides a more accurate representation of the state's financial commitment to public education. The bill's reporting changes take effect on July 1, 2026.

SB 7 the Right of Publicity Act, another priority bill, prohibits the

unauthorized commercial use of unclothed images of individuals, living or deceased, in Kentucky. It allows legal action for misuse, exempts cloud and internet service providers, and preserves First Amendment protections for journalism, art, and entertainment.

SB 9 the final bill getting priority designation that was approved this week, strengthens the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System by standardizing sick leave policies, capping pensionable sick leave at 12 days per year, and requiring districts to cover the costs of additional leave. It also mandates 30 days of maternity leave by 2030, ensures TRS reports sick leave liabilities, and allows state audits for oversight. The bill aligns administrator leave policies with teacher leave policies to improve pension sustainability and fairness.

SB 63 allows street-legal special-purpose vehicles on certain public roads under safety and registration conditions. It prohibits use on interstates and parkways, requires inspections, and exempts farm-use vehicles from registration.

SB 68 reduces school administrative burdens by eliminating certain reporting requirements, clarifying school board tax authority, expanding career and technical education, and repealing outdated statutes.

SB 93 requires private insurers, Medicaid, KCHIP, state employees, and university health plans to cover hearing aids and services for children starting Jan. 1, 2026. It mandates at least one hearing aid per ear with a \$2,500 minimum per device, consults the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on coverage levels, adjusts cost-sharing for higher-priced devices, and sets network adequacy standards for pediatric audiologists.

SB 130 creates new criminal offenses for gift card fraud to

make it a Class D felony to tamper with or steal gift cards. It defines "face value" for prosecution and strengthens law enforcement tools to combat financial fraud.

SB 132 protects medical professionals' rights to decline participation in procedures that violate their conscience. It prohibits retaliation, ensures professionals can access complaints filed against them, and includes an emergency clause for immediate effect.

SB 144 bans the resale of firearms used in homicides and requires their destruction within 90 days of a court order. It also allows the Kentucky State Police to destroy unsafe, defaced, or contaminated firearms to prevent them from re-entering circulation.

SB 136 modernizes Kentucky's vehicle registration and licensing processes by streamlining KAVIS, ensuring consistent insurance valuations for totaled vehicles, and expanding REAL ID eligibility for Freely Associated States citizens.

SB 153 sets standards for prepayment claims review in Medicaid to prevent improper payments, increase oversight, and reduce fraud. It requires compliance with state regulations and, if necessary, federal approval.

SB 183 requires proxy advisers working with state retirement systems to prioritize financial outcomes over environmental, social, and governance (ESG) activism, mandates economic analysis for certain shareholder votes, and reduces reliance on politically motivated investment decisions.

SB 202 regulates cannabis-infused beverages to protect consumers and establish oversight under the Kentucky Department of Alcohol Beverage Control. It limits products to 5 mg per serving, requires a University of Kentucky Cannabis Center report by Nov. 1, and allows

existing inventory exceeding the new limits to be sold until May 1.

SB 207 creates a waiver process for public schools to implement innovation strategies. This process allows them to tailor academic offerings, expand programs, and apply for state-approved flexibilities while maintaining oversight.

SB 218 improves financial transparency by directing the Kentucky Department of Revenue to create an online hub for local government spending and tax information. It requires public access by 2026.

SB 237 exempts experienced out-of-state law enforcement officers from Kentucky's physical st for peace officer certification, easing recruitment while maintaining professional standards.

SB 266 allows Kentucky State Police troopers to take off-duty law enforcement jobs with commissioner approval and department regulations to prevent conflicts of interest. It also permits state-owned vehicles with regular plates and sets policies on uniforms, equipment, and facilities.

Several House measures were delivered to the Governor's desk.

House Bill (HB) 191 expands eligibility for burial in Kentucky state veterans' cemeteries to certain National Guard and Reserve members and their families to align with federal standards. It takes effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

HB 216 allows Department of Agriculture employees (excluding Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy staff) to apply for funds, awards, or contracts from the office. It includes an emergency provision.

HB 219 requires emergency medical providers to receive sexual assault emergency response training but does not mandate certification.

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