

Senate Judiciary Committee advances juvenile justice bill

A measure to improve and expand services for youth with severe behavioral and emotional challenges received approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday as part of a multi-year effort to reform juvenile justice in Kentucky.

Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Paducah, testified that the bill he's sponsoring — Senate Bill 111 — reflects the efforts of a working group dedicated to the issue.

The legislation focuses on children who have acute mental illness and receive services from the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services while also being involved with the state Department of Juvenile Justice, he said.

"We still have kids in facilities today that are in juvenile detention centers. Although I feel the treatment has gotten better, they're still not where they need to be and where they can receive the best care in the safest environment for their situation," Carroll said.

He noted that the U.S. Department of Justice has been in Kentucky investigating issues involving juvenile justice detention centers.

SB 111 seeks to strengthen the process for assessing high acuity youth and develop an appropriate treatment and placement plan. If a youth at a psychiatric or pediatric teaching hospital commits or incites violence, the bill provides a process for them to be removed.

It also includes a procedure for high acuity youth to move to a lower continuum of care if the treating physician determines that the current level of care is no longer needed, Carroll said.

"Many hospitals are reluctant to take children. Under current statute, as it is interpreted, once they



Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Paducah, testifies on Senate Bill 111 during Thursday's Senate Judiciary Committee meeting. The measure would improve and expand services for high acuity youth.

receive these children, they have to keep these children. If they assault staff, they still have to keep the children. Police will not remove them from the facility," Carroll said.

SB 111 also seeks to establish a detention center dedicated to high acuity youth. It would provide the highest level of care and serve children who are currently incarcerated or detained in juvenile detention centers, Carroll said.

The bill would also require the Department of Juvenile Justice to operate at least two female-only detention centers and to separate violent and nonviolent youth.

Carroll said preliminary cost estimates would be \$45 million each for the female detention centers and an additional \$5 million to complete design work for the high acuity mental health detention center.

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, said he advised Carroll to keep cost estimates in the bill whether or not this legislative session is opened up to budget-related legislation.

"...Everybody needs to understand implementation of this bill, which I think everyone knows is probably needed, will come with a price tag. If not this year, it will probably become next year," he said.

Senate Minority Caucus Chair Reginald L. Thomas, D-Lexington, said new facilities would be expensive, but they are needed.

"It's costly. It's going to cost us a lot of money to get this right and to construct and develop facilities that are going to satisfy both our needs and the concerns of the United States Department of Justice," he said.

The bill now heads to the full Senate.

Measures on sexual assault care advance

Rep. Rebecca Raymer, R-Morgantown, hopes two pieces of legislation she's sponsoring would help Kentuckians access better care after a sexual assault.

The House Health Services Committee approved House Bill 219 and House Concurrent Resolution 20 on Thursday.

HB 219 would require emergency medical providers to receive sexual assault emergency response training, and HCR 20 would direct the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study access to sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) in the commonwealth.

The training would be conducted by the state's Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee.

Raymer said she started working on the legislation after learning about gaps in coverage for sexual assault patients in emergency rooms across Kentucky.

"While that is a big problem that we need to address, and I think it's a multi-faceted problem, it requires some research and some data for us to know how to correctly address it," Raymer said.

Rep. Mary Lou Marzian, D-Louisville, asked Raymer if she's spoken to any of the SANE nurses about the bill.

Raymer said she has not reached out to the nurses directly, but the Kentucky Hospital Association and the Kentucky Medical Association did not have an issue with the legislation.

HB 219 would not mandate a certificate-type program, only training, Raymer added.

"This would just allow patients to be referred



Rep. Rebecca Raymer, R-Morgantown, speaks on House Bill 219 and House Concurrent Resolution 20 before the House Health Services Committee on Thursday. HB 219 would require emergency medical providers to receive sexual assault response training. HCR 20 would direct the Legislative Research Commission to study access to sexual assault nurse examiners in the commonwealth.

to the resources that they need in the emergency department, and we would protect the evidence and also ensure the patients aren't being sent away to another facility?" Committee Chair Rep. Kimberly Poore Moser, R-Taylor Mill, asked.

Raymer said, "Yes." Ultimately, HB 219 would be "temporary fix" for a larger problem, Raymer said. That's where HCR 20 comes in.

"What we really want is we want those sexual assault nurse examiners that have that training in these hospitals," Raymer said. "We want them to be there. When our citizens, at possibly one of the most vulnerable times in their life, walk into an ER, they need to have the correct treatment by the correct individual."

The LRC report under HCR 20 would hopefully

give the legislature the information it needs to draft legislation to fix the sexual assault care issues at Kentucky hospitals, Raymer said.

"It directs LRC to conduct a study looking at where we have gaps in coverage. Why do we have gaps? Try to find out what hospitals are doing when there isn't a sexual assault nurse examiner on staff," Raymer said.

If approved, LRC would submit the report by December 2025.

Moser said the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee has been asking for more SANE nurses for years.

"I think this would support that," Moser added. "We will be able to actually see the data, so I think that's really important."

HB 219 and HCR 20 are now before the full House for consideration.

OCTC Veterinary Technology Program holding conferences for Fall 2025

Prior to applying to the program, students should attend one of the following pre-admission conferences: Feb. 26 (NEW) and Mar. 25

Owensboro Community & Technical College's (OCTC) Veterinary Technology program is hosting pre-admission conferences for students interested in turning their passion for animals into a career. Before applying for admission to the OCTC Veterinary Technology Program, please attend at least one Pre-Admission Conference. If you plan to apply for the Fall 2025 semester, you should attend one of the following Pre-Admission Conferences: Feb. 26 at 4-5 p.m. or March 25 at 5-6 p.m. (in-person at the OCTC Downtown Campus, RM 23/Vet Tech Teaching Hospital, 1501 Frederica St., Owensboro, Ky., 42301).

Upon completion of the two-year program graduates are prepared to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). Areas of study include office and hospital procedures, client relations and communications, anatomy, physiology, parasitology, microbiology, clinical

techniques, pharmacology, anesthesiology, surgical and medical nursing, radiology, and clinical pathology training. The Vet Tech program provides valuable real-world clinical and lab experiences to develop the skills needed to become a valued professional in the field. These open houses are designed to give prospective students an overview of the program and demonstrations to simulate the lab experience.

VET 100 — Intro to Veterinary Technology is now open to all students — no pre-requisites and offered online! This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the world of Veterinary Technology. Learn the basics and see if a career in Veterinary Technology is right for you! You do not have to be in the Veterinary Technology program to enroll in this course. This course introduces students to veterinary technology, hospital operations, professional standards and ethics, common domestic breeds, and the basic concepts of animal behavior.

It also emphasizes preventative health programs and nutrition of common domestic species. Registration for the Fall 2025 semester opens on March 1.

To learn more about OCTC's Veterinary Technology Program, please visit <https://owensboro.kctcs.edu/education-training/program-finder/veterinary-technology.aspx>.

OCTC's vet tech program is a selective admissions program and has a limited number of seats available each year. To begin the program in the Fall 2025 semester, the application window is currently open and closes May 1. For more information, please attend a pre-admission conference or contact OCTC Veterinary Technology Program Coordinator, Dr. Laura


Boarman at 270-686-4585 or by emailing Laura.Boarman@kctcs.edu.

Owensboro Community & Technical College is one of the 16 community and technical colleges that make up the Kentucky Community & Technical College System. OCTC serves the KY counties of Daviess, Hancock, Ohio and McLean. OCTC has three campuses in Daviess County and a Center and Annex in Hancock County. OCTC strives to serve the communities in the service area by providing associate degree education for transfer, state of the art technical education for students focusing on entering the workforce, customized business and industry solutions through the Workforce Solutions division, and adult education and busi-

ness and industry testing through the SkillTrain unit.

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System is the Commonwealth's largest postsecondary institution with 16 colleges and more than 70 campuses. We also are Kentucky's largest provider of workforce training and online education. Through partnerships with business and industry, we align our programs to meet the needs of local employers. We help students fulfill their dreams of creating a better life through programs that lead direct-

ly to jobs or help them transfer to one of our four-year partners.



LEGAL NOTICE

Public Meeting Notice

Central Kentucky Community Action Transportation Services (CKCATS) is conducting a meeting to identify unmet public transportation needs in the region. Following the meeting all needs will be assessed and potential funding sources reviewed. Where possible the needs identified will be used to develop FY 25-26 Transit Grant applications, however, preparing a request does not guarantee that service will be provided. To thoroughly access the needs of the region a public Coordination meeting has been scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on February 26th, 2025**, at Central Kentucky Community Action Council, INC., 328 Hood Avenue, Lebanon, Kentucky. If you have questions regarding this public input, or would like to submit written comments to attend, please contact Kerri Taylor at (270) 692-9313.

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LEGAL NOTICE


The Breckinridge County Extension District Board will accept sealed bids on the following:

Five (5) Dell Laptop Computers

Epson Projector


All items are being sold as is, with no warranty.

All bids must be received at the Breckinridge County Extension Service, 1377 S Hwy 261, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 by 2:00 PM CT on March 5, 2025. The bids will be opened at the Extension Community Building, 1377 S Hwy 261, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 at 4:00 PM CT on March 11, 2025.



LEGAL NOTICE

The Breckinridge County Public Library is taking quotes for grounds keeping and mowing at the Hardinsburg location. The price sheet and resume must be submitted by Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30pm Central time in a sealed envelope. Submissions should include a copy of the contractor's Certificate of Insurance and should include 3-5 commercial mowing references. To help with preparing the quote, a lawn maintenance schedule can be picked up at the front desk of the Hardinsburg Main Library 308 Old Highway 60. This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The City of Irvington will accept sealed bids on the following surplus property: **2011 FORD CROWN VICTORIA**. Sealed bids will be received at City Hall, 109 W Caroline Street, Irvington, KY until 4:30 pm ET, Monday, March 3, 2025 and then publicly opened and read aloud at the regular City Council Meeting, Monday, March 3, 2025. The City of Irvington will award the bid on the basis of the best value and best conforming bid with the right to reject any or all bids expressly reserved and to waive any informality. Please address questions to Jeremy Hougland, Fire Chief at firechief@irvingtonky.org. The sealed bid shall be clearly marked on the outside of the envelop, "SEALED BID FOR SURPLUS 2011 FORD CROWN VICTORIA". This advertisement was paid for by the City of Irvington using taxpayer's dollars.