

Senate committee OKs resolution to address physician shortages

SUBMITTED

The Senate Health Services Committee unanimously advanced a joint resolution last Wednesday designed to help address physician shortages in Kentucky.

The measure, Senate Joint Resolution 116, would direct the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Eastern Kentucky University to work together in meaningful ways to alleviate physician shortages in underserved areas of the state.

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, is sponsoring the resolution. He said it would call on the universities to look at the issue over the next year and “come back with a good framework and plan on how we serve the full state of Kentucky with health care.”

Stivers said it’s hoped that other entities — such as the University of Pikeville, the Kentucky Hospital Association and the Kentucky Medical Association will join the effort

to help find solutions to the physician shortages.

The resolution calls for the three universities to develop a report and submit it to the general assembly by Jan. 1, 2027. Some topics expected to be in the report are: the shortage of primary and specialty care physicians, retention of physicians, possibilities for building on current actions, and regulatory or statutory barriers.

The resolution would earmark \$250,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2026-2027 to administer and produce the report.

Committee Chair Sen. Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, asked Stivers what those at the universities initially thought of their proposed undertaking.

Stivers said he has spoken with medical officials at the UofL and EKU, and their reaction was positive; they want to move forward and feel comfortable in the collaboration.

Meredith pointed to data regarding physician shortages throughout the United States and said Kentucky’s shortage

is not as severe as some other states’ shortages. “One of the issues may be the maldistribution of physicians, and that’s something that certainly has to be factored in,” he said.

Sen. Donald Douglas, R-Nicholasville, who is a physician, said the health care space is changing and Kentucky must keep pace.

“I appreciate the continued movement to direct our universities to work together in coordination with one another, allowing them to step outside the silos to better serve the people of the commonwealth,” he said.

Stivers said Manchester benefits from an Adventist hospital because not only does it provide health care, it also invests money in the community and provides hundreds of jobs.

“Thinking of the health care that we have access to, that very, very few small towns have, is wonderful. But then thinking of the economic engine that it is for my hometown is really quite unbelievable,” he said.

Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, who is a physician, described the resolution as “awesome.” She said it’s the responsibility of the state’s physicians to help address the shortage problem.

“I hear and I hear and I hear about shortages of physicians in this state and how we need to basically alter requirements for who’s doing what because we don’t have enough doctors. And so, we’re having to rely on mid-level providers,” she said.

Sen. Keturah J. Herron, D-Louisville, also said she supports the resolution.

“Yesterday, I spoke to the folks at Eastern Kentucky University, and one of their ‘asks’ is also expanding their medical education programs, and so I completely support this,” she said.

Joint resolutions have the effect of law and are treated procedurally as bills. SJR 116 now moves to the full Senate.

HOUSE

FROM PAGE B2

increases by nearly 2% across the biennium, and the budget leaves a surplus in both years to prepare for unexpected expenses. We chose this approach because state government has a real spending problem and it is time to make sure we are getting more for every dollar we send to Frankfort. I know families here in Breckinridge and Hardin counties work hard for every dollar they

earn, but they still have to sit down at the kitchen table and figure out how to live within their means — so should their government.

That means we need to exercise greater discipline in how the tax dollars we already get are managed. We know there is waste, and we know there are outdated programs, as well as others that duplicate what is already being done. You have to look no further than the recent report by the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts that more than \$800 million in Medicaid benefits were

paid to people who are ineligible.

Medicaid remains one of the largest drivers of state spending, requiring nearly \$6 billion over the biennium. The budget maintains current benefit levels, adds new waiver slots for individuals with disabilities, and directs additional resources to SNAP, state psychiatric facilities, and child welfare supports. Dedicated funding is also preserved for children’s advocacy centers, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and kinship caregivers.

With House passage complete, HB 500 now moves to the Senate where the next phase of budget negotiations will begin. I hope you will continue to follow along with this and other legislation we are considering this session.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Josh.Calloway@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.

LUCAS

FROM PAGE B1

SECOND TEAM

- Mia Catey, IU Kokomo
- Morgan Cross, Midway
- Abby Fleetwood, IU Columbus
- Sophia Kline, Rio Grande
- Alexis Sexton, WVU Tech
- Grace Stapleton, IU Southeast
- Brooklyn Stewart, Brescia
- Peyton Wells, IU East
- Linzie Wernert, IU Southeast
- Laken Williams, Shawnee State

- THIRD TEAM**
- TK Catchings, Shawnee State
 - Jacie Chesser, Midway
 - Amaya Collins, IU Columbus
 - Payton Johnson, Rio Grande
 - Jenna Krampe, Brescia
 - Alexys Moore, Midway
 - Allyson Rideout, Oakland City
 - Morgan Roberts, IU Southeast
 - Bell Sparks, Kentucky

- Christian Mackenzie York, IU Kokomo
- CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER**
- Cassidy Morris, Brescia
 - Abby Fleetwood, IU Columbus
 - Gracie Kramer, IU East
 - Moriah Crawford, IU Kokomo
 - Taylor Turpin, IU Southeast
 - Sarah Sorrells, Kentucky

- Christian Annabelle Babb, Midway
- Allyson Rideout, Oakland City
 - Josie Graves, Rio Grande
 - Haley Polston, St. Mary-of-the-Woods
 - Laken Williams, Shawnee State
 - Cadence Stewart, WVU Tech

WEEK

FROM PAGE B2

transmission projects. It also improves the commission’s ability to manage complex cases while ensuring meaningful participation from ratepayers.

SB 50: Modernizes Kentucky probate, estate and trust laws and allows electronic wills and estate planning documents.

SB 57: Establishes a Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program to prepare Kentucky for advanced nuclear energy development.

SB 59: Clarifies that government funds and resources cannot be used to advocate for or against ballot measures.

SB 94: Ensures motor vehicle dealers are fairly compensated for warranty and recall repairs and creates a standardized labor rate process.

SB 125: Establishes a clearer process to identify and treat youth in the juvenile justice system with serious behavioral health needs.

SB 145: Updates statutes governing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and modernizes licensing provisions.

SB 156: Strengthens Kentucky law by clearly prohibiting marriage for anyone under age 18.

SB 173: Establishes a formal legislative review process for Kentucky’s Medicaid and CHIP state plans.

SB 177: Updates licensure standards for speech-language pathologists and assistants to reflect current professional practices.

SB 191: Creates a pilot program encouraging child-care providers to improve kindergarten readiness outcomes.

SB 192: Allows small cities to use simplified accounting methods to reduce regulatory burdens while maintaining transparency.

SB 193: Clarifies court authority and timelines when handling probation or supervision violations.

SB 197: Creates a tiered county system to better target economic development incentives toward distressed communities.

SB 245: Updates licensing requirements and enforcement tools for retailers selling tobacco, nicotine and vapor products.

SJR 54: Encourages state agencies to expand enrollment in Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I look forward to keeping you updated as the work of the 2026 Regular Session continues. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at 502-564-8100 or email me at Stephen.Meredith@kylegislature.gov. You can learn more about bills, committees, and other updates from the Kentucky General Assembly at www.kylegislature.gov.

Sen. Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, represents the 5th Senate District, encompassing Breckinridge, Butler, Grayson, Ohio, and Meade counties. Meredith serves as chair of the Senate Health Services Committee. He is a member of the Senate Committees on Education and Families and Children, as well as the Government Contract Review Committee and the Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board. He also serves as an ex officio member of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services.



COMMISSIONER’S SALE
MARCH 16 2026 AT 12:01 P.M. CENTRAL TIME
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FRONT DOOR
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT , DIVISION I
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00290

WILSON A TAPP, PLAINTIFF VS. WESLEY W RUSSELL, ET AL. DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE
 By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered January 21, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on March 16, 2026 at 12:01 p.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing interest rate of 12.00% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.

Property Address: 1200 Lake of the Woods Loop Hardinsburg, KY 40143
Parcel Identification Number: LWA 56
 The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$2,495.76 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be sold subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

HERBERT M. O’REILLY
MASTER COMMISSIONER
POST OFFICE BOX 539
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143



COMMISSIONER’S SALE
MARCH 23, 2026 AT 11:00 A.M. CENTRAL TIME
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FRONT DOOR
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY

BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION II CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00287

JAMES T. PULLEN PLAINTIFF VS. ROBERT C. GIBSON, ET AL. DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE
 By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered January 22, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on March 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing interest rate of 12.00% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.

Property Address: 7823 Highway 629, Falls of Rough, KY 40119
Parcel Identification Number: 21-22B
 The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$2,826.22 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2026 and thereafter, and will be sold subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

HERBERT M. O’REILLY
MASTER COMMISSIONER
POST OFFICE BOX 539
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143
PHONE: (270) 756-2882



COMMISSIONER’S SALE
MARCH 16, 2026 AT 11:00 A.M. CENTRAL TIME
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FRONT DOOR
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION I
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00202
MORTGAGE RESEARCH CENTER, LLC ET AL PLAINTIFF
VS. RODNEY KEATON, ET AL DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE
 By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered January 28, 2026 and by Order to Clarify Date of Sale entered February 5, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on March 16, 2026, at 11:00 am or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing rate of 7.1250% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.

Property Address: 2427 E Highway 60, Harned, Kentucky 40144
Parcel Identification Number: HA 2-3
 The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$159,987.96 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be sold subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

HERBERT M. O’REILLY
MASTER COMMISSIONER
POST OFFICE BOX 539
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143
PHONE: (270) 756-2882



COMMISSIONER’S SALE
MARCH 16, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M. CENTRAL TIME
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FRONT DOOR
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION I
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00186
WILLIAM L. WEATHERHOLT PLAINTIFF
VS. UNKNOWN heirs, devisees, personal representatives, and assigns of HERMAN CRAVENS, and UNKNOWN heirs, devisees, personal representatives, and assigns of JANIE L. CRAVENS, and COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF BRECKINRIDGE, and COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, CITY OF CLOVERPORT DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE
 By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered November 20, 2025 and Order Setting Sale Date entered February 4, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on March 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing rate of 12.00% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.

Property Address: 15 West Front Street, Cloverport, Kentucky 40111
Parcel Identification Number: CP 1-23-16A
 The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$2,645.08 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be sold subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

HERBERT M. O’REILLY
MASTER COMMISSIONER
POST OFFICE BOX 539
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143
PHONE: (270) 756-2882



COMMISSIONER’S SALE
MARCH 16, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M. CENTRAL TIME
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FRONT DOOR
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION I
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00186
WILLIAM L. WEATHERHOLT PLAINTIFF
VS. UNKNOWN heirs, devisees, personal representatives, and assigns of HERMAN CRAVENS, and UNKNOWN heirs, devisees, personal representatives, and assigns of JANIE L. CRAVENS, and COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF BRECKINRIDGE, and COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, CITY OF CLOVERPORT DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE
 By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered November 20, 2025 and Order Setting Sale Date entered February 4, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on March 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing rate of 12.00% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.

Property Address: 15 West Front Street, Cloverport, Kentucky 40111
Parcel Identification Number: CP 1-23-16A
 The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$2,645.08 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be sold subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

HERBERT M. O’REILLY
MASTER COMMISSIONER
POST OFFICE BOX 539
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143
PHONE: (270) 756-2882