

Halo Act advances from House committee

SUBMITTED

A Senate bill that would make impeding a first responder a crime advanced from the House Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee on Tuesday.

Senate Bill 104, also known as the Halo Act, is sponsored by Sen. Matt Nunn, R-Sadieville. He said the legislation will keep first responders safer by establishing a 25-foot safety barrier while first responders are performing their official duties.

"That's an important thing to do because we want to make sure those first responders are safe and able to perform their duties in an efficient, effective manner," Nunn said. "We also want to make sure the people they're protecting and serving in that moment are safe and able to receive that care and that service protection in this efficient and effective manner."

Nunn said law enforcement may be the first thing that comes to mind when people think of SB 104, but emergency medical service responders (EMS) would also benefit from this legislation.

"I had one EMS worker from Louisville drive from Louisville to Frankfort just to personally thank me for filing this bill," Nunn said. "He told me about how often in the course of his duties he and the other people on his crew are interfered with or impeded while they're just trying to provide someone with life-saving care."

Under SB 104, a first responder would issue a verbal warning to bystanders to maintain a 25-foot distance from where the first responders are working.

If the person violates that verbal warning with the intent to impede or interfere with a first responder's duties, threaten the first responder with physical harm, or harass the first responder, then they could be charged with a crime, according to the bill.

Impeding a first responder would be a class B misdemeanor on the first offense, a class A misdemeanor on the second or third offense, and a class D felony for each subsequent offense, according to the legislation.

Rep. Steve Bratcher, R-Elizabethtown, asked Nunn how he determined 25-feet should be the minimum barrier between first responders and bystanders.

Nunn said that distance is the standard based on research into similar laws in other states.

In addition to police, fire and EMS



Sen. Matt Nunn, R-Sadieville, speaks on Senate Bill 104 during Tuesday's House Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee meeting. The bill would enforce a 25-foot safety barrier for first responders.

personnel, SB 104 includes a probation or parole officer, a university police officer and an airport police officer in its definition of first responder. Rep. Adam Moore, D-Lexington, said he doesn't think of a probation or parole officer as typical first responder. Nunn disagreed.

"There are instances where they are performing their official duties and they have been interfered with, so we just want to make sure we widen it to protect people who are performing their duties, but also the people who are receiving that service in the moment," Nunn said.

Moore said he also has concerns how the bill may impact a person's

ability to record law enforcement if a law enforcement officer or agency considers recording law enforcement activity as harassment.

SB 104 defines harassment as "means to intentionally engage in a course of conduct directed at a first responder which causes or is intended to cause substantial emotional distress in the first responder and serves no legitimate purpose."

"If law enforcement officers, especially if ICE is in Kentucky and operating, and they're being recorded peacefully by just a cell phone that we all have in our pocket, would that be viewed as harassment under

this law?" Moore asked.

Nunn said it would be up to the officer, but bystanders could still have the option to record law enforcement activity from a distance.

"In that instance, it's the officer's judgement, and I would say in that instance the person should step away 25 feet and record from a 25-foot distance," Nunn said. "And all of our cameras nowadays are strong enough that you can get a good image from 25 feet away."

Nunn said bystanders who feel an officer has given them an inappropriate instruction, can get the officer's name and badge number and report the officer to their

supervisor.

Rep. John Blanton, R-Salyersville, thanked Nunn for filing SB 104, and said the legislation is especially needed in a time when many people are more concerned about posting a video on the internet for fame than helping people in need.

"This is just common sense. Let first responders do their job," Blanton said, adding if someone feels the need to record video, do it from 25 feet away.

SB 104 is now before the full House for consideration after receiving a 12-1 vote with one pass vote.

WKU named a Top Producer of Gilman Scholars from 2001-2025

SUBMITTED

WKU has been recognized as an all-time Top Producing Institution in the Gilman Scholarship Program. In the 25-year history of the program, WKU ranks among the top 25 in the Medium Colleges and Universities category.

The nationally competitive Gilman International Scholarship is congressionally funded and named after the late congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY). It is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs designed to increase the number of American undergraduates studying abroad by awarding scholarships for credit-bearing study and intern abroad opportunities to students with high financial need. Since its inception in 2001, more than 50,000 students nationwide have received Gilman Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for study and intern abroad opportunities.

"The Gilman Scholarship has been a cornerstone of the Office of Scholar Development's work coaching students through nationally competitive scholarship applications since our founding in 2008," said Dr. Melinda Grimsley, Assistant Director of the office. "It has certainly made the biggest impact on the largest number of WKU students applying for nationally competitive awards."

In OSD's 18-year history, WKU students have submitted 835 Gilman applications with the mentorship of OSD advisors. To date, Hilltoppers have earned 396 scholarships totaling \$1,530,250 in value to study or intern in 43 different countries. The median

award amount is \$4,000, which makes a significant difference in students' ability to pursue international study and internships.

"For hundreds of Hilltoppers, Gilman has enabled students from rural and urban Kentucky and Tennessee to participate in WKU Global's study abroad opportunities," said John Sunnygard, Associate Provost of Global Learning & International Affairs. "Many have worked with us as Global Learning Ambassadors to share their enthusiasm for living and learning abroad."

For many Gilman Scholars, study abroad is a critical component of their academic and career goals.

"The impact of the Gilman Scholarship on our Chinese Program is truly far-reaching and paramount," said Dr. Ke Peng, Professor of Chinese and Director of the Chinese Flagship Program. "Over the past 15 years, I have witnessed — year after year — how Gilman support has transformed the lives of our students. Many of them come from small towns, and for several, their first-ever flight was the one that carried them across the Pacific to study abroad. These experiences not only accelerated their linguistic proficiency and deepened their cultural competencies but also catalyzed profound personal and professional growth."

"The success of our Gilman applicants serves as a testimony to the Office of Scholar Development's successful one-on-one mentoring process," said Dr. Lindy Davidson, the Director of the Mahurin Honors College, where OSD is administratively housed. "WKU students applying for Gilman and other nationally

competitive awards are winning at incredibly high rates, proving the talent pool is deep in the WKU community, and students receive the support they need to be successful."

About the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship: Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Gilman Scholarship supports internships or study abroad programs for undergraduate Pell Grant recipients. Since 2001, the Gilman Scholarship has enabled more than 50,000 Americans to study in countries around the world.

About the Office of Scholar Development (OSD): OSD mentors students applying for nationally competitive scholarships to fund "academic extras" such as study abroad, research, professional experience, and more. From first drafts to final submissions with multiple revisions in between, OSD helps students make more possible. By conceptualizing and revising the stories they tell in application essays, students better understand their strengths, interests, and purpose — and explore multiple possible pathways to that work.

About WKU Global: WKU Global serves the WKU community by engaging students, faculty, and staff in diverse educational and cultural experiences through faculty-led, exchange, consoria, and other study abroad opportunities.

About the Chinese Flagship Program: The Language Flagship is a Department of War initiative designed to graduate a new generation of Global Professionals who possess professional-level proficiency in languages vital to U.S. national security.

OCTC welcomes new Career and Life Skills Coordinator

BY BERNIE HALE

Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Eaves as the new Career and Life Skills (CLS) Coordinator within the Counseling Center, following Krista Camp's transition into a full-time counseling role.

Barb Tipmore, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Director of the Counseling Center, commented, "I am thrilled to have Jennifer as a part of our team! Her expertise, enthusiasm, and passion for students are a recipe for success, and I look forward to watching her build upon the strong foundation that Krista has put in place for the program."

A proud Owensboro native and non-traditional student, Eaves brings a deeply rooted commitment to education, personal growth, and student empowerment. A graduate of Apollo High School, she returned to school after 20 years, beginning at OCTC before transferring to the University of the Cumberlands, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Education in December 2024. She is currently halfway through her program and is pursuing a Master's in Education degree. Online learning has played a significant role in her journey and remains her preferred method of study.

Before pursuing her degree, Eaves held various office roles and later joined Owensboro Public Schools as an Instructional Specialist supporting small groups of students in math and reading — an experience she found

profoundly rewarding. Encouraged by her work and inspired by her mother-in-law, Janice Eaves, she pursued higher education with renewed purpose.

While completing her master's degree, Eaves discovered the CLS Coordinator opportunity—a role that aligned perfectly with her strengths and passion for helping others. The CLS certificate program serves a diverse group of learners, including highly functioning autistic students, individuals with intellectual disabilities seeking workplace readiness, and those who struggled within the traditional high school model. Mentors are a core part of the program, reflecting OCTC's mission to cultivate a culture of learning for all. Eaves now oversees two student cohorts and teaches three classes, a challenge she embraces with enthusiasm.

Eaves describes her late-in-life career path as a gift: "The stars lined up a little later in life allowing me to see more clearly where I can do the most good in this life. I believe in leading with love, teaching with patience, and helping every person find their value, their confidence, and their path forward."

She hopes to serve as a positive influence for the students she supports — something she feels she once needed herself. She credits her success due to the support of her husband, Ryen, and their five children.

For more information on the OCTC CLS program please contact Eaves at Jen-nifer.Eaves@kctcs.edu.



COMMISSIONER'S SALE
MARCH 23, 2026 AT 11:00 AM. 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