



Legislative Update

Senator Robin L. Webb

Lawmakers returned for the final two days of the 2024 legislative session before adjourning sine die on Monday, April 15, bringing business to a close. It was the first time the House and Senate have gavelled into session since the chambers adjourned in March for a two-week veto recess. The recess provides time for the Governor to sign bills, allow them to become law without his signature, or issue vetoes.

The proceedings capped off a relatively conventional year for the legislature – one that started with a gradual pace but picked up steam in the second half amid a flood of proposed legislation. More than 1,200 bills were filed this year – the highest number in more than two decades – and around 215 were passed before the session drew to a close. Of the more than 160 measures that cleared the chambers last month, the Governor vetoed 20 and issued line-item vetoes to several more related to budgeting in state government. However, when lawmakers returned on Friday, April 12, there was little trouble overriding those actions as proceedings unfolded throughout the day.

House Bill 5, known as the Safer Kentucky Act, was one of only a few that drew much debate during votes on the chamber floors. The legislation will enhance penalties for repeat, violent offenders. It will also allow prosecutors to file a manslaughter charge against anyone who sells or distributes fentanyl that causes a fatal overdose. Other provisions seek to curb unlawful street camping, set limits on charitable bond organizations, and crack down on carjacking.

Lawmakers overrode the veto on HB 5 despite continued objections that it will harm homeless populations and increase incarceration costs.

The House and Senate also defeated the Governor's line-item vetoes on the budget bills. Those include a \$128 billion executive branch budget and other measures related to the legislative branch, the state transportation cabinet, and one-time expenditures.

Another major override focused on House Bill 7, a much-debated bill that creates a regulatory framework for operating autonomous vehicles in Kentucky.

Here's a look at some of the other bills that were subject to a veto override before lawmakers adjourned on the second-to-last day of the session:

Capitol Statues: House Bill 513 requires the Historic Properties Advisory Commission to receive approval from the Kentucky General Assembly before adding or removing any statues, monuments, or art on permanent display in the Capitol Rotunda.

Gas Stations: House Bill 581 prevents local governments from passing or enforcing rules that treat retail gas stations differently from electric vehicle charging stations.

Horse Racing Commission: Senate Bill 299 revamps the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission to create a fully independent agency called the Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation. In addition, the bill will dissolve the state Department of Charitable Gaming next year and place oversight of charitable gaming under the new corporation.

Legislative Vacancies: Under House Bill 622, vacant seats in the U.S. Senate will be filled through a special election rather than an appointment by the governor. The winner of the election will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Louisville Metro Government: House Bill 388 includes multiple provisions to revamp certain aspects of the Louisville Metro Government. This includes one section that changes elections for the metro council and the mayor from partisan to nonpartisan.

Nuclear Energy: Senate Bill 198 establishes the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority to support and facilitate the development of a nuclear energy ecosystem across the state.

Recording Food Operations: Senate Bill 16 forbids people from capturing or distributing unauthorized video, audio, or photos from a commercial food manufacturing facility or an animal feeding operation. Violators could face a Class B misdemeanor on the first offense and a Class A misdemeanor for a subsequent offense.

School District Task Force: House Concurrent Resolution 81 will establish the Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force to study the organizational structures of Jefferson County Public Schools and develop possible recommendations to ensure effectiveness.

Throughout the session,

the House and Senate found plenty of issues to debate – education, housing, elections, guns, and even the official state rock. Big data and artificial intelligence gained significant attention this year, as did questions over the future of nuclear energy in Kentucky. However, few bills garnered more attention than House Bill 6, the \$128 billion budget plan for the state executive branch. It was among several major budget bills that will also fund community projects, transportation, and the judicial and legislative branches of government over the next two years.

I am pleased to provide an update on the significant achievements and funding allocations from the 2024 Regular Session, which will greatly benefit our community over the next two years. Thanks to collaborative efforts and steadfast commitment in the legislature, we have successfully secured vital appropriations that will enhance our district's infrastructure, public safety, and community services.

Investments in Community Development and Public Safety

In Boyd County, we have championed a substantial investment of \$12.5 million in each fiscal year to develop a state-of-the-art conference center complex in the City of Ashland. This project, funded through the Department for Local Government, is expected to boost local commerce, create jobs, and serve as a hub for community and business events.

Turning to Greenup County, we are addressing critical needs in public health and safety by allocating \$500,000 for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to support the purchase of new ambulances and the renovation of the Emergency Management Services headquarters and training facility. This funding will enhance our response capabilities and en-

sure that our first responders are equipped to handle emergencies effectively.

Furthermore, we have laid the groundwork for continued support in Greenup County with General Fund provisions that include operating costs totaling \$311,000 and significant capital investments deferred to the 2026-2028 biennium for the Greenup County Courthouse. These funds will support nonrecurring equipment and essential updates to the judicial facilities.

Enhanced Transportation Infrastructure

Recognizing the critical role of transportation in economic development and quality of life, we have secured substantial funding to improve roads and bridges across Senate District 18. Over the next two years, we will see an infusion of \$60,243,768 in transportation funds distributed as follows:

- **Boyd County:** \$14,326,129
- **Carter County:** \$18,799,639
- **Greenup County:** \$18,054,000
- **Lewis County:** \$9,064,000

These investments will facilitate smoother travel and safer roads and support the continued growth and development of our region.

As we look forward to the implementation of new laws and the benefits of new projects and infrastructure in our communities, I remain committed to ensuring that our district receives the attention and resources it needs to thrive. These budgetary measures reflect our dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and laying down a solid foundation for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement throughout the 2024 session. Together, we are making significant strides toward a brighter future for Senate District 18.

Garden seed distribution

By Judy Craycraft

Licking Valley Community Action will be taking applications for Garden Seed Vouchers Friday, April 26, 2024, starting at 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., 210 Front Street, Vanceburg. All applicants must bring Social Security card(s), birth dates, verification of all household income, and verification of residence. Each person must

complete their own application. This is one day only! A limited number of vouchers will be available. For more information, contact Judy Craycraft at 606-796-3893.

This project is funded in part, under a contract with the Cabinet with funds from the Community Services Block Grant Act of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

is still open through Tuesday, May 7th. You may use the KY SOS's online portal or call our office at 796-3062.



Absentee Ballots may be returned to the Absentee Ballot Drop Box located in Room 202 of the County Clerk's Office or via USPS with proper postage.

Absentee Ballots must be received in our office no later than 6:00 p.m. on Election Day (May 21st).

Leslie Collier
LEWIS COUNTY CLERK

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*upon verification of income/asset

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Office Hours Mon&Thurs 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Tues&Fri 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

606.796.6168 vanceburg@werentky.com



70 Winterwood Ln., Vanceburg, KY 41179 TDD# (800) 648-6056

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NOTICE

Please Take Notice that on May 1, 2024, Kentucky Power Company ("Kentucky Power") expects to file with the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") an application for approval of revisions to its Demand-Side Management ("DSM") / Energy Efficiency ("EE") programs, which will expand its existing Targeted Energy Efficiency Program and add two new DSM/EE programs, called the Home Energy Improvement Program (available to qualifying residential customers) and the Commercial Energy Solutions Program (available to qualifying commercial customers).

The new programs will provide energy audits by trained professionals to help qualifying customers identify cost saving opportunities, as well as offer incentives for upgrading to more energy efficient products.

The Company will propose revisions to its Tariff Demand Side Management Adjustment Clause ("Tariff D.S.M.C.") and to increase the DSM surcharge factor. The proposed effective date for the revised and new DSM/EE programs and the increased DSM surcharge factor is May 31, 2024. However, Kentucky Power anticipates that the Commission may suspend the effective date of these proposals to conduct a review of Kentucky Power's application.

The proposed changes to Kentucky Power's DSM/EE portfolio, if approved, will result in changes to the DSM surcharge factor calculated under Tariff D.S.M.C. The present rates and the proposed rates for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply are shown in the table below:

Electric Rate Class	Current Charge per kWh	Proposed Charge per kWh
Residential	\$0.000149	\$0.000644
Residential Time-of-Day	\$0.000149	\$0.000644
General Service - Secondary	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
General Service - Primary	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
General Service - Subtransmission	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
General Service Time-of-Day	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
Large General Service - Secondary	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
Large General Service - Primary	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
Large General Service - Subtransmission	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
Large General Service Time-of-Day	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
Municipal Waterworks	-\$0.000016	\$0.000565
Industrial General Service	N/A	N/A

The average customer monthly usage, and the effect upon the average bill for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply are shown in the table below. The annual increase to the DSM charge resulting from the proposed changes to the DSM/EE portfolio is \$912,998 (+330.0%) for residential classes and \$804,037 (+4,434.8%) for commercial classes. These proposed increases are reflective of the fact that Kentucky Power is proposing new programs that do not currently exist, and which are not currently reflected in rates. The Company's proposals in this proceeding will affect the average monthly customer bill only slightly, as demonstrated in the table below:

Electric Rate Class	Average Monthly Customer Usage (kWh)	Average Monthly Bill \$ Increase	Average Monthly Bill % Increase
Residential	1,140	\$0.56	0.35%
Residential Time-of-Day	1,546	\$0.77	0.37%
General Service - Secondary	1,573	\$0.91	0.37%
General Service - Primary	8,817	\$5.12	0.42%
General Service - Subtransmission	9,586	\$5.57	0.39%
General Service Time-of-Day	1,898	\$1.10	0.39%
Large General Service - Secondary	62,484	\$36.30	0.45%
Large General Service - Primary	103,061	\$59.88	0.47%
Large General Service - Subtransmission	106,709	\$62.00	0.65%
Large General Service Time-of-Day	56,418	\$32.78	0.52%
Municipal Waterworks	18,402	\$10.69	0.48%
Industrial General Service	N/A	N/A	N/A

Any person by timely written request for intervention filed with the Public Service Commission may request leave to intervene in the Commission proceeding to review Kentucky Power's application. The motion shall be submitted to the Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, P. O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615, and shall establish the grounds for the request, including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within 30 days of the initial publication of this notice the Commission may take final action on the tariff filing.

Written comments on the Company's proposals may be submitted to the Public Service Commission by mail to the address listed above or via the Commission's website: <http://psc.ky.gov>. The rates and terms of service contained in this notice are the rates and terms of service proposed by Kentucky Power; the Commission may order rates to be charged and/or terms of service that differ from the proposed rates and terms of service contained in this notice.

Any person may examine the Company's application at Kentucky Power's offices located at 1645 Winchester Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky 41101; 12333 Kevin Avenue, Ashland, KY 41102; 1400 E. Main St. Hazard, KY 41701; and 3249 North Mayo Trail, Pikeville, KY 41501; or by visiting the Company's website: www.kentuckypower.com.

A copy of the Company's application and any related documents Kentucky Power may file with the Public Service Commission may be examined Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. at the offices of the Commission at the address listed above, or through the Commission's website: <http://psc.ky.gov>.

Kentucky Power Company
1645 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101
1-800-572-1113

Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602
502-564-3940

Poetry from our readers

I Didn't Know

By Patty S. Toller

I knew He came upon this earth

To set all people free
I knew it was because of love

He gave His grace to me
I didn't know He thinks of me

As I travel through the day
I didn't know He'd be there
When trials came my way
I didn't know I'd spend my life

With peace He gives to me
So thankful know I have it all

And will forever be
Glad this Savior found me
I was so unaware
That through His loving kindness
I'm ever in His care.