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role in life as an advocate for Kentuckians living with limb loss, helping champion Kentucky Senate Bill 97, which expands insurance coverage for prosthetic devices.

"When I was first asked to be a part of this, I was unsure of what I was getting myself into," Mullins said. "I didn't really know about the political side of it. But I thought, 'I've been given this new life, and if I can help someone like myself get access to something that could make everyday life better, then great. I'll use my voice for that now.'" Senate Bill 97 allows insurance coverage for up to three prosthetic devices per affected limb during a three-year period. The legislation recognizes that many amputees require specialized devices for different aspects of daily life, including showering, recreation and other activities.

Before becoming an amputee herself, Mullins said she never fully understood the challenges people with limb loss face. "I just walked into the shower on my two legs and took a shower standing up," she said. "I don't have that luxury now."

She explained that insurance often covers only one prosthetic limb, typically intended for everyday use. Specialized devices for activities such as showering or sports are frequently considered optional, despite their importance for independence and quality of life.

"For someone who played pickleball or rock climbed before, they may need a different hand with an adapted device," Mullins said. "We're not asking for anything unnecessary. We're asking for things that make our lives as normal as they can be."

The legislation also benefits children, she said, pointing to another advocate named Nora, an active young athlete who repeatedly wears

out or breaks the foot component of her prosthetic leg.

"When she breaks that foot, she's limited because she only has the one," Mullins said. "Having more than one device allows people to continue living their lives."

Mullins said an estimated 113,000 Kentuckians are living with limb loss or limb difference. The law expands options for many individuals whose private insurance previously denied coverage by deeming additional prosthetic devices not medically necessary.

Passing the bill required months of planning, meetings with lawmakers and testimony from advocates across the state.

"A lot of people put in a lot of hard work just to get this started," Mullins said. "We had to coordinate meetings, decide who would share their stories and have people willing to promote it every step of the way."

She called the bill's unanimous approval throughout the legislative process one of the proudest accomplishments of her life.

"It was voted yes unanimously across the board," Mullins said. "Every single vote."

Mullins said one memorable moment came when a longtime state Capitol employee, a below-the-knee amputee and military veteran, shared his own experience with legislators.

"Most people never even knew that he was an amputee," she said. Mullins brought each of her sons, ages 15 and 10, to visits at the state Capitol so they could witness the legislative process firsthand.

"I wanted them to learn what it takes to pass a law," she said.

Mullins said recovering from her amputations has changed her life, as well as the lives of those around her.

"My life changed dramatically overnight," she said. "Not only do I live this life, but my family lives

it with me."

She said her husband, DJ, has taken on countless new responsibilities as a caregiver while helping raise their two sons.

Despite the difficulties, Mullins credits her Christian faith for carrying her through and moving her to help others in similar situations.

"I don't know how God chose me and my family, but he certainly has," she said. "Without that faith, I don't think I could even get out of bed every day."

She hopes her story encourages others to look beyond disability.

"Just because you have a disability doesn't mean you can't do the things you did before," Mullins said. "It doesn't mean you don't have a voice. It doesn't keep you from having amazing goals and dreams."

Mullins expressed gratitude to the many people who supported the effort, including Sen. Rick Girdler, who sponsored the legislation, fellow advocates who shared their stories, and Gov. Andy Beshear, whom she praised for taking time to personally greet each individual during the bill signing ceremony.

Looking ahead, Mullins plans to continue speaking at events where she shares both her testimony and her faith. She also intends to keep advocating for people with disabilities wherever opportunities arise.

"If I'm asked to head to the White House, I'm there," she said with a laugh. "If I can advocate to help someone like me or someone with a disability, I'd be honored to do so."

When asked how she hopes her story will be remembered, Mullins said she hopes people remember more than the legislation she helped pass.

"I hope they remember the girl who always put God first," she said. "The girl who was always smiling and praising the Lord in both the good times and the bad."

BOYLE*Continued from 1A*

for highway business, office professional, general business and multifamily residential development.

Planning staff said no significant changes had been made to the proposal since it was first presented and tabled at the commission's previous meeting. Updated public notices were posted, but staff reported no new concerns with the application.

The commission later discussed conditions that could be placed on portions of the U.S. 127 South development before voting on the application.

Commissioners considered limiting certain uses within areas proposed for multifamily zoning while citing consistency with the county's adopted comprehensive plan.

In other business, commissioners reviewed a proposed fiscal year 2027 budget that includes funding for a geographic information systems analyst and a series of fee adjustments.

Planning staff said most department fees

have remained unchanged for roughly a decade, with the exception of land use certificate and recording fees. The proposed schedule would increase fees by an average of about 17%, which staff said would help offset rising operating costs while keeping Boyle County's rates competitive with neighboring communities.

Commissioners also heard a financial update showing the department expects to end the current fiscal year in a stronger position than previously projected. Staff said personnel costs came in lower than anticipated and contractual service expenses were below budget, despite the purchase of new permitting software that will allow online permit applications beginning July 1. As a result, year-end cash reserves are projected to finish at approximately \$55,000, about \$15,000 higher than earlier estimates.

The commission approved an extension of a letter of credit for Team Leader LLC after discussing whether extending it into a fourth year was appropriate.

Members acknowledged the sit-

uation was unusual but agreed the extension would protect both the commission and the developer while required inspections remain incomplete.

Commissioners also directed staff to follow up with the appropriate agencies regarding the outstanding inspections.

The meeting also included updates on several outstanding construction projects awaiting final inspections and began consideration of multiple subdivision requests, including a proposal to divide a 51.3-acre tract on Stanford Road into three parcels.

Before moving into regular business, the commission welcomed new members Leon Smothers and Marcus Hawkins and recognized outgoing commissioner Terry Manon, thanking him for 12 years of service, particularly his work overseeing the commission's finances and annual budget preparation. He was presented with a plaque in recognition of his service.

A recording of the full meeting is available on the City of Danville's YouTube channel.

CHURCH*Continued from 1A*

when they are installed in a manner that minimizes their visual impact.

The board's approval includes conditions requiring the panels to be flush mounted and all mounting hardware to be painted to match the roof so the installation does not stand out. Following discussion, the board unanimously approved the certificate of appropriateness with those conditions.

Before the meeting concluded, members discussed improving communication between the Architectural Heritage Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustments. Staff said recent situations highlighted

confusion about the heritage board's authority, the city's H1 historic overlay district and the roles each board plays in the development review process.

The board agreed to arrange a presentation for Planning and Zoning to explain the Architectural Heritage Board's responsibilities and the purpose of the H1 overlay district. Members also plan to invite planning officials and city representatives to a future meeting to clarify the appeal process, legal responsibilities and code enforcement within the historic district.

Board members also received an update on the former La Cosa Nostra property, where staff said the matter is being referred to the city's codes and ordinances department for enforcement action

regarding a sign violation.

Additional discussion included preparations for adopting new board goals, officer nominations for the coming year and continued revisions to the city's historic district design guidelines. Staff said proposed changes will include updated language regarding signage definitions and revisions previously discussed by the board.

Near the end of the meeting, members praised the recently completed downtown Danville mural, complimenting its design and noting that the project followed the appropriate review process before installation.

The full meeting can be viewed on the City of Danville's YouTube channel.

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