

Moore and Camuel file bills backing Kentucky workers

NEWS RELEASE

FRANKFORT -- Representatives Adam Moore and Adriel Camuel, both of Lexington, have filed complementary bills aimed at restoring worker protections and giving communities more flexibility to address local workforce needs.

Rep. Moore filed House Bill 344, which expands home rule by giving cities clear authority to set stronger local labor standards. The bill allows cities to require project workforce agreements on public construction projects, give preference to contractors using registered apprenticeship programs, negotiate higher wages for city projects, enact local prevailing wage ordinances, and set higher minimum wages or paid-leave requirements than state or federal law.

"Cities should not be blocked from raising standards when their local economies demand it," Rep. Moore said. "HB 344 lets communities require fair wages, support apprenticeship training, and establish



Samuel Moore

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local policies that help workers and employers succeed. It gives local leaders the flexibility they need to build a stronger workforce."

Rep. Camuel filed House Bill 345, which reinstates Kentucky's prevailing wage law to ensure workers on public construction projects are paid a fair wage that reflects market standards. She also filed House Bill 346, which deletes statutory language restricting

public employees' rights to organize. That language was added in 2017, weakening the ability of public workers to collectively advocate for better conditions.

"These bills focus on improving life for working families and making Kentucky more competitive," Rep. Camuel said. "Reinstating prevailing wage means fair pay for a fair day's work and better-quality public projects. Restoring

organizing rights strengthens our workforce by helping communities keep skilled workers here in Kentucky. These policies support families, support local economies, and help our state grow."

All three bills will be considered during the 2026 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, which runs through April 15.

Johnson files measure to strengthen child care center enrollment

NEWS RELEASE

Frankfort, Kentucky

Representative DJ Johnson filed HB 190, which aims to support the commonwealth's child care centers by modernizing the square-footage calculation used to determine maximum enrollment capacity.

"Our commonwealth faces a child care center shortage that greatly impacts the ability for families to enter the workforce," Johnson said. "It is up to us in the General Assembly to forge a path forward for our working families by providing child care facilities the ability to enroll more students in a safe and sustainable environment."

Currently, the state's square footage definition excludes restroom facilities and common areas. HB 190 would modernize the state's language to include these common areas. Several states have updated their laws and regulations related to facility capacities and square-footage

requirements and have seen success, including Ohio.

"HB 190 maintains our high standards for child care facilities while giving them the opportunity to impact more families in our communities and a chance to bring in revenue to keep their doors open," Johnson added. "This measure will take us one step closer to easing our child care crisis. We need to do everything we can to provide more quality child care for our working families."

The 2026 Regular Session began Tuesday, January 6 and continues through Wednesday, April 15. For more information on HB 190, other legislative measures, or the 2026 Regular Session, please visit legislature.ky.gov.

Citizenship requirements for office holders

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) - State Rep. Shane Baker, R-Somerset, has filed two pieces of legislation which are designed to strengthen qualifications for candidates running for local and state office.

House Bill 186 focuses

on local elected offices, while HB 259, a proposed constitutional amendment, is for state offices.

"Our republic is built upon the loyalty of its elected officials to the Constitution of the United States and to the Americans they represent," Baker said. "The responsibility of governing our great nation is delegated

to elected officials from city and county government all the way up to the president in the White House. Our officials must understand our nation, its culture, and the values that make America a 'shining city upon a hill.' We are a beacon of freedom and hope to the entire world, and this honor is contingent on the quality and commitment

of those we elect to office across the board."

HB 186 would require candidates for local offices to be natural born citizens of the United States and hold citizenship solely in the United States. HB 259 would propose amending the state constitution to require candidates for state and countywide office to be natural born citizens of the United

States and solely a United States national.

"These measures work hand in hand to protect our communities and preserve our state," Baker added. "Our founders believed it necessary for our president to be a natural born citizen of this nation, and now we see the necessity for this to extend to other elected offices. We have seen

first-hand the consequences of foreign leadership in states like Minnesota, and soon we will see how it takes shape in one of America's greatest cities—New York. We must ensure that our elected officials are loyal to the United States of America, its constitution, and the Americans they represent."



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