

Legislative Liaison Issue 5

Still Not Much Happening!

Once again this week has been very slow due to the political controversies related to redistricting. Another hearing in Franklin Circuit Court is scheduled for next Monday to discuss the merits of the case brought by the House Republicans and a Democratic Senator from Lexington who has joined the case against both the House and Senate redistricting plans. The U.S. congressional districts are also still up in the air, however, talk late this week indicates that a compromise plan may be agreed upon by early next week.

The National Rural Water Association will host the Rural Water Rally next week in Washington. Several representatives of utilities from Kentucky will participate in this annual visit to Capitol Hill as we try to inform our Congressional delegation on the water and wastewater needs back home in the Commonwealth.

James Jefferies, General Manager of the Hardin County Water District #2 will also be in Washington representing Kentucky in the Great American Water Taste Test. Hardin County #2 has won our Best Tasting Water Contest for the past two years!

The 2012 Best Tasting Water contest will be held in conjunction with the KRWA Management Conference which is only three weeks away. The conference will be held on February 22-23 in Bowling Green at the Holiday Inn University Plaza & Sloan Convention Center. In addition to the Best Tasting Water contest, highlights will include presentations from 2nd District U.S. Congressman, Brett Guthrie, the office of the Kentucky Auditor, and a special presentation by Henry Clay, The Great Compromiser.

Keeping up with the Legislature has never been easier! The state has updated its Legislative website: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislation.htm>. From this site, you can view all bills and resolutions, contact legislators by email and check on legislative committee schedules and calendars. You can reach a legislator in person by calling 502-564-8100 (not toll-free).

The toll-free meeting schedule information line is 1-800-633-9650. The toll-free message line is 1-800-372-7181, to leave a message for a legislator or an entire committee. The TTY message line is 1-800-896-0305. En Espanol, el nombre es 1-866-840-6574. The toll-free bill status number is 1-866-840-2835.

Every issue of e-Liaison will contain summary information for each bill that we track with a section that details the most recent activity with the bill. We will continue to highlight timely legislative news that is important to our members in each issue. If you would like to suggest that we add a bill to the e-Liaison for tracking, please contact KRWA. By clicking on the bill number it will link you to the bill summary on the LRC's website.

Bill Tracking > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > >

Bill/Resolution Title	Bill Number	Sponsor	Committee
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Metal Recyclers	SB 34	R. Palmer	Natural Resources and Energy (S)
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Amend KRS 433.890 to provide for the identification of sellers of nonferrous metals and for the payment of nonferrous metal purchases.

Latest Action: Jan. 3 – introduced in Senate

Emergency Response	SB 55	J. Westwood	Judiciary (H)
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Create a new section of KRS Chapter 39B to permit interstate mutual aid agreements for emergency responses; provide for the recognition of certain credentials of emergency responders from other states. **SCS** – clarify that a mutual aid agreement shall be approved by the appropriate body of the agency involved. **SFA** – clarify immunity of liability.

Latest Action: Jan. 30 – to Judiciary (H) Passed Senate 32-0

Redistricting: Congressional	SB 59	D. Thayer	State & Local Government (S)
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Amend various sections of KRS Chapter 118B to divide the Commonwealth into the following congressional districts.

Latest Action: Jan. 4 – to State & Local Government (S)

Redistricting: Senatorial	SB 60	D. Thayer	State & Local Government (S)
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Amend various sections of KRS Chapter 5 to divide the Commonwealth into the following senatorial districts.

Latest Action: Jan. 4 – to State & Local Government (S)

Abandoned Water Vessels	SB 83	R. Palmer	Transportation (S)
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Create a new section of KRS 151.700 to 151.730 to create a water vessel removal assistance fund to be administered by the Kentucky River Authority.

Latest Action: Jan. 9 – to Transportation

Stream Restoration	HJR 11	F. Steele	Natural Resources & Environment (H)
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Express a need to undertake stream restoration to improve the chemical and biological characteristics of the water; identify improvements to sewer infrastructure and straight pipes as a method of undertaking stream restoration via mitigation; require the Energy and Environment Cabinet to work with UK and U of L to develop a method of evaluating the value of straight pipe and sewer projects to the overall mitigation requirement.

Latest Action: Jan. 9 – posted in committee

Special Districts Study	HCR 53	R. Meeks	State & Local Government (S)
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Direct the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government during the 2012 Interim to study special districts' fiscal, administrative, and ethical issues in light of recent audits conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Latest Action: Jan. 27 - to State & Local Government (S)

Passed House 97-0

Redistricting: Representatives

HB 1

M. Cherry

Amend various sections of KRS Chapter 5 to divide the Commonwealth into representative districts.

Latest Action: Jan. 20 - signed by Governor

Passed House 58-39
Passed Senate 22-14

Redistricting: Congressional

HB 2

M. Cherry

Conference Committee report: Extend the filing deadline for congressional candidates to Feb. 7, 2012

Latest Action: Jan. 30 - signed by Governor

Passed House 95-0
Passed Senate 25-0

Vehicle Safety Inspections

HB 38

C. Rollins

Transportation (H)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 186 to require an annual safety inspection for vehicles owned or leased by state and local governments; require that the inspection be done by a mechanic with ASE certification.

Latest Action: Jan. 3 - introduced in House

Utility Franchises

HB 41

K. Sinnette

Tourism Development & Energy (H)

Amend KRS 96.010 to prohibit bidders for utility franchises from recovering the franchise fee from ratepayers through fees or surcharges on their bills.

Latest Action: Jan. 3 - Introduced in House

Sale of Copper Scrap

HB 57

B. Farmer

Veterans, Military, Public Safety (H)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 433 to prohibit any secondary metals recycler from purchasing copper from any person except a licensed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning contractor, electrical contractor, plumber, homebuilder, remodeler, or public or private utility.

Latest Action: Jan. 3 - Introduced in House

Water Quality Research

HB 103

J. Glenn

Tourism Development & Energy (H)

Amend KRS 48.705 to annually remove one percent of the balance in the budget reserve trust fund to be divided equally between the Kentucky alternative fuel and renewable energy fund, the rural development fund, and the water quality account of the infrastructure revolving fund, to be used for research and development.

Latest Action: Jan. 3 - Introduced in House

Minimum Age Requirements

HB 112

A. Koenig

Local Government (H)

Amend KRS 67C.103, 67C.105, and 83A.040 to lower the age at which a person is eligible to hold the office of council member or mayor to 18 years of age.

Latest Action: Jan. 27 - posted in Committee

Incompatible Offices**HB 161****B. Yonts****Local Government (H)**

Amend KRS 61.080 to make membership on a governing body of certain districts, local ethics bodies, and planning units, incompatible offices with other such positions within a county.

Latest Action: **Jan. 9** – posted in committee

Unification of Counties**HB 204****A. Koenig****Local Government (H)**

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 67 to establish a new procedure for the optional consolidation of counties.

Latest Action: **Jan. 6** – posted in committee
