Water Commissioner Bill Introduced

House Bill 446 was introduced this week by Representative Jim Gooch. This bill would change the limits on water district commissioners’ annual salary to limits on their total annual compensation. Compensation would include salary and any other benefit value (ex. health insurance premiums) to arrive at total compensation. The bill would also allow the PSC to grant reasonable extensions of time for water commissioners to complete their training requirements, if good cause can be shown.

Only two new bills were added to our Tracking Report this week as bills are continuing to be introduced. So far, 194 bills and 178 resolutions have been introduced in the Senate. In the House, 465 bills and 95 resolutions have been introduced.

The last day for bill requests is today, February 21. The last day for new House bills to be introduced is March 2. In the Senate, the last day for new bills is the following day, March 3. The last day of the 2020 session is scheduled to be April 15.

The Kentucky Rural Water Association will be hosting its Legislative Breakfast on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort from 7:00 am until 9:00 am. The Legislative Breakfast provides a great opportunity for utility managers and board members to meet with their representatives and senators during the session to gain support for projects and discuss possible legislation. To register online go to www.krwa.org or call KRWA at 270-843-2291 by February 28.

The state maintains a comprehensive Legislative website: http://www.lrc.ky.gov. From this site, you can view all bills and resolutions, contact legislators by email and check on legislative committee schedules and calendars.

The Kentucky General Assembly also maintains several toll-free phone numbers for citizens to offer feedback or opinions. The Legislative Message Line is (800) 372-7181. Citizens with hearing impairments can use the TTY Message Line at (800) 896-0305.

This issue of e-Liaison contains summary information for bills that we are tracking with details on the most recent activity for each bill. We will continue to highlight timely legislative news that is important to our members in each weekly issue. If you would like to suggest that we add a bill to the e-Liaison for tracking purposes, please contact KRWA.
H844  INFRASTRUCTURE  (GOOCH JR, JIM)

Amend KRS 511.100 to change the definition of “key infrastructure assets” to specify that natural gas or petroleum pipelines are the type of pipelines covered in the definition and include other types of infrastructure assets; amend KRS 512.020 to include tampering with, impeding, or inhibiting operations of a key infrastructure asset in the offense of criminal mischief in the first degree.

CURRENT STATUS:  2/13/2020 - (S) Referred to Natural Resources & Energy (S)

H877  PREVAILING WAGE  (KULKARNI, NIMA)

Create a prevailing wage law for all public works projects; amend KRS 12.020, 99.480, 227.487, 336.015, 337.010, and 337.990 to conform.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Economic Development & Workforce Investment (H)

H8114  PUBLIC PROCUREMENT  (DONOHUE, JEFFERY)

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 45A to set forth findings of the General Assembly and establish a policy of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to promote the Kentucky and United States economies by requiring a preference for iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in Kentucky and the United States.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to State Government (H)

H8123  EARNED PAID SICK LEAVE  (CANTRELL, MCKENZIE)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 337 to require employers to provide earned paid sick leave to employees; provide that employees earn paid sick leave upon the date of hire and can use the leave after being employed for 90 days; set forth allowable uses of earned paid sick time; designate how notice of need to use sick time is provided by employees; amend KRS 337.990 to establish penalty for employers that fail to follow paid sick leave requirements.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Economic Development & Workforce Investment (H)

H8126  UTILITY RATES  (HATTON, ANGIE)

Amend KRS 278.030 to include rate affordability when determining fair, just and reasonable utility rates; allow the Public Service Commission to review the affordability of a utility’s rate if the utility has not requested a rate adjustment in five years; allow the commission to order a rate increase to prevent
significant increases in a single period; require fair, just, and reasonable rates to balance the interests of the utility, its investors, and the ratepayer.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Natural Resources & Energy (H)

H8171 KENTUCKY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (DUPLESSIS, JIM)

Repeal, reenact, and amend KRS 61.565 to change the Kentucky Employees Retirement System's nonhazardous employer contribution payable on or after July 1, 2020, from a percentage of pay for both the normal cost contribution and the actuarially accrued liability contribution to a normal cost that is a percent of pay and an actuarially accrued liability contribution that is a set dollar amount.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/20/2020 - (S) Referred to State & Local Government (S)

H8195 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS (MILLER, JERRY T.)

Create a new section of KRS 424.110 to 424.370 to give local governments the option to post required advertisements online on a notice Web site operated by local government in lieu of newspaper publication, so long as a one-time advertisement is published in an actual newspaper.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/20/2020 - received in Senate

HB208 COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE CHARGES (ROTHENBURGER, ROB)

Amend KRS 65.7636 to remove the ability of Lifeline providers to bill and collect the CMRS service charge levied under the section from end users; make conforming changes; EMERGENCY.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/14/2020 - (S) Referred to Appropriations & Revenue (S)

HB231 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (CANTRELL, MCKENZIE)

Creates a new section of KRS Chapter 336, relating to collective bargaining for public employees; amend KRS 336.010 to define "public employees"; amend KRS 336.130 to allow employees of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to collectively bargain.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/13/2020 - (H) Referred to State Government (H)

HB232 OPEN RECORDS (SOROLIS, MARIA)

Amend KRS 61.882 to require the award of costs and attorney fees if a court finds a record is withheld willfully under the Open Records Act.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/13/2020 - (H) Referred to Judiciary (H)
Amend KRS 45A.380 to enable noncompetitive negotiation under the Kentucky Model Procurement Code for purchase or sale of wholesale electric power or natural gas by a local public agency; amend KRS 424.260 to exempt contracts for local public agency purchase or sale of wholesale electric power or natural gas of more than $30,000, from requirement for newspaper advertisement for bids.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/16/2020 - (H) posted in Natural Resources & Energy (H)

Amend KRS 61.846 to allow an agency or the Attorney General to vacate actions taken at a meeting where the agency failed to give notice of the meeting; Amend KRS 61.848 to require a person to be awarded court costs and attorney fees when a court finds there was no justiciable reason for an agency’s denial of an open meetings complaint, and to allow a court to vacate actions taken at a meeting where the agency failed to give notice of the meeting.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/27/2020 - (H) Referred to State Government (H)

Propose to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky establishing a right of the people to have clean air, pure water, and for the Commonwealth to be required to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment for the benefit of all Kentuckians; provide ballot language; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/29/2020 - Referred to Elections, Const. Amendments & Intergov. Affairs (H)

Amend KRS 65A.020 to allow the Department for Local Government (DLG) to exclude certain revenues received by special purpose governmental entities that are public use airports in determining the annual fee due from those entities; amend KRS 65A.030 to allow the DLG to exclude certain receipts received by special purpose governmental entities that are public use airports in determining the requirements relating to audits and financial statements of those entities.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/19/2020 - received in Senate

Amend KRS 74.020 to change the limits on water district commissioners' annual salary to limits on their total annual compensation; allow the Public Service Commission to grant reasonable extensions of time for water district commissioners to complete their training requirements for good cause shown; amend KRS 74.363 to conform.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/19/2020 - Introduced
REESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC WATER AND WASTE WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE (GOOCH JR., JIM)

Reestablish the Public Water and Wastewater System Infrastructure Task Force; direct the task force to continue to evaluate policy options on how to address Kentucky’s troubled public water and wastewater systems; name the membership of the task force; require the task force to meet at least three times during the 2020 Interim and to submit its findings, legislative recommendations, or a memorandum to the Legislative Research Commission by November 30, 2020.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/19/2020 - Introduced

KENTUCKY RIVER (TIPTON, JAMES)

Encourage restoration and maintenance of the Kentucky River to ensure full navigability of the river for economic and tourism development purposes.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/7/2020 - adopted by voice vote

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH (UPCHURCH, KENNETH)

Recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month in Kentucky.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/11/2020 - adopted by voice vote

SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES (ALVARADO, RALPH)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 65A to require proposed increases in ad valorem taxes and certain fees and the levy of new ad valorem taxes or fees by special purpose governmental entities to be submitted to the legislative body of the county or city in which the special purpose governmental entity is located for review; amend various sections of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to conform.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/31/2020 - (H) posted in Local Government (H)

WATER FLUORIDATION (WEST, STEPHEN)

Amend KRS 211.190 to allow local government entities and special districts to void implementation of the water fluoridation programs administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by legislative action.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/15/2020 - (S) Referred to State & Local Government (S)

AGRICULTURAL LAND (CASTLEN, MATT)

Amend KRS 211.015 to reduce the minimum acreage requirement to qualify as a "farmstead" from ten acres to five acres for the purposes of on-site sewage disposal system requirements; amend KRS 318.010
to reduce the minimum acreage requirement to qualify as a "farmstead" from ten acres to five acres for the purposes of exemption from the requirements of the Kentucky State Plumbing Code.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/19/2020 - received in House

**SB162** TRAINING OF CITY OFFICIALS (GIRDLER, RICK)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 83A requiring all mayors and legislative body members in cities of the home rule class to undergo a mandatory three-hour block of instruction concerning various duties and obligations; establish criteria for training and provide for training; establish filing requirements; establish penalty for failure to comply; require any mayor or legislative body members to receive training within one year of the effective date of this Act.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/13/2020 - (S) Referred to State & Local Government (S)

**SB165** UNDERGROUND FACILITY PROTECTION (HORNBACK, PAUL)

Amend KRS 367.4903 to define "positive response," "unique identification number," and "locator"; amend KRS 367.4909 to require operators to update the positive response system documenting the status of marking the approximate location of its underground facilities and to require excavators to give additional time to operators of underground facilities transporting gas or hazardous liquids or transmitting electricity; amend KRS 367.4911 to require excavators that find evidence of an unmarked underground facility to notify the protection notification centers and give the operators 6 hours to identify the facility; provide that if an operator of underground facilities other than one transporting gas or hazardous liquids or transmitting electricity fails to respond to locate requests and to update the positive response system the excavator shall not be liable for damages resulting from the operator's failure to comply with the duties provided in the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act of 1994; amend KRS 367.4913 to clarify the duties of the protection notification centers and to require the centers to maintain certain information for 5 years and file an annual report with the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/14/2020 - (S) Referred to Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor (S)

**SCR152** PUBLIC WATER AND WASTE WATER SYSTEM (WHEELER, PHILLIP)

Reestablish the Public Water and Wastewater System Infrastructure Task Force.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/14/2020 - (S) Referred to Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor (S)

**SR108** PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (SMITH, BRANDON)

Confirm the reappointment of Michael J. Schmitt as Chair of the Public Service Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

CURRENT STATUS: 2/10/2020 - adopted 34-0