

KRWA Legislative Breakfast a Great Success!

On Thursday, the KRWA Legislative Breakfast was held in Frankfort at the Capital Plaza Hotel. Nearly 200 individuals, representing our membership, state agency personnel and state legislators met in an informal setting to discuss local infrastructure needs in Kentucky. Even with all of the budget problems facing the state over the next few years, the general mood was positive. Thanks to all who attended!

With the first month of the 2010 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly behind us, all eyes will be focused on the daunting task of writing the state's two year-year spending plan. It involves 13 budget-review subcommittees and two full Budget Committees between the House and Senate, and somewhere approaching \$18 billion in taxpayer money to allocate wisely. There will be no stone unturned and no bone uncut, as the Appropriations committees look for ways to generate revenue and cut expenses to meet Kentuckians needs. However, we are still encouraged that the General Assembly will provide some level of funding for water and sewer projects. Keep your legislators informed of your needs during this difficult process.

On a lighter note, **HB 201**, relating to **Water District Commissioner Training**, passed the House 99-0 this week. Also approved by committee and heading for the floor, **HB 43** would ban text messaging by all drivers and the use of cell phones by drivers under age 18. Violators would face a fine of between \$20 and \$100 beginning next year. Officials say driver texting and cell phone use are on the increase, and are proven factors in motor-vehicle crashes. Several official actions to curb both have already been taken at the state and federal level. Other states have passed bills similar to HB 43, and Kentucky currently has an Executive Order in effect that bans texting while driving a state vehicle. At the federal level, a ban on texting by drivers of buses and large commercial trucks was issued just last Tuesday.

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
-----------------------	-------------	---------	-----------

Procurement Preferences **SB 42** **A. Kerr** **State & Local Government**

Amend KRS 45A.470 to require all governmental bodies and political subdivisions to give second preference to the Kentucky Industries for the Blind, Incorporated and other nonprofit corporations for services.

Latest Action: **Jan. 6** - to State & Local Government (S)

State Contracting Practices **SB 45** **G. Tapp** **State & Local Government**

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 45A to give preference to KY resident bidders in qualified state construction contracts.

Latest Action: **Jan. 28** – passed Senate 38-0 with Committee Substitute

Buy American Uniforms **SB 54** **C. Gibson** **State & Local Government**

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 45A to prohibit public employers from purchasing, acquiring, furnishing, or requiring an employee to purchase or acquire uniforms, wearing apparel, safety equipment, or protective accessories not manufactured in the U. S., unless such items are not manufactured or available for purchase in the U. S. or if similar items are only available from one U.S manufacturer and the price is substantially higher than the foreign-made items.

Latest Action: **Jan. 28** – passed Senate 37-1 with Committee Substitute

Environmental Protection **SB 56** **B. Leeper** **Natural Resources & Energy**

Amend KRS 224.01-530 to require use of Regional Screening Level Table for USEPA Region 3 rather than Region 9.

Latest Action: **Jan. 6** - to Natural Resources & Energy (S)

Engineers State Board of Licensure **SB 79** **G. Tapp** **Licensing, Occupations & Admin Reg**

Make a one-time board term of three years for one land surveyor who is appointed to fill a position on the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Latest Action: **Jan. 28** – passed Senate 38-0

Professional Engineers **SB 81** **G. Tapp** **Licensing, Occupations & Admin Reg**

Amend various sections of KRS Chapter 322 to make technical corrections to the law governing professional engineers, landscape architects and land surveyors.

Latest Action: **Jan. 28** – floor amendment filed to add landscape architects

Insurance Products **SB 87** **D. Thayer** **State & Local Government**

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 304 (Insurance Code) to define “quasi-governmental agency” and require each quasi-governmental agency to be subject to Open Records law.

Water District Commissioners**HB 201****E. Ballard****Tourism Development & Energy**

Amend KRS 74.020 to allow removal of water district commissioners as prescribed under KRS 74.455; allow the PSC to fill vacancies resulting from death, resignation, or removal of the commissioner; require newly appointed commissioners to have 12 hours of annual training; allow entities other than the PSC to provide training; provide dates certain for completed training and allow for forfeiture of office for failure to complete training; allow commissioners to be reimbursed for training fees from water district budget; prescribe method for reporting vacancies and filling vacancies.

Latest Action: **Jan. 27** – passed House 99-0 with Committee Substitute **Jan. 28** – received in Senate

Fire Sprinkler Inspectors**HB 220****B. Yonts****Labor & Industry**

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 198B, relating to annual and renewal certification requirements and fees for fire sprinkler inspectors.

Latest Action: **Jan. 21** – passed House 99-0 **Jan. 25** – to Licensing, Occupations & Admin. Regs. (S)

Regional Wastewater Commissions**HB 221****L. Belcher****Local Government**

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 65 to express the findings of the General Assembly regarding wastewater and regional wastewater commissions; permit two or more member entities owning wastewater systems to acquire, construct, operate, and improve those systems; establish a method for member entities to form a regional wastewater commission and appoint commissioners.

Latest Action: **Jan. 15** – posted in committee

Clean Water Fund**HB 310****M. Marzian****Elections, Const. Amend. & Intergov.**

Create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky to increase the sales and uses tax by three-eighths of one percent for a period of time from July 1, 2011, until June 30, 2034; to establish an outdoor heritage fund, a parks and trails fund, a clean water fund and a sustainable drinking water account.

Latest Action: **Jan. 26** – to Elections, Constitutional Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs (H)

KIA Assistance Agreements**HB 326****F. Nesler****Appropriations & Revenue**

Amend KRS 224A.100, relating to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority assistance agreements, to establish a process in which a governmental agency may ask for the reallocation of appropriated funds, if at least \$25,000 or greater, to another infrastructure project should the project either no longer be active or be completed; make the provision retroactive.

Latest Action: **Jan. 28** – to Appropriations & Revenue (H)
