

Legislative Summary 2008 Kentucky General Assembly

This is a report on non-budget actions related to postsecondary and adult education from the 2008 legislative session.

HB 2 – Promotes efficient use of energy

Sponsor – Representative Rocky Adkins (D)

- Establishes an energy efficiency program for state owned buildings.
- A High-Performance Buildings Advisory Committee shall be formed and shall include a representative from the Council on Postsecondary Education.
- Creates the Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship. Partnerships are encouraged among public universities to pursue federal resources in this area.

HB 415 – Colon cancer screening program

Sponsor – Representative Tom Burch (D)

- Provides colon cancer screening for uninsured individuals who are 50-64 and other high risk uninsured individuals.
- Establishes a Colon Cancer Screening Advisory Committee that includes the directors of the Kentucky Cancer Programs at the University of Kentucky and at the University of Louisville.
- The Advisory Committee will establish and provide oversight for a colon cancer screening public awareness campaign. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall contract with the Kentucky Cancer Consortium at the University of Kentucky to provide the required support.

HB 470 – Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System

Sponsor – Representative Frank Rasche (D)

- A house cleaning bill for KTRS making adjustments to the system.
- Permits up to 4 companies from which postsecondary institutions can purchase contracts for optional retirement programs.

HB 484 – Purchasing of agricultural products

Sponsor – Representative Dwight Butler (R)

- Encourages governing boards of postsecondary institutions to purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products.

HB 694 – Institutional eligibility for the Kentucky Tuition Grant

Sponsor – Representative Leslie Combs (D)

- Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, private postsecondary institutions must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or be reviewed and approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education to remain eligible as an institution in which a student may receive a Kentucky Tuition Grant.
- All costs associated with the institutional reviews shall be the responsibility of the institution seeking approval by the Council.

- Each postsecondary institution that provides in-state tuition for nonresident children of graduates may provide the same in-state tuition for nonresident siblings of graduates.

HB 759 – Kentucky Enterprise Fund

Sponsor – Representative John Tilley (D)

- Creates the Kentucky Enterprise Fund for the purpose of enabling small or medium-sized, Kentucky-based companies to undertake feasibility, concept development, research and development, or commercialization work in partnership with colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.
- If it is not practicable for a qualified company to partner with a college or university on a project for which all other requirements are met, then the partnering requirement may be waived.

HR 285 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Representative Frank Rasche (D)

- Confirms the appointment of Ms. Donna Moore Campbell to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on December 31, 2013.

HR 286 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Representative Frank Rasche (D)

- Confirms the appointment of Mr. Joseph S. Weis to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on December 31, 2011.

HR 291 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Representative Frank Rasche (D)

- Confirms the appointment of Mrs. Lisa Frazier Osborne to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on July 31, 2012.

SB 2 – STEM issues

Sponsor – Senator Ken Winters (R)

- Directs the Council to establish a STEM Initiative Task Force with legislative representation and establishes the membership of the STEM Initiative Steering Committee.
- The STEM Initiative Steering Committee provides oversight for the implementation of the STEM strategic and business plans and allocation of the KY STEM Initiative Fund.
- The Task Force is attached to the Council for administrative services, but may contract with a public or non-profit corporation to facilitate the public-private collaboration.
- The Task Force can receive funds and can determine use of funding, which shall not lapse.
- The Task Force or public or nonprofit corporation must submit an annual finance report by September 30 to the Governor, the LRC, the Commissioner of Education, and the President of the Council.
- The Task Force will develop a statewide strategic plan and a business plan, which will include measurable benchmarks for achieving goals. The initial business plan is due December 30, 2008.
- Creates the STEM initiative fund (not funded) to support the work of the Task Force.

SB 64 – Alternative certification of teachers

Sponsor – Senator Dan Kelly (R)

- Creates a certification incentive fund (but was not funded) to support the development of institutes for persons pursuing Option 7 of the alternative certification routes allowing persons with a bachelor's degree to earn certification.
- The Educational Professional Standards Board promulgates the regulations and administers the fund.
- Grant recipients may be universities, school districts, education cooperatives, and school district consortia.
- Priority institutes will certify teachers in high school math, chemistry, integrated science, physics, and middle school math and earth science.
- Institutes are three week summer programs and students will continue to get formal training throughout the first year of teaching.
- Students in the institutes will receive forgivable loans which will have to be repaid if they don't complete the institute or teach for one year. KHEAA will administer the loan program. The students also will receive a stipend on completion of the institute.

SB 65 – Optional retirement issues

Sponsor – Senator Ken Winters (R)

- Fixes the optional retirement percentage that institutions pay to KTRS to pay down the unfunded liability at 5.1%, which will increase the number of years that institutions have to pay the premium but it keeps the percentage from fluctuating.
- Allows people who have chosen the optional retirement plan a one time opportunity to change. If they choose to change plans within six years of their original election to participate in the optional retirement program, they can buy prior service credit. If the employees choose to change and become part of KTRS after the six-year period they cannot purchase prior service. Those who change can participate in disability and survivorship and health benefits except that prior conditions are not included.

SB 75 – KEES “on track to graduate”

Sponsor – Senator Ken Winters (R)

- Creates an incentive to encourage adequate progress toward graduation.
- Adds provision to KEES program that allows students who are “on track to graduate” to earn a 2.5, rather than a 3.0 to get their full KEES award.
- “On track to graduate” is determined by the institution as what is necessary for a full-time student to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of 8 academic terms (or 10 in a five-year program).
- New requirements start with students who enroll in college in the academic year 2009-10 or thereafter.
- Institutions are required to report students who are “on track” beginning in 2010-11.

SB 90 – Deaf interpreter programs

Sponsor – Senator Gary Tapp (R)

- Expands availability of deaf interpreter programs in the state to allow more than one institution to offer the programs. New programs will go through the Council's normal program approval process.

SB 100 – Bill relating to contracting

Sponsor – Senator Gary Tapp (R)

- The bill tightens the flexibility available to state agencies and institutions to award contracts under a best value option rather than the lowest bid. The amendment seeks to define in a broad sense how best value is applied (based on the specifications written in the bid). The definition will allow all interested parties to know what best value means and thus allows the bid to be structured to better meet the requirements.

SB 157 – Renaming of regional universities

Sponsor – Senator Vernie McGaha (R)

- Amends various statutes to rename regional universities as comprehensive universities.

SB 189 – Capital planning reporting

Sponsor – Senator Jack Westwood (R)

- Implements the recommendation of the Capital Planning Advisory Board that state agencies and postsecondary institutions budget for and implement projects that preserve the investment in capital infrastructure.
- Establishes a requirement for reporting of what has been done in the area of capital renewal, maintenance, and renovation. It does not require that additional funds be budgeted for this purpose.
- The requirement impacts only state-owned facilities, including facilities funded with non-General Fund dollars (i.e., housing, parking structures, and athletic facilities).
- This bill reflects the Council recommendation that institutions annually budget and spend 0.5 percent of the general fund operating amount to address capital renewal and maintenance needs on campus.

SJR 166 – Comprehensive statewide literacy plan

Sponsor – Senator Jack Westwood (R)

- Directs the Kentucky Department of Education, in consultation with the Adolescent Literacy Task Force, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Educational Professional Standards Board, business, community, and other educational partners, to develop a cohesive and comprehensive statewide literacy plan that builds instructional and leadership capacity to support continuous improvement in literacy, especially adolescent literacy.
- A plan must be submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Education no later than December 1, 2009.

SR 262 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Senator David Williams (R)

- Confirm the appointment of Ms. Donna Moore Campbell to the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on December 31, 2013.

SR 268 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Senator David Williams (R)

- Confirm the appointment of Mrs. Lisa Frazier Osborne to the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on July 31, 2012.

SR 269 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Senator David Williams (R)

- Confirm the appointment of Mr. Joseph S. Weis to the Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on December 31, 2011.

SR 270 – Confirm appointment

Sponsor – Senator David Williams (R)

- Confirm the appointment of Mrs. Virginia G. Fox to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for a term expiring on December 31, 2012.