

# Bills to be considered by EPC on Feb. 9

## HB5 CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS (BAUMAN, JARED)

AN ACT relating to crimes and punishments.

This bill attempts to address crime and safety issues, especially in urban areas, and has attracted considerable media and opinion page coverage regarding provisions dealing with homeless individuals who often suffer from mental disabilities. It is not an education issue per se, but it has caught the attention of the 35 SBLEs (School-based Law Enforcement agencies) in the state representing 288 officers, because HB 5 excludes SBLEs from receiving critical/crime related information. As written, the bill requires any school employee observing an individual not entitled to be on school property to immediately report to a local law enforcement agency not established by the local board of education and to the Department of Kentucky. The Kentucky Center for School Safety would like to see "not established by the local board of education" removed from the bill.

According to the Center for School Safety, if a school employee contacts an agency outside of the school that has a school-based law enforcement agency within its jurisdiction, the local agency will just advise the employee to call their own police department. KSP will do the same thing, but it will at least be reported to two agencies. As it is worded today 37% of the SROs would not be in the loop when there is a potential threat on school property if this bill becomes a law.

### CURRENT STATUS

1/26/2024 - received in Senate

## HB367 PUBLIC BENEFITS (WILLIAMS, WADE)

AN ACT relating to public benefits.

**This bill prohibits the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from taking certain actions regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), including those actions listed below, and could impact the eligibility of students**

**whose families lose benefits to participate in the free or reduced school lunch program.**

- Increasing the eligibility standards for participation in the program.
- Granting noncash, in-kind, or other benefits to individuals in the program unless individuals are eligible for those benefits under a different program.
- Exempting individuals from the gross income and financial resources standards for benefits.
- Applying for, seeking, accepting, or renewing any waiver of work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents
- The bill would also remove the provisions allowing the cabinet to waive certain requirements within the SNAP program without first obtaining authorization from the General Assembly.



**CURRENT STATUS**

1/24/2024 - Introduced

**HB446 PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION** (CALLAWAY, EMILY)

AN ACT relating to public school transportation.

**This bill attempts to bring problems related to school bus discipline under control by giving bus drivers more ability to report and be heard on violations of bus discipline policies, and requires responses from parents or guardians.**

- Require local school boards to adopt a transportation services policy relating to school district discipline guidelines,
- Require the Kentucky Department of Education to create a model transportation services policy.
- Create process for operators of transportation to report, be heard during proceedings, and receive a response regarding misconduct by students aboard transportation and also by parents or guardians
- Permit revocation of transportation privileges based on failure to acknowledge transportation services policy
- Require inclusion of the transportation services policy in district safety plans.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/1/2024 - Introduced

## **HB447** TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS *(CALLAWAY, EMILY)* Same as SB 92

AN ACT relating to the transportation of students and declaring an emergency.

**This bill will help reduce the shortage of bus drivers by allowing districts to use an alternate plan approved by KDE to license drivers who do not have a CDL.**

- Permit school districts to use district-owned, leased, or contracted passenger transportation vehicles to transport students to and from school and approved school activities under an alternative transportation plan approved by the Kentucky Department of Education;
- Provide that vehicles shall be operated by an employee or contractor of local school district that is licensed to operate a motor vehicle within the Commonwealth
- Provide that the Kentucky Department of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish minimum standards and specifications for an alternative transportation plan;
- Require the driver of any non-school bus passenger vehicle authorized to transport students to and from school pursuant to the alternative transportation plan submit to an annual national and state criminal background check and clear CA/N check
- Require certain traffic offenses or arrests to be reported to the superintendent
- Provide that an individual who operates a school bus or non-school bus passenger vehicle to transport a student or students without a current valid license to operate that motor vehicle within the Commonwealth shall be guilty of a Class D felony;
- EMERGENCY.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/1/2024 - Introduced

**HB449**

**LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION** (RILEY, STEVE)

AN ACT relating to local boards of education.

**This bill allows the use of a high school or postsecondary school transcript, or a sworn affidavit to prove a candidate for school board has completed the twelfth grade, removes specifications for the topics of required training for board of education members, and requires board members to have at-least one hour of ethics training.**

- Provide additional types of evidence permitted to document a board of education candidate's completion of twelfth grade.
- Remove specifications for the topics of required training for board of education members.



**CURRENT STATUS**

**HB461**

**SCHOOL BUS SAFETY** (HALE, DAVID)

AN ACT relating to school bus safety.

**This bill requires all districts to use recording devices to identify school and church bus stop-arm violations. The bill increases the maximum fines for violations and provides incentives for sheriff offices to enforce stop arm rules.**

- Require the use of camera monitoring systems on all school buses by all school districts and require the enforcement of a civil penalty for stop-arm camera violations recorded by a camera monitoring system.
- Set the amount of the civil penalty and provide that the revenue generated from a civil penalty shall be retained by the county.
- Require specific notice for a stop arm camera violation and require a form for a stop arm camera violation notice.
- Establish defenses to a violation and establish procedures for a contest to a violation.
- Require a recipient of a violation to pay or contest the violation within 60 days and allow for suspension of registration for failure to pay a fine.
- Require a county to notify the Transportation Cabinet of the need to release a suspension within one business day of payment.
- Increase the maximum fines for failing to stop for a school bus or church bus that is receiving or discharging passengers.

- Require traffic in the opposite direction of a school bus to stop for a school bus on highways that are not divided by a raised barrier or unpaved median.
- Provide that a sheriff may retain charge and collect a fee of \$50 from every collected civil penalty for a stop arm camera violation enforced by the sheriff's office.
- EFFECTIVE July 1, 2025.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/5/2024 - Introduced



## HB464 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY *(TIMONEY, KILLIAN)*

AN ACT relating to school district property and declaring an emergency.

**This bill continues the process initiated by the enactment of legislation in 2023 to update, revise and streamline the school facility construction process.**

- Establish that local boards of education submit all plans for new public school buildings or additions or alterations of old buildings to the chief state school officer.
- Prohibit the Kentucky Department of Education from requiring prior approval of the district's plans.
- Prohibit a project for new school buildings from spending more than 10 percent of the project on the acquisition and improvement of land.
- Provide a waiver process and require the administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education on the construction of school buildings be subject to a review and update process.
- Provide for the approval and appeal process for a district's purchase or disposal of real property.
- Provide a waiver and appeal process from standards for plans and specifications of buildings.
- Update language and require the department to establish a professional development program and a list of similar professional development offerings for district personnel on facilities management, construction, and management.'
- Require districts to use the professional development program.
- Authorize a district to use capital outlay funds to employ facility related personnel as defined by the department.
- Establish the requirements for a district facilities plan,

- Establish dangerous levels of radon within a school facility as an emergency that may be addressed outside the district facilities plan process and the funds that may be used to mitigate radon.
- Remove the requirement for a district to obtain prior approval from the department for a mortgage or lien on a school building or for leasing a building.
- EFFECTIVE June 30, 2024
- EMERGENCY.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/5/2024 – Introduced

## HB469 PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS *(FUGATE, CHRIS)*

AN ACT relating to Purple Star Schools.

**Purple star schools are any K-12 public, private, or public charter school that has committed to supporting the educational and social-emotional needs of military-connected students, as identified by the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs. The bill requires these schools to offer 'Purple Star School' programs to eligible students.**

- Define "military-connected student" and "purple star school".
- Establish the Purple Star School Program and set requirements for eligibility.
- Designate the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs as the governing body of the program.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/6/2024 - Introduced



## HB471 SCHOOL PRE-ENROLLMENT FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS *(FREELAND, CHRIS)*

AN ACT relating to school pre-enrollment for military-connected students.

**This bill allows the children of military personnel to not be required to appear in person for enrollment or course registration, including enrollment in a specific**

**school or program within the school district when the parent’s deployment or military duties prevent the enrolment from taking place in person.**

- Allow the use of military orders as proof of residency for enrollment or course registration in a school and prohibit in-person enrollment or course registration when prevented due to official military duties.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/6/2024 – Introduced

2/1/2024 – Introduced

**SB166 FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS IN EDUCATION (**

AN ACT relating to foreign organizations in education.

- Forbid the involvement of government-organized nongovernmental organizations based in the People's Republic of China in education in Kentucky.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/2/2024 – Introduced



**SB167 STUDENTS’ COMMUNICATION SKILLS (TICHENOR, LINDSEY)**

AN ACT relating to public school students' communication skills.

*This bill requires students to be trained in cursive writing and have the ability sign their name in cursive to graduate.*

- Require cursive writing to be included as a course of study in all elementary schools beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Establish a public high school graduation requirement that a student demonstrate the ability to sign his or her own name in cursive.

- Direct the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations to administer the section and create a waiver process for students physically unable to demonstrate a cursive signature.
- Require all public high schools to offer a course in typing and cursive writing; direct Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations to establish academic standards for the course; require successful completion of the course to be a graduation requirement from the 2025-2026 school year through the 2028-2029 school year.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/2/2024 - Introduced



## SB168 SCHOOL COUNCILS *(TICHENOR, LINDSEY)*

AN ACT relating to school councils.

**This bill removes reference minority members of school councils, increases parent membership to 3 and specifies councils are subject to model procurement code. Establishes procedures for parent member elections and how to fill vacancies. Provides for reasonable review by stakeholders of textbooks and materials selected by the council.**

- Remove reference minority members of school councils.
- Change the parent membership of the council from two to three and specify that council members are subject to KRS Chapter 45 A as officers of an agency.
- Establish an election committee for conducting parent member school council elections.
- Establish the procedures for the parent member election.
- Establish how to fill a vacancy of a parent member of the council.
- Provide that curriculum, textbooks, and instructional material piloted shall be subject to the reasonable review and response period for stakeholders.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/2/2024 - Introduced



## SB169 LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION *(TICHENOR, LINDSEY)*



AN ACT relating to local boards of education.

- Establish a process to recall a member of a local board of education



## CURRENT STATUS

2/2/2024 - Introduced



## SB170 LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION *(TICHENOR, LINDSEY)*

AN ACT relating to local boards of education.

**This bill provides for the election of new members or removal of existing members to conform to provisions setting the number of board members based on the enrollment in the district. Requires increased transparency relating to personnel investigations. Would remove the long established prohibition on superintendents hiring relatives.**

- Establish new numbers for membership of a local board of education based on district enrollment.
- Require the Kentucky Board of Education to determine the required number of members every 10 years.
- Provide for the election of additional members and for the reduction of membership.
- Require local boards of education to report new electoral divisions to the Kentucky Board of Education and the Legislative Research Commission.
- Establish a one-year term for chair and vice chair of the local board of education.
- Require superintendents to submit reports on closed personnel investigations to the local board of education for the purposes of policy oversight and evaluation of the superintendent's performance.
- Require open records and open meetings training for local board members and make conforming changes.
- Permit the hiring of relatives of a local board member.
- Require the Kentucky Board of Education to implement Section 1 of this Act by December 31, 2024.

- Require superintendents to submit reports on previous personnel investigations closed during the superintendent's contract to the local board of education within 30 days of the effective date of this Act.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/2/2024 - Introduced



## SB171 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS *(TICHENOR, LINDSEY)*

AN ACT relating to school superintendents.

**This bill changes the number of board members required to vote to remove a superintendent, deletes requirement for Commissioner of Education to approve removal of a Superintendent. Prohibits a superintendent from employing persons convicted of certain sex crimes classified as a misdemeanor.**

- Require a majority plus one vote instead of a four-fifths vote of board members to remove the superintendent.
- Delete requirements for approval from the commissioner of education to remove a superintendent.
- Provide an appeal process for the superintendent.
- Forbid a superintendent from employing persons convicted of certain sex crimes classified as a misdemeanor.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/2/2024 – Introduced