

## New Bills introduced February 22, 2024

### **HB587** PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS *(STEVENSON, CHERLYNN)*

AN ACT relating to public charter schools.

**This bill would repeal the Kentucky Charter School Act.**

- Amend KRS 18A.225, 78.510, 156.095, 158.038, 158.189, 158.196, 158.305, 158.4416, 160.152, 161.164, 161.220, and 218B.045 to remove references to public charter schools; repeal KRS 160.1590, 160.1591, 160.15911, 160.1592, 160.1593, 160.1594, 160.1595, 160.1596, 160.1597, 160.1598, 160.1599, and 161.141 relating to public charter schools.



#### **CURRENT STATUS**

2/20/2024 - Introduced



### **HB588** TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM *(STEVENSON, CHERLYNN)*

AN ACT relating to the Teachers' Retirement System and declaring an emergency.

**This bill would repeal the new TRS tier created in the 2021 session and move the members in this tier to the tier applicable to members who entered the system immediately prior to January 1, 2022.**

- Remove provisions of HB 258 enacted during the 2021 Regular Session that created and adjusted benefits for individuals who become members of the Teachers' Retirement System on or after January 1, 2022.
- Repeal KRS 161.633, 161.634, 161.635, and 161.636, relating to university and non-university members
- Provide that these members shall be eligible for the benefits applicable to members who entered the system immediately prior to January 1, 2022
- EMERGENCY.



#### **CURRENT STATUS**

2/20/2024 - Introduced

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**HB605** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT *(TRUETT, TIMMY)*

AN ACT relating to professional development.

**This bill would enable school counselors to be trained to provide counseling to students wishing to enter the building and construction trades.**

- Allow the Kentucky Department of Education to enter into an agreement with a building and construction trade organization to develop a training program for school counselors on building and construction trades.
- Provide professional development credit to school counselors and teachers, if resources allow, who participate in the program
- Require the department to include the training program on the electronic consumer bulletin board.

 **CURRENT STATUS**

2/20/2024 - Introduced

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**HB611** TRUANCY *(BAUMAN, JARED)*

AN ACT relating to truancy.

**This bill is designed to strength truancy laws by making parents and guardians more accountable.**

- Require a director of pupil personnel to file with the county attorney a complaint against a parent or guardian who has allowed a child in kindergarten to grade five to be absent without excuse for 15 or more days.
- Allow the director of pupil personnel, after consultation with the court designated worker, to refer the case to the family, accountability, intervention, and response team.
- Require that a diversion agreement for a child against whom a complaint alleging truancy has been filed shall require that if the child is absent without excuse two or more times during the diversion, the child will be considered to have failed diversion and the matter shall be immediately referred to the county attorney.

 **CURRENT STATUS**

2/20/2024 - Introduced



## **HB612** READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION *(TIPTON, JAMES)*

AN ACT relating to reading and language arts instruction.

**This bill would outlaw the use of ‘three-cueing systems’ in reading instruction which involves prompting students to draw on context and sentence structure, along with letters, to identify words.**

- Require the Kentucky Department of Education to establish an approved list of reading curriculum that does not use a three-cueing system
- Require that school districts not use any curriculum that employs a three-cueing system.
- Prohibit the use of a three-cueing system in teacher professional development.
- Require the Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB) to promulgate regulations establishing curriculum for each approved educator preparation program and specify that educator preparation programs shall use evidence-based reading instruction and intervention programs and shall not provide instruction on a three-cueing system.
- Require the EPSB to include in the standards set for teacher preparation programs that the programs shall use evidence-based reading instruction and intervention programs and shall not provide instruction on a three-cueing system.



## **CURRENT STATUS**

2/20/2024 - Introduced

## **HB644** EDUCATION *(MCCOOL, BOBBY)*

AN ACT relating to education.

### **Shell Bill**

- Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 - Introduced

### **HB650** BIBLE LITERACY COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS *(HALE, DAVID)*

AN ACT relating to Bible literacy courses in the public schools and declaring an emergency.

**This bill would allow site-based decision-making councils to offer Bible literacy courses in grades 7 and above.**

- Permit school-based decision-making councils to offer Bible literacy courses to students in grade seven and above.
- Permit such courses to count as language arts courses and require the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations permitting Bible literacy courses as language arts courses.
- Require the Kentucky Department of Education to create guidelines for schools in developing and implementing Bible literacy courses.
- EMERGENCY.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 - Introduced

### **HB662** EDUCATION *(MILES, SUZANNE)*

AN ACT relating to education.

#### **Shell bill**

Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 - Introduced

## **HB683** PROHIBITION OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN COMMON SCHOOLS *(MASSARONI, CANDY)*

AN ACT relating to the prohibition of social and emotional learning in common schools.

**This bill would prohibit social and emotional learning (SEL) in public schools, typically defined as enabling students to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel, and show empathy for others, establish, and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. Critics of SEL tend to equate it with critical race theory, that it is ideological indoctrination, that data collected from students in SEL could pose privacy issues and that SEL borders on unlicensed psychological therapy.**

- Prohibit instruction on social and emotional learning in common schools.
- Prohibit the use of state funding to promote or provide social and emotional learning instruction of training.

### CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 - Introduced

## **SB2** STUDENT SAFETY *(WISE, MAX)*

AN ACT relating to student safety.

**This bill establishes the position of 'Guardian' in schools who may help ensure school safety in the absence of an SRO and allow districts with SROs to hire 'guardians' for additional security. This bill appears to be designed to give districts a more available and less expensive alternative to an SRO. The bill also deals with training of guardians and suicide prevention. This is 'SB 2' and as such is considered the second highest bill in priority introduced in the Senate this session.**

- Establish a framework for employment of Kentucky guardians in schools.
- Specify qualifications of a guardian and specify that a local board of education may not be held liable for a guardian acting within his or her scope of duty.

- Specify that guardians shall have the immunities of police officers and require the Center for School Safety to implement a system to certify guardians to school districts and administer and oversee the school mapping program.
- Specify required certifications in the definition of "school resource officer" and allow school districts to hire a guardian until a certified school resource officer is available as required.
- Allow a district with a school resource officer to hire guardians to provide additional school safety and security measures.
- Require the trauma-informed team to compile their activities to be used in the creation of the comprehensive school improvement plan and submit the information to the Department of Education (KDE).
- Require KDE to annually summarize and submit the information to the state board and the Legislative Research Commission.
- Require the department to gather and compile data, coordinate training, and monitor the numbers and types of mental health professionals in schools.
- Require the Office of Homeland Security to maintain and update the anonymous reporting tool and specify that each school district shall make available an anonymous reporting tool.
- Require schools to provide suicide prevention awareness twice a year and an opportunity for any student who missed the suicide prevention awareness lesson to receive the lesson at a later time.
- Allow secondary locking mechanisms in schools and require school councils or principals to include school mapping data, if available, in their emergency plans.
- Create the School Mapping Data Program administered by the Center for School Safety and outline requirements of school mapping data
- Require the local school district's safety coordinator to maintain a current copy of school mapping data.



## CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 – Introduced

## SB232 EDUCATION *(WESTERFIELD, WHITNEY)*

AN ACT relating to education and declaring an emergency.

**This bill addresses several topic including provisions similar to HB 464 regarding the school facilities construction approval process, removes minimum requirements for librarians, defines employer contributions to a child care facility**

**on behalf of the child care provider as 'contributions', and allows for renewal of emergency teaching certificates for 2024-2025 school year.**

- Establish that local boards of education shall submit all plans for new public school buildings or additions or alterations of old buildings to the chief state school officer, but prohibit the Kentucky Department of Education from requiring prior approval of the district's plans
- Provide for the approval and appeal process for a district's purchase or disposal of real property.
- Allow use of estimates of the cost of a project by licensed architects or engineers for establishing the financing; 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
- Remove minimum requirements for a school librarian
- Include an employer directly paying for the child-care facilities and facility maintenance on behalf of a child-care provider in the definition of "contribution".
- Allow for the renewal of an emergency teaching certificate for the 2024-2025 school year.
- EFFECTIVE July 1, 2024
- EMERGENCY.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/20/2024 - Introduced

**SB250 EDUCATION** (WEST, STEPHEN)

AN ACT relating to education.

**Shell Bill**

- Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/22/2024 - Introduced

**SB251 EDUCATION** (WEST, STEPHEN)

AN ACT relating to education.

**Shell Bill**

- Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/22/2024 - Introduced



**SB252** EDUCATION *(WEST, STEPHEN)*

AN ACT relating to education.

**Shell Bill**

- Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/22/2024 - Introduced



**SB253** EDUCATION *(WEST, STEPHEN)*

AN ACT relating to education.

**Shell Bill**

- Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.



**CURRENT STATUS**

2/22/2024 - Introduced



**SB254** EDUCATION *(WEST, STEPHEN)*

AN ACT relating to education.

**Shell Bill**



- Amend KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 - Introduced

## **SB256** SCHOOL MEALS *(ARMSTRONG, CASSIE CHAMBERS )*

AN ACT relating to school meals at low-income schools.

- Establish the Kentucky Proud School Match Program fund and establish the Kentucky Proud School Match Program
- Direct the Department of Education to reimburse an eligible school district \$0.33 for every meal reimbursed by the community eligibility provision at the paid rate
- Require a school district that receives a reimbursement to develop and implement a Kentucky Proud school plan to identify and purchase available Kentucky-grown agricultural products and to optimize food usage.
- Direct the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out this section and provide that the section shall be null and void if the community eligibility provision is terminated by the United States Department of Agriculture.
- Provide that the Act may be cited as the Kentucky Proud School Match Act.

## CURRENT STATUS

2/22/2024 - Introduced

## **SB258** STUDENT JOURNALIST FREEDOM *(NEAL, GERALD A.)*

AN ACT relating to student journalist freedom.

**This bill is designed to protect freedom om speech protections for student journalist and student media advisors.**

- Provide additional free speech protections for student journalists and place limitations on additional protections.
- Provide protection for student media advisors and require each district to adopt a written policy for time, place, and manner restrictions and for an appeals procedure.

- Provide that student speech not be considered school speech and provide that a student journalist or student media advisor may seek injunctive relief.
- Provide that the Act may be cited as the New Voices Act.



## **CURRENT STATUS**

2/22/2024 - Introduced