

Scorecard @ Apl 7
(57/60 days)

	Senate	House
# bills filed	258	754
# resolutions filed	315	300
# bills passed 1 chamber	37	159
# bills passed both chambers	59	108
# bills into law	51	99
# bills vetoed	0	0

LRC Contact Numbers

Bill Status	877/257-5541
Mtg info	800/633-9650
Legislators msg	800/372-7181
TTY msg	800/896-0305
Spanish msg	877/287-3134
LRC web	www.lrc.ky.gov

Key Session Dates

Jan 4	Convenes
Jan 9	Gov's State of Commonwealth Address
Jan 17	Gov's Budget
Feb 17	Last day to have a new bill drafted
Feb 27	Last day to file House bills
Mar 1	Last day to file Senate bills
Mar 24 & 27	Concurrence days
Mar 28 - Apl 7	Veto days (GA not in session)
Apl 12	Adjourns (tentative)

The General Assembly was in recess last week and reconvenes again today for the final 3 days of the 2006 Regular Session. House and Senate leadership met last week to put the final touches on the proposed budget (**HB 380**). Agreement on all budget issues was reached the week before but the total budget package was not put together until a few days ago.

Leadership has also been working to determine if other bills will be called in the final days. Even if compromises among leadership have been reached, bills may need to be changed substantially to ensure enough floor votes. Some bills may be stripped of their original intent and become "omnibus bills" containing several related issues to ensure sufficient votes. Look for these bills to come up this week.

Meanwhile, Governor Fletcher has been busy signing bills into law. Last week, he signed over 60 bills and allowed 1 (**HB 94**) to go into effect without his signature. The Broadband deployment incentive (**HB 550**) and RECC line of business (**HB 568**) bills were among those signed into law.

It has been reported that there has been disagreement in the number of days to meet this week. The House has given signals that it wants to end the session early; the Senate, however, will take the full 3 days if needed. Today is expected to be a full day with several committees scheduled to meet to pass bills; the floor session may go into the night.

Telecom Issues

There has been no change in the status of **HB 337**, *Telecom's Emerging Technology and Consumer Choice Act of 2006*. The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee is expected to meet during a recess of the full Senate today and vote on the bill. If the bill is passed out of committee, the Senate is then expected to take up the bill and the floor amendments. Grass roots contacts in support of the bill continued to be made with Senators last week.

The KTA office has written 2 letters in response to editorials against **HB 337** in the Lexington Herald-Leader and Louisville Courier-Journal. Both letters have been published – on March 27 in the Lexington paper and April 6 in the Louisville paper.

Ins & Outs

BellSouth and AT&T filed their merger application at the PSC last week.

Its official, spring is here. Keeneland opened its spring meet last Friday.

Senate Bills & Resolutions

SB 49 GIFT CARD RESTRICTIONS

Law

(Roeding) – Would define and place restrictions of the sale of gift cards. *Exempts prepaid calling cards. [Filed 1/4. Senate Banking & Insurance Cmte passed cmte substitute 1/27. Senate passed 35-0 w/1 amendment 2/6. House Banking & Insurance passed w/amendment 2/23. House passed 95-2 w/floor amendment, 3/6. Senate concurred 37-0, 3/10. Governor signed 3/24.]*

SB 53 CMRS BOARD

(Buford) – Would a) clarify that prepaid calling cards are subject to the wireless E911 surcharge, b) reallocates surcharge monies to fund the state 911 Office, c) create a fund for a direct grant or matching funds program and d) restrict provider cost recovery to Tier III carriers. See HB 656. *A similar administrative sponsored bill is expected to be filed. [Filed 1/4; now in Senate Appropriations & Revenue (A&R).]*

SB 59 HOMELAND SECURITY

(Kelly) – Confirms a 2005 Executive Order to establish an Office of Homeland Security in the Governors office. *The CMRS Board is transferred from COT into this new office. [Filed 1/5. Senate State & Local Government (S&LG) passed cmte substitute 1/11. Passed Senate 32-0, 1/17. House State Government (SG) passed cmte substitute 3/21. 5 floor amendments filed. House passed 91-5 w/floor amendments 2 & 4, 3/24. Now in Senate for concurrence.]*

SB 88 TDD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Law

(Buford) – Would rename the a) program to Telecommunications Access Program and b) TDD equipment to specialized telecommunications equipment (STE), and expand types of STE available in the program. *[Filed 1/17. Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources (Ag&NR) passed 1/26. Senate passed 34-0, 2/1. House Education passed 2/15. House passed 98-0, 3/8. Governor signed 3/17.]*

SB 111 AERIAL IMAGERY

(Tori) – Would require all entities in state that creates or purchase aerial images using public funds to give free copy to state. *Cmte substitute restricts usage & access to gov't use only. [Filed 1/23. Senate A&R passed cmte substitute 2/23. Senate passed 27-1, 3/2. House A&R passed 3/14. House passed 95-0, 3/24. Now in Senate.]*

SB 131 SYNTHETIC GAS SUPPLY CONTRACTS

Law

(Stivers) – Would require PSC to approve a 20-year supply contract for pipeline quality synthetic natural gas produced through a gasification process if certain limitations are met. *[Filed 1/3. Senate Ag&NR passed 2/9. Senate passed 37-0, 2/16. House Tourism Development & Energy (TD&E) passed 3/9. House passed 98-0, 3/17. Governor signed 3/28.]*

SB 167 PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

(Harris) – Would define unmarked public ROW. Same as HB 501. *[Filed 2/8. Senate Transportation passed 2/22. Senate passed 38-0, 3/1. Now in House Transportation.]*

SB 228 SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

(Seum) – Would require all technology systems used in K-12 schools meet guidelines to ensure the integration of multi-vendor software applications. See HB 341. *[Filed 2/27; now in Senate Education.]*

SR 146 PSC APPOINTMENT

(Williams) – To confirm the appointment of Teresa Hill as PSC commissioner and vice-chair for term ending July 1, 2009. *[Filed 2/1. Senate Ag&NR adopted 2/9. Senate adopted 38-0, 2/22.]*

SJR 226 PAUL R. GEARHEART RECOGNITION

(Turner) – To recognize the career and accomplishments of Paul R. Gearheart by naming a Floyd County bridge after him. *Sponsor withdrew SJR 205 to refile this resolution. [Filed 2/27; now in Senate Transportation.]*

SR 267 OTTO INGRAM RECOGNITION

(Blevins, et al) – To recognize Otto Ingram on his 90th birthday. *[Filed 3/1. Senate adopted by voice vote 3/24.]*

House Bills & Resolutions

HB 9 MOBILE PHONE RESTRICTIONS

(Marcotte) – Would prohibit use of mobile phones while driving. Emergency personnel & hand-free phones are exempt. *[Filed 1/3; now in House Transportation.]*

HB 48 FRANCHISE FEES/TAXES

(Rasche) – Would redefine franchise fee/taxes to exclude any in-kind cost or property “required by a franchise agreement to be incurred by a provider for a capital items for public, educational, or governmental access facilities. *[Filed 1/3. House Appropriations & Revenue (A&R) passed w/amendment to exclude telecom, 1/24. House passed 93-2 w/cmte & floor amendments limiting bill to cable 1/30. Now in Senate A&R.]*

HB 52 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

(Cherry) – Would expand the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (EBEC) definitions to include the PSC and its orders. *[Filed 1/3. House SG passed cmte substitute 2/7. House passed 96-0, 3/6. Now in Senate Ag&NR.]*

HB 74 RURAL ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT CMTE

(Denham) – Would create the Rural Enhancement & Development Cmte as a new permanent LRC sub-cmte. Part of its duties would be to review rural “*infrastructure development, including telecommunications and broadband access*”. *[Filed 1/3. House SG passed 2/7. House passed 98-0, 2/22. Now in Senate Ag&NR.]*

HB 82 JOINT MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

(Cherry) – Would allow separate municipal electric systems to jointly own and provide electric services. All related provisions in KRS 278 are maintained. Electric (IOUs & RECCs) have submitted a Statement of Principles. The cmte heard testimony on Feb 23 but did not vote. *[Filed 1/3; now posted in House TD&E.]*

HB 175 IDENTITY THEFT

(Lindsey) – Would require businesses and government agencies notify persons if a breach of security of their computerized personal information occurs. *[Filed 1/3. House Judiciary approved cmte substitute 1/11. Recommitted to Judiciary 2/7.]*

HB 185 SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTS

(Farmer & Palumbo) – Would require governments to give preferences to small businesses in defined purchases and contracts. *[Filed 1/3; now posted in House SG.]*

HB 298 GOVERNMENT ETHICS

Law

(Vincent) – Would establish an annual \$125 registration fee from lobbyists to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission. *[Filed 1/10. House SG passed 1/31. House passed 95-0, 2/8. Senate S&LG passed 2/22. Senate passed 38-0, 3/1. Governor signed 3/15.]*

HB 337 TELECOM REGULATORY REFORM

KTA Supports

(Brinkman, Jenkins et al) – Would limit PSC jurisdiction to basic service, redefine minimum service standards and allow alternative regulation and bundling of services. Opponents at the Feb 2 hearing were the Attorney General, AARP, SouthEast Telephone, Time Warner Telecom & the Catholic Conference of KY. The PSC was neutral but raised substantial questions/concerns. The cmte chair called a Mar 2 negotiations meeting which resulted in a 2nd cmte substitute that led to House vote on the bill. The Senate cmte heard testimony on Mar 23; another cmte mtg to vote is expected on the next session day. The Senate has already had 2 of 3 readings required prior to a vote. The floor amendments are intended to kill the bill and are opposed by bill supporters. *[Filed 1/12. House TD&E passed cmte substitute 3/7. House passed 83-14, 3/14. Now in Senate Ag&NR. 3 floor amendments filed.]*

HB 341 SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

(Draud & Jenkins) – Would require all technology systems used in K-12 schools meet guidelines to ensure the integration of multi-vendor software applications. See SB 228. *[Filed 1/12. House Education passed committee substitute to require study 3/8. House passed 98-0, 3/15. Senate Education passed cmte substitute 3/24. Senate passed 36-0, 3/24.]*

HB 348 METROPOLITAN & MICROPOLITIAN CMTE

(Riggs et al) – Would create the Metropolitan & Micropolitan Cmte as a new permanent LRC sub-cmte. Part of its duties would be to review rural “*infrastructure development, including telecommunications and broadband access and needed improvements*”. *[Filed 1/12. House Local Government passed 1/24. House passed 98-0 w/floor amendment, 2/28. Now in Senate S&LG.]*

HB 364 TAX MODERNIZATION CLARIFICATIONS

(Farmer & Belcher) – Would amend corporate tax sections, including the alternative minimum tax provisions. *[Filed 1/17; now in House A&R.]*

HB 374 ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS

Law

(Palumbo et al) – Would require a cost-benefit analysis be part of issuing new regulations, new notification procedures and each cabinet to have a small business ombudsman. *[Filed 1/17. House Economic Development passed 1/24. House passed 95-0 w/1 floor amendment 2/7. Senate A&R passed committee substitute 3/14. Senate passed 38-0, 3/21. House concurred 97-0, 3/24. Governor signed 4/5.]*

HB 378 INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

(Gray et al) – Would increase the minimum wage to \$6 in July, \$6.50 in July, 2007 and adopt federal minimum wage if higher. *[Filed 1/17. Labor & Industry (L&I) passed 1/24. Recommitted to L&I 2/7.]*

HB 380 EXECUTIVE BRANCH BUDGET

(Moberly & Hoover) – Gov. Fletcher's budget seeks \$17.7 billion to fund the state government for FY 2006-08. PSC budget proposal is \$27.8M, after returning to the state general fund \$5.3M in FY 06, \$1M in FY07 & FY08. *[Filed 1/17. House A&R passed 2/21; recommitted to cmtc 2/22. House A&R passed cmtc substitute 3/6. House passed 97-0-1 w/4 of 13 floor amendments, 3/7. Senate A&R passed cmtc substitute w/7 amendments 3/21. Senate passed 38-0, 3/21. House refused to concur 3/22. Conference committee appointed 3/22 and issued report 3/23. Free conference cmtc appointed 3/23.]*

HB 390 EXECUTIVE ORDERS

(Barrows) – Would add restrictions to the scope and terms of executive orders. *[Filed 1/18. House SG passed 1/31. Now on House floor w/floor amendment.]*

HB 396 LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

(Cherry) – General overhaul of legislative ethics law, providing more definitions and clarifications of what legislators can and cannot do with, among other things, lobbyists and campaign funding. *[Filed 1/18; now posted in House SG.]*

HB 403 TAX MODERNIZATION CLARIFICATIONS

Law

(Moberly) – Would clarify tax changes made in the Tax Modernization Act of 2005, including sourcing of communications and cable tax revenues and establishing new penalties for non-compliance. *[Filed 1/17. House A&R passed 1/24. House passed 95-0 w/telecom supported floor amendment 1/30. Senate A&R passed 2/9. Recommited to Senate A&R and passed cmtc substitute 2/15. Senate passed cmtc sub 37-0, 2/15. House concurred in Senate version 98-0, 2/22. Governor signed 3/6.]*

HB 468 TDD SURCHARGE INCREASE

(Westrom & Siler) – Would raise the TDD Distribution Program surcharge to "not less than 2 cents/access line" from "not to exceed 1 cent". Sponsor filed floor amendment to limit increase to "2 cents/access line". *[Filed 1/30. House TD&E passed 2/16. House passed 98-0 w/floor w/amendment 2/28. Now in Senate Ag&NR.]*

HB 485 UTILTIY SALES TAX EXEMPTION

(Owens) – Would expand the residential utility sales tax exemption to apartments and mobile home parks. The exemption applies to electric, gas and water residential sales. *[Filed 2/1; now in House A&R.]*

HB 501 PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

(Collins et al) – Would define unmarked public ROW. Same as SB 167. *[Filed 2/2. House Transportation passed cmtc substitute 2/9. House passed 96-2, 2/15. Senate Transportation passed committee substitute 3/15. Senate passed 38-0, 3/22. House concurred 89-5, 3/24.]*

HB 522 DIRECTORY RESTRICTIONS

(Ford et al) – Defines & prohibits "misleading telephone directory advertising by florists" and establishes penalties. Telco providing directory is exempt. *[Filed 2/6; now in House Licensing & Occupations.]*

HB 524 PSC COMPLIANTS

(Weaver) – Would require PSC to establish procedural schedule within 60 days of AG filing a complaint. *[Filed 2/7. House TD&E passed 2/16. House passed 85-13, 3/1. Now in Senate Ag&NR.]*

HB 536 TELEMARKETING

(Adkins) – Would define the state zero call list as the national Do Not Call registry maintained by the FTC, removes the AG from maintaining a state list and makes wireless numbers eligible for inclusion to the zero call list. *[Filed 2/8. House SG passed 2/28. House passed 97-0, 3/8. Now in Senate Ag&NR.]*

HB 538 CLEANCOAL SURCHARGE

(Webb) – Would allow electric utilities to charge a "clean coal generation surcharge" during power plant construction to recover capital, financing and related expenditures. *[Filed 2/8; now posted in House TD&E.]*

HB 543 TELEPHONE CUSTOMER RECORDS

(Adkins) – Would prohibit obtaining and selling telephone records without authorization and establishes penalties, exempts law enforcement and telcos with limitations and requires telcos to establish procedures to maintain privacy of customer records. *Telecom supported amendments are expected in a cmtc substitute. [Filed 2/9; now posted in House Judiciary.]*

HB 550 BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INCENTIVES

KTA Supports Cmtc Sub

Law

(Palumbo) – Would establish the "Kentucky Broadband Account" within the Kentucky infrastructure Authority to fund broadband deployment projects for private and local governments. Broadband projects are defined as a) areas with no broadband service or are underserved and b) wireless broadband service for a county courthouse. Cmtc substitute filed w/telecom supported amendments limiting projects to unserved areas. *KTA testified in support at House cmtc hearing. [Filed 2/9. Reassigned from House TD&E to Economic Development (EconDev) 2/14. House EconDev passed cmtc substitute 3/1. House passed 94-0 w/floor amendment 3/9. Senate Ag&NR passed 3/16. Senate passed 37-0, 3/23. Governor signed 4/4.]*

HB 568 RECC LINES OF BUSINESS

Law

(Wilkey) – Would allow rural electric cooperative cooperatives to enter other lines of business. RECCS sponsored bill in response to a state Supreme Court ruling that current law limits sales to electric power only. *Parties agree to compromise committee substitute. Floor amendment filed to make telecom services a primary line of business. [Filed 2/13. House TD&E passed cmtte substitute 3/9. House passed 95-3, 3/13. Senate Ag&NR passed 3/16. Senate passed 36-1-1, 3/21. Governor signed 4/3.]*

HB 635 MOBILE PHONE RESTRICTIONS

(Meeks & Marcotte) – Would prohibit use of mobile phones while driving. Emergency personnel & hand-free phones are exempt. See HB 9. *[Filed 2/21; now in House Transportation.]*

HB 656 CMRS BOARD

(Barrows & Damron) – Would a) clarify that prepaid calling cards are subject to the wireless E911 surcharge, b) revise Board membership (KTA rep would become voting member), c) revise duties to include “developing standards & protocols of 911 services”, d) create a fund for a direct grant or matching funds program to expand E911 statewide and e) revise funding allocations to carriers and PSAPs. Supported by KENA. See SB 53. *[Filed 2/22; now in House SG. House A&R passed cmtte substitute w/amendment 3/10. House passed 96-0, 3/14. Senate A&R passed cmtte substitute 3/24. Senate passed 38-0, 3/24.]*

HB 662 TAX PENALTY WAIVER

(Kerr) – Would provide 1-year waiver of any penalty directly resulting from tax changes in the 2005 Session. *[Filed 2/23; now in House Judiciary.]*

HB 707 COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE

(Belcher) – revises CDL testing procedures and establishes new \$100 test fee. *The first 2 Senate readings have already been done. [Filed 2/27. House Transportation passed 3/9. House passed 97-0 w/floor amendment 3/16. Now in Senate Transportation.]*

HB 714 MOBILE PHONE RESTRICTIONS

(Dedman & Bowen) – Would prohibit use of mobile phones while driving a school bus. *[Filed 2/27; now in House Transportation.]*

HCR 26 PSC RATE FREEZE

(Nelson) – Requests the PSC not authorize utility rate increases in 2006. *[Filed 1/3; now posted in House TD&E.]*

HCR 28 E-SCRAPE TASK FORCE

(Webb) – Creates legislative task force to assess recycling of e-scrap waste report by Dec 1, 2006. *[Filed 1/3. House Natural Resources & Environment passed w/cmtte amendment 1/31. House adopted w/floor amendment 97-0, 2/22. Now in Senate Ag&NR.]*

Editors Note This news bulletin is published weekly via email during sessions of the General Assembly for the benefit and information to KTA members and friends. Special issues and Member Alerts will also be published as needed to notify members of significant action or bills affecting members. Contact the KTA office to be added or deleted from the distribution list, or to receive it in a different medium. Each edition will also be available on the KTA web site at www.ktaoffice.org. Questions and comments should be directed to Forest M. Skaggs at 859/223-9001 or forest@ktaoffice.org.