

**Scorecard @ Jan 13**  
**(9/60 days)**

	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>
# bills filed	86	363
# resolutions filed	93	87
# bills passed 1 chamber	0	4
# bills passed both chambers	0	0
# bills into law	0	0
# 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	<a href="http://www.lrc.ky.gov">www.lrc.ky.gov</a>

**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- Apr 7	Veto days (GA not in session)
Apr 11	Adjourns

The General Assembly got down to business last week as more committees began meeting to consider bills and interim reports. The House passed 4 bills and sent them to the Senate. The general pace has picked up as the session gets into its routine of committee meetings in the morning and House and Senate sessions in the afternoons. Many are waiting for the fireworks, or partisan politics, to start but House and Senate leaderships are still being cordial to each other.

House Democrats have been out front in proposing legislation that is similar to Republican proposals, especially Gov. Fletcher's proposals. The House Democrats have proposed comprehensive education and small business packages before similar Republican proposals could be introduced. The Governor's budget is also expected to include similar provisions. All proposals are expected to include plans to raise teacher salaries, provide greater funding to all schools, and health insurance and tax assistance to small businesses.

Legislators have already filed almost 450 bills but 1,200 are expected. Feb 27 is the last day to file House bills while Mar 1 is the date for new Senate bills.

The Governor will present his 2006-08 *state budget address* to the General Assembly Tuesday night and his budget bill will be filed later in the week. He gave some indications of his budget plans in his State of the Commonwealth address last week but legislators are still waiting to see the details. His budget is expected to be almost \$17 billion and focus on all phases of education, health and insurance coverage and economic development. An element of his education proposals of interest to telecom is a commitment to improve technology in K-12 schools. He has also indicated he will seek controversial "right to work" legislation and a constitutional amendment to limit medical malpractice lawsuits.

Casino gambling bills have now been introduced but their fate is uncertain. The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), a major supporter of casino gambling at race tracks, released a survey poll claiming a majority of Kentuckians support voting on the issue. KEEP advocates a constitutional amendment that would add casino gambling to the types of gambling now allowed in the state.

In a small surprise, Rep. Perry Clark (D-Louisville) resigned his seat after he was nominated to run for the 37<sup>th</sup> Senate seat in the special Feb 14 election. He didn't have to resign but told House members that "he couldn't serve as a lawmaker and ask for needed political donations at the same time". The House may now have its own special election to fill the Clark's seat.

The Capitol is full of stories of crowded hallways and one reason is the number of lobbyists. There are over 500 lobbyists registered representing several hundred companies, associations and business entities. With only 138 legislators, lobbyists outnumber them by about 4 to 1. Lobbyists, however, perform a necessary and valid service to promote and protect the interests of their employers. KTA member lobbyists include Dan Logsdon (ALLTEL), Ron Geoghegan and Amy Scarborough (BellSouth), Mark Romito (Cincinnati Bell) and Forest Skaggs (KTA). A full list of lobbyists and their employers are at [www.klec.ky.gov](http://www.klec.ky.gov).

#### Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Cmte

*Chair* – Tom Jensen (R-London)

*Vice Chair* – Vernie McGaha (R-Russell Springs)

*Members* – David Boswell (D-Owensboro), Ernie Harris (R-Crestwood), Dan Kelly (R-Springfield), Bob Leeper (I-Paducah), Joey Pendleton (D-Hopkinsville), Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson), Richie Sanders (R-Franklin), Ernesto Scorsone (D-Lexington) & Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown)

#### House Tourism Development & Energy Cmte

*Chair* – Eddie Ballard (D-Madisonville)

*Vice Chairs* – Tanya Pullin (D-South Shore) & Brandon Smith (R-Hazard)

*Members* – Royce Adams (D-Dry Ridge), Carolyn Belcher (D-Owingsville), Joe Bowen (R-Owensboro), Jim Carr (D-Hopkinsville), Larry Clark (D-Louisville), Howard Cornett (D-Whitesburg), Milward Dedman (R-Harrodsburg), Jim Gooch (D-Providence), Keith Hall (D-Phelps), Mike Harmon (R- Junction City), Mary Harper (R-Shepherdsville), Tom Kerr (R-Taylor Mill), Tom McKee (D-Cynthiana), Brad Montell (R-Shelbyville), David Osborne (R-Prospect), Ansel Smith (D-Leburn) & Robin Webb (D-Grayson)

### Telecom Issues

Telecom and utility bills will first be reviewed in the House Tourism Development & Energy and Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources committees. The committee members are shown in the box on this page.

**HB 337**, *telecom's Emerging Technology and Consumer Choice Act of 2006*, gained more sponsors after the bill was filed last week. There are now 34 co-sponsors. KTA lobbyists and members continue to meet with legislators and various interest groups to explain and support the bill. The bill will, in part, limit regulation on competitive services and allow for alternative forms of regulation.

### Ins & Outs

The Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. When the fairgrounds opened in 1956 it was the largest multi-purposed facility in the world. It will undergo major renovations in 2006-07 to bring it up modern expo standards.

*Ellen Williams* resigned as Commissioner of the Governor's Office of Local Development last week to pursue "options in government affairs and lobbying". Williams was vice-chairman of the PSC in 2004-05, and has also been chairwoman of the state Republican Party.

The General Assembly and State Government are closed on Monday, Jan 16 in recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

### Senate Bills & Resolutions

#### SB 49 GIFT CARD RESTRICTIONS

(Roeding) – Would define and place restrictions of the sale of gift cards. *Exempts prepaid calling cards. [Filed 1/4; now in Senate Banking & Insurance Cmte.]*

#### SB 53 CMRS BOARD

(Buford) – Would clarify that prepaid calling cards are subject to the wireless E911 surcharge. Reallocates surcharge monies to fund the state 911 Office, create a fund for a direct grant or matching funds program and restrict provider cost recovery to Tier III carriers. *[Filed 1/4; now in Senate Appropriations & Revenue.]*

## 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 passed cmte substitute, 1/11. Now posted on the Senate floor.]*

### House Bills & Resolutions

## HB 9 MOBILE PHONE RESTRICTIONS

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

## 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; now posted in House Appropriations & Revenue.]*

## HB 52 PSC

(Cherry) – Would expand the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (EBEC) definitions to include the PSC and its orders. *[Filed 1/3; now in House State Gov't (SG).]*

## HB 74 RURAL ENHANCEMENT &amp; 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; now in House SG.]*

## 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. *[Filed 1/3; now in House Tourism Development & Energy (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. Now in Rules w/floor amendment filed.]*

## 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 in SG.]*

## HB 298 ETHICS

(Vincent) – Would establish an annual \$125 registration fee paid by lobbyists to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission. *[Filed 1/10; now in SG.]*

## 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. *[Filed 1/12; now in TD&E.]*

## HB 341 SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

(Draud) – Would require all technology systems used in K-12 schools meet guidelines to ensure the integration of multi-vendor software applications. *[Filed 1/12.]*

## HB 348 METROPOLITAN &amp; MICROPOLITAN CMTE

(Riggs) – 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; now in LG.]*

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## HR 26 PSC RATE FREEZE

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

## HR 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; now in House Natural Resources & Environment.]*

**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](http://www.ktaoffice.org). Questions and comments should be directed to Forest M. Skaggs at 859/223-9001 or [forest@ktaoffice.org](mailto:forest@ktaoffice.org).