

**FIRST ISSUE  
FOR THE 2007  
REGULAR SESSION**

**Scorecard @ Jan 5  
(4/30 days)**

	Senate	House
# bills filed	73	219
# resolutions filed	29	41
# bills passed 1 chamber	0	0
# bills passed both chambers	0	0
# bills into law	0	0
# bills vetoed	0	0

**LRC Contact Numbers**

Mtg info	800/633-9650
Legislators msg	800/372-7181
TTY msg	800/896-0305
En Espanola	866/840-6574
LRC web	<a href="http://www.lrc.ky.gov">www.lrc.ky.gov</a>

**Key Session Dates**

Jan 2	Session I Convenes
Feb 6	Session II Convenes
Feb 9	Last day to have a new bill drafted
Feb 16	Last day to file Senate bills
Feb 20	Last day to file House bills
Mar 9 & 12	Concurrence days
Mar 13 - 23	Veto days (GA not in session)
Mar 27	Adjourns

The 2007 General Assembly convened in regular session in Frankfort last week for its organizational week (Part I). It is now adjourned until Feb 6 when it will meet for an additional 25 days (Part II). The session is scheduled to end on Mar 27 after meeting for 30 days. It is also often called a “short” session as opposed to the 60-day sessions which meet in even-number years.

On Jan 2, all newly elected legislators took the oath of office and then their seats in the GA for the first time. The rest of the week was limited to organizational matters: House and Senate leadership elections, committee assignments and filing of bills. The real action begins next month when they return and committees begin to meet and act on bills.

The Senate makeup remains the same at 21 Republicans, 16 Democrats and 1 Independent. All senators facing re-election last fall won. With little surprise, the Senate leadership also remains the same. See box below.

The House, however, is now more Democratic following the elections in which several representatives retired and others were upset. Sixteen (16) new representatives were elected including 2 who have served before. The House gained 5 Democrats and the makeup is now 61 Democrats and 39 Republicans. There were several contested leadership contests with a couple of upsets. See box below.

Committee assignments are made by leadership and the committee chairs have been announced to date. The chairs for the committees dealing with telecom and utility related matters remain the same – *Tom Jensen (R-London)*, chair of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources, and *Eddie Ballard (D-Madisonville)*, chair of the House Tourism Development & Energy. Full committee assignments will be made during session break.

House Democratic leadership has already announced its legislative agenda and, although, it now has a stronger majority, will continue to face problems when its bills move to the Republican-controlled Senate.

Governor Ernie Fletcher has yet to announce any legislative issues and may be too pre-occupied with re-election activities to have much of an agenda in this session. One issue all sides seem to agree on is a *review and funding the capital projects vetoed in the final budget last session*. With an estimated surplus of \$279 million, a general agreement to take a closer look at these projects has been reached.

Telecom Issues

The only bill filed last week directly impacted telecom was **HB 80**, which would increase local government’s hold-harmless amount in the communications excise tax formula. The excise tax, passed in the 05GA, as part of Gov. Fletchers Tax Modernization Act, in part, replaced local franchise taxes. Local governments have claimed, however, that the tax does not cover its franchise taxes lost.

Ins & Outs

This will be the first “short” session that does not have to deal with passing a budget. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 2002, the budget was passed during the 06GA as scheduled.

Even without the budget, there are expected to be plenty of issues to address -- *minimum wage, illegal aliens in the workplace, election and merit system reform, casino gambling and taxes*, to name a few.

The GA e-news will be published weekly during the session. Contact the KTA office with

feedback, for additional information or copies of bills.

A listing of filed bills and their status will be included in future editions.

Senate Leadership

*President* – David Williams (R-Burkesville)

*President Pro Tem* – Katie Kratz Stine (R-Ft. Thomas)

*Republicans*: Floor Leader - Dan Kelly (R-Springfield), Caucus Chair - Richie Sanders (R-Franklin) & Whip - Dan Seum (R-Fairdale)

*Democrats*: Floor Leader - Ed Worley (D-Richmond), Caucus Chair - Johnny Ray Turner (D-Drift) & Whip - Joey Pendleton (D-Hopkinsville)

House Leadership *(changes in italics)*

*Speaker* – Jodie Richards (D-Bowling Green)

*Speaker Pro Tem* – Larry Clark (D-Louisville)

*Democrats*: Floor Leader - Rocky Adkins (D-Sandy Hook), Caucus Chair – *Charlie Hoffman (D-Georgetown)* & Whip – *Rob Wilkey (D-Scottsville)*

*Republicans*: Floor Leader - Jeff Hoover (R-Jamestown), Caucus Chair - Bob DeWeese (R-Louisville) & Whip – *Stan Lee (R-Lexington)*

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).