

Weather Record							
Date	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8	2-9	2-10
High	63.8	49.2	40.8	32	42.2	58.2	52.8
Low	49.4	36.8	32	27.5	25.8	21.8	43.9
Prec	2.13	0.17	0.2	0.04	0	0.01	1.48

Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.

Greensburg Record-Herald

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Section

4 Pages, Greensburg Record-Herald, Wednesday, February 12, 2020

House continues work on legislation

The first full week of February saw several key pieces of legislation deliberated in committee and on the House Floor. At the same time, members of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee and budget review subcommittees continue to work on the House version of the state budget. The budget must reflect our commitment to spend taxpayer money wisely, lay the groundwork for a solid financial future, and provide necessary services. As the Vice-Chair of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, we are working now to keep that commitment.

While the budget is an ongoing commitment, we continue to send legislation from our committees to the full House, and from the full House to the Senate for consideration. On Thursday, the House voted 91-1 to pass HB 135, legislation aimed at increasing access to health care by allowing physician assistants (PAs) to prescribe certain controlled substances. Approximately 1,800 physician assistants practice in Kentucky, and a majority of them act as primary care providers. In fact,

Capitol Focus



State Rep. Brandon Reed

a quarter of practicing PAs serve in rural areas where access to medical care is otherwise limited. Kentucky is the only state in the nation that does not allow PAs to prescribe some level of controlled substances.

We also passed legislation that strengthens our ability to keep children safe as they ride and exit school buses. HB 34 would allow local school districts to install cameras on school bus stop arms – those mechanical signs that come out when school buses stop to let children on and off. As you know, it is illegal - and dangerous - to pass a school bus that stopped to allow children to disembark. However, there seems to be a growing disregard for this law and the safety of our school children. The bill also provides for cost and revenue sharing agreements with third parties to pay for camera in-



LRC photo

Rep. Brandon Reed, R-Hodgenville (right), along with Rep. Bart Rowland, R-Tompkinsville, present House Concurrent Resolution 53, a resolution urging the United States Congress to enact legislation allowing states to permanently adopt daylight saving time, in the House State Government Committee.

stallation and manage the enforcement. HB 34 also increases the fine for illegally passing a school bus.

I joined fellow legislators in voting for a legislation aimed at protecting line-of-duty death benefits for surviving spouses. The

measure, HB 271, preserves the death benefits of a widow or widower if he or she chooses to get remarried. Current law mandates that if a surviving spouse remarries, the death benefit they receive is reduced to 25 percent. Under the proposed legislation, the surviving spouse will receive 75 percent of the deceased spouse's retirement if they choose to remarry. It is estimated that this legislation will only affect 14 people today, but it sends a strong message that we stand by the folks who serve and protect us.

I was fortunate to sponsor and pass a resolution urging Congress to allow Kentucky and other states to permanently adopt daylight saving time, or DST. Several other states have already approved legislation to make DST permanent, including Florida, Washington, and Tennessee. Whether or not a change is made is ultimately up to the federal government which sets the dates for daylight saving time—also referred to as “daylight time.”

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Reed receives award

Recognized for work protecting conservative values

The American Conservative Union Foundation (ACUF) recognizes Representative Brandon Reed of Hodgenville with an Award for Conservative Achievement. This award is presented to state legislators that continually illustrate conservative principles in their work.

“I am humbled to receive an ‘Award for Conservative Achievement’ for my efforts to maintain an ethical voting record in the 2019 Legislative Session,” Reed said. “As a State Representative, it is my priority to protect conservative principles in the Generally Assembly, and continue to work every day to ensure that my colleagues uphold what is written within the Constitution.”

The ACUF's Ratings of Congress and Ratings of the States are designed to show the way over 8,000 elected officials across the nation view the role of government. The ratings for Kentucky illustrate the differences between chambers of the legislature and reveal lawmakers' positions on a variety of issues that directly affect Kentuckians.

Chairman of ACUF Matt Schlapp stated, “In the 2019 session, Kentucky lawmakers passed legislation to create economic opportunities and leave intact the Second Amendment rights of Kentuckians. Now, Governor Beshear is signaling that he intends to spend beyond the state's means, raise taxes, and limit constitutionally protected rights. It will be up to the conservatives of the General Assembly to prevent these bad ideas from becoming a reality.”

The ACUF, host of the Conservative Political Action Conference, released its ratings of the 2019 Kentucky General Assembly and reviewed legislation voted on in

Givens' Legislative update of fifth week

It was a busy but productive fifth week of the 2020 Regular Session as we passed a wide array of bills through the Senate and continued biennial budget discussions.

As we wait to receive a budget proposal from the House of Representatives, where all spending bills must originate, the Senate the Appropriations & Revenue Committee has already begun an intensive review process of the budget proposed by the Governor. Crafting the Commonwealth's two-year financial plan is a lengthy process, but I am confident that the final product will be fiscally responsible while ensuring sufficient funding for our critical programs. I will keep you updated on the status of the budget in the coming weeks.

The Senate Majority made notable progress on the 2020 legislative agenda, successfully passing 11 bills over the course of the week, including Senate Bill (SB) 1 and SB 7.

Also known as the Federal Immigration Cooperation Act of 2020, SB 1 ensures the cooperation of state and local governments with the federal government in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The bill

will create no additional responsibilities for law enforcement or agencies, but it does require no less be done than what federal statutory law states. SB 1 preemptively prohibits local municipalities from enacting sanctuary immigration policies. There had already been discussions in one of Kentucky's major cities to enact such policies. These would be irresponsible and dangerous. While many can agree that federal immigration law needs to be addressed by Congress, current laws should be enforced to ensure the safety of the public, and provide law enforcement with the assurance that they can enforce laws in good faith.

SB 7, priority legislation relating to School-Based Decision-Making Councils, returns the appointment of the school principal to the superintendent after consultation with the school council and equalizes council membership of teachers and parents.

A number of bills with bipartisan support passed through the Senate this week. SB 63 is a measure that would allow high school dropouts who are at least 21 years of age to complete their graduation requirements through online



LRC photo

Senate President Pro Tem David P. Givens, R-Greensburg, comments on Senate Bill 40, a bill that would require front-line staff of child-placing agencies and childcare facilities to submit to national and state fingerprint-supported background checks, in the Senate Health and Welfare committee.

programs. SB 45 requires licensed child-care centers to have standards on nutrition and physical activity. SB 45 also incorporates state and national expertise in developing new standards regarding screen time and sugary drinks.

SB 42 would require issued student identification badges to contain emergency hotline numbers for domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide prevention.

Suicide rates among young people is a true epidemic. I encourage you to have honest conversations with the young people in your life and let them know they are loved. Tragic stories arise far too often of someone who has taken their life out of depression or perceived hopelessness. Life is precious and we should take time to let others know that they are loved and not alone.

Also passing in the Senate this week: SB 102, legislation to remove unnecessary red tape in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by repealing 48 outdated and obsolete statutes. SB 87, an act to remove the automatic transfer of a child from a district court to circuit court to be tried as an adult in cases involving the use of firearms. SB 40, legislation that would provide additional protections for Kentucky's vulnerable children by requiring fingerprint background checks for employees of child protection and child welfare agencies. SB 60, a measure to add SMA to the list of heritable conditions tested at birth. This screening would be provided at no additional cost to the family, or the Kentucky taxpayer.

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