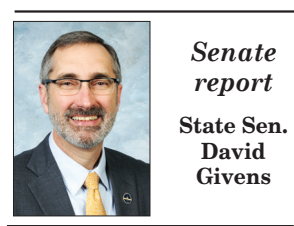


Senator David Givens: Week 3 of the 2021 Regular Session



Senate report
State Sen. David Givens

The Kentucky General Assembly reconvened in Frankfort this week for the second portion of the 2021 Regular Session, having now completed 11 out of the required 30-days. Legislative business at the Capitol resumed full speed ahead, as both the House and Senate spent the week meeting in committees, voting bills out of the chamber, and overriding vetoes recently cast by the governor.

During the recess period, the governor vetoed six priority bills. They included Senate Bills (SB) 1 and 2, and House Bills (HB) 1, 2, 3, and 5. The policy measures disapproved by the governor consist of language to implement a 30-day expiration of executive orders concerning restrictions placed on schools, businesses, and nonprofits - unless extended by the approval of the General Assembly. The same would go for executive orders that regu-

late political, religious, and social gatherings or impose mandatory isolation or quarantine requirements.

All of the gubernatorial vetoes listed above were overridden this week by the legislative majority and have effectively become law. As elected officials representing Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth, we are eager to be involved in these consequential decisions moving forward.

You can find more details on each of these bills in my previous legislative updates or online at www.legislature.ky.gov.

It comes as no surprise that the governor has already filed litigation challenging some of the veto overrides. However, I am grateful to say that Senate Bill 9, the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, became enacted law without the governor's signature.

While we were in recess, budget conference committees, including members from both the House and Senate, began meeting to deliberate an agreed-upon budget bill. Luckily, the state's Consensus



LRC Photo

Senator David Givens (R-Greensburg) represents the 9th District including Allen, Barren, Green, Metcalfe, Monroe, and Simpson Counties. He serves as the Senate President Pro Tem. Senator Givens also serves as a member of the Senate Standing Committees on Appropriations and Revenue; Agriculture; Education; and Health and Welfare, as well as on the Rules Committee and Committee on Committees. Additionally, Senator Givens is a member of the Legislative Research Commission Statutory Committee.

Forecasting Group predicted in December that Kentucky would see a small increase in revenue at roughly \$53 million in the next year, with economists

expecting the state's budget will not be as hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic as initially thought. These discussions will remain a vital part of the ses-

sion as these conference committees hammer out details of the state's annual budget plan.

The Senate passed several bills to the House this week, including:

Senate Bill 11—provides recourse for property owners to pursue legal action for intentional damages done to rental property. The bill would classify the deliberate or wanton destruction, defacement, and damage to residential rental property as criminal mischief. It also strives to provide landlords with notifications on background checks if a prospective applicant has previously been charged with causing substantial and intentional damage to rental property.

Senate Bill 21—allows originating hospitals to voluntarily transport mental health patients to a different hospital or facility upon staff authorization and a patient's signed written agreement. It would prevent an adult or child patient who has voluntarily been transported from being released during the transport to a receiving facility.

The bill would also establish that a qualified mutual health professional may provide outpatient counseling to any child who is age 16 or older.

Senate Bill 61—establishes training standards for the staff of personal services agencies and home health agencies that serve patients with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. If enacted into law, the bill would improve the care provided to these patients. The hope is that it would also address retention of direct-care staff by better preparing them for job duties—resulting in less stress and dissatisfaction.

There is still much work to be done, but I will continue to keep you updated and informed in the weeks ahead. Thank you for staying engaged in this year's legislative session. It is a great honor to serve you in Frankfort.

If you have any questions or comments about these issues or any other public policy issue, please call me toll-free at 1-800-372-7181 or email me David.Givens@LRC.ky.gov.

Rep. Reed: General Assembly overrides Governor's veto



Capitol Focus
State Rep. Brandon Reed

The Kentucky House and Senate returned for part two of the 2021 Legislative Session. There was no shortage of activity, and my colleagues and I have been busy working for the people of the Commonwealth. One of the first tasks before us this week overriding the Governor's vetoes of six pieces of legislation we passed in January. The legislation vetoed included bills that protect the

unborn, better defined legislative and executive branch powers, and help Kentuckians deal with the COVID pandemic.

As a co-equal branch of government, we are constitutionally tasked with making laws and passing a budget. I am committed to enacting good long-term public policy that benefits all Kentuckians. The bills vetoed are the result of months of careful consideration and input from stakeholders. While the Governor has the authority to veto them, the legislature is ultimately responsible for making law. We decided to exercise that authority.

While this process may seem like a political move, it is a common legislative practice and has happened several times in just the past decade. You may remember that the Republican-controlled House and Senate overrode several vetoes from former Republican Governor Matt Bevin during his term. Disagreement over policy decisions is an essential part of governing. Kentuckians do not always see eye-to-eye, so how can we expect our government to do so? Ultimately what matters is that we work together when we can, and respect each other when

working together is not possible.

The House and Senate delivered the bills to the Secretary of State. Most are now law because they all contained emergency clauses making them effective immediately.

However, the Governor filed suit challenging three of the bills within minutes of our vote to override the veto. HB 1, SB 1, and SB 2 are tied up in court. I am not surprised but disappointed.

HB 1 provides direction to help businesses, schools, nonprofits, and other organizations remain safely open

throughout the rest of this pandemic. It gives employers some relief in making their unemployment insurance payments. The measure also includes a provision that ensures visitation opportunities for those in long-term care and children in state custody.

SB 1 balances the need for Kentucky to act quickly in an emergency by ensuring that a governor does not overstep his or her authority and attempt to legislate through executive orders. SB 2 prevents the executive branch - including unelected appointees - from using the regulatory process to make

laws.

I want to share again how seriously I take the privilege of serving this district. I hope you will not hesitate to reach out to me to share your thoughts on the issues coming before us in Frankfort. I can be reached during the week from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (EST) through the toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via e-mail at Brandon.Reed@lrc.ky.gov. You may also follow me on Facebook at State Representative Brandon Reed or Twitter @BrandonReed4KY for regular updates.

Tax time is here; filing can begin Friday, Feb. 12

From page 1A

Then entering their Social Security number and exact dollar amount of the expected refund. Due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health recommended precautions, please note DOR has reduced the number of employees at its physical office locations. While DOR will make every effort to process returns as quickly and efficiently as possible, the processing of all refunds may be slightly delayed due to the unusually late start of the IRS filing season.

"The Department of Revenue works hard to ensure Kentucky taxpayers have efficient, secure and convenient means to submit their annual tax returns," said Revenue Commissioner Thomas B. Miller. "As always, we encourage taxpayers to file their returns electronically, if possible, which helps minimize mistakes and expedite

the processing of refunds."

Depending upon household income, some taxpayers may qualify for the Free File Alliance, which offers no-cost Kentucky tax return preparation for electronic returns and allows taxpayers to receive refunds via direct deposit. Please visit revenue.ky.gov, select "Individual," then select "Free Electronic Filing" to learn more and find out if you qualify.

Last year, Kentucky launched KY File, a no-cost option to file Kentucky individual income tax returns. KY File is free to users and is designed to be the simple electronic equivalent of a paper form. KY File will provide basic mathematical and error checks, but unlike tax software, it does not ask about or explain tax scenarios. There are no income limitations to use this service.

Before using KY

File, taxpayers should complete their federal tax forms. KY File will allow you to file your returns electronically and receive a paper check sooner. Direct deposit is not an option with KY File. You may also choose to use KY File and print and mail returns to the Kentucky Department of Revenue. To learn more, visit

filetaxes.ky.gov.

Taxpayers who have questions or require assistance may submit a general inquiry on the DOR website at "Get Help" or contact DOR taxpayer assistance at (502) 564-4581. Taxpayers who are deaf or hard of hearing may call TTY: (502) 564-3058 for in-person assistance.

**To donate to the Food Pantry send a check to:
Green County Ministerial Association
P.O. Box 124
Greensburg, Ky, 42743**

In Kentucky, 662,000 people struggle with hunger and may not know where they will find their next meal. That number includes one in every five kids who may not have enough to eat. Kentucky has the highest rate in the nation of food insecurity among adults age 50-59. Nationally, the food insecurity rate among adults age 50-59 is 10.6 percent while in Kentucky the rate is 17.3 percent.

Driven to Be the Best!™
★★★ OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE ★★★
Quality Drive Away, Inc. needs CDL drivers with EXPERIENCE to deliver Motorhomes, Trucks, Buses, and Tractors throughout the USA. We have 20+ pickup locations. Must have DOT physical and be willing to keep logs. No DUIs in last 10 years, and clean MVR. Some Non-CDL positions available.
Quality Drive-Away Inc.
Apply Online at www.qualitydriveaway.com or call 574-642-2023

Crossword Puzzle Answers

C	A	L	M			L	O	T	I					
M	A	G	Y	A	R		L	E	A	R	N	S		
E	R	O	S	I	O	N		C	O	N	S	U	M	E
T	I	U		D	E	S	T	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
Z	E	T	A		S	E	I	N	E		S	S	E	
	S	I	Z	E		C	E	E	S		P	M	T	
		S	A	L	E		S	M	O	K	E	S		
			L	O	P	E		A	M	A	S			
		P	E	N	I	L	E		E	K	E	S		
	P	E	A		C	A	R	P		A	T	A	R	
B	I	N		U	T	I	L	E		A	C	H	E	
U	N	A	W	A	R	E	N	E	S	S		K	I	R
R	E	L	A	X	E	S		B	O	A	T	I	N	G
P	A	T	I	O	S				P	I	A	N	O	S
	L	Y	N	N					D	I	G	S		

Crossword puzzle found on page 6A