

Givens introduces SB 114 to reinforce public trust in school board decision-making

Legislation clarifies board structure, strengthens accountability and supports transparent governance in Kentucky's largest school districts

Senate President Pro Tempore David Givens, R-Greensburg, filed Senate Bill (SB) 114, a measure designed to strengthen accountability and improve transparency in how Kentucky's largest county school districts are governed. SB 114 applies to county school districts serving 25,000 or more students, where the scale and complexity of operations demand clear governance, fair representation and

strong public oversight. The bill updates long-standing statutes to ensure school board structures are understandable, consistent and accountable to the communities they serve. "Our goal should always be clear, responsible governance that puts students and families first," Givens said. "SB 114 provides a straightforward framework that promotes transparency, ensures balanced representation, and strengthens public

confidence in school board decision-making." Under the bill, governance in Fayette County Public Schools and Jefferson County Public Schools would be restructured to better match the scale, complexity and public responsibility of Kentucky's two largest school systems. The bill establishes an 11-member board of education designed to strengthen oversight and decision-making capacity in districts that oper-

ate at the level of major public enterprises. The board would include members representing population-balanced geographic divisions, along with at-large members to address districtwide needs. Board members would be appointed by the county's chief executive and confirmed by the county's legislative body, ensuring a transparent public process while preserving voter accountability through elected local leadership.

This structure allows districts to draw on individuals with experience in areas such as finance, operations, transportation and large-system management. SB 114 builds on the Senate's broader efforts to promote transparency and good governance in public education, particularly in districts where decisions affect tens of thousands of students, families, and educators. The bill is scheduled to take effect

Jan. 1, 2027, allowing current elected board members to complete their existing terms and providing districts time to implement the updated structure in an orderly manner. SB 114 has been introduced and is awaiting further action by the Kentucky General Assembly. Learn more about bills, committees, and other important updates on the 2026 Regular Session at www.legislature.ky.gov.

Representative Bivens gives legislative update

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HB 176 would require health insurance providers to establish a clear, consistent framework to exempt certain health care providers - including behavioral health providers - from prior authorization requirements. Prior authorization is a costly, time-intensive process requiring providers to seek advance approval from insurers before delivering care, often delaying treatment and adding unnecessary administrative burden. By creating a path for qualified providers to be exempt, HB 176 would streamline care delivery, reduce red tape, and ensure

patients can access healthcare. HB 178 would make it easier for Kentuckians to access timely mental health care by supporting a collaborative care model that brings primary care providers, care managers, and consulting psychologists together as a team. Under this approach, patients can receive mental health treatment directly in their primary care office, improving coordination and continuity of care. By leveraging existing providers and integrating services, the model expands access and capacity while avoiding additional workforce costs.

HB 184 ensures that health insurance plans in Kentucky can remain eligible for health savings accounts under federal law, preserving important tax benefits for individuals and families. The bill clarifies that if a state-imposed cost-sharing requirement - like deductibles and copayments - would cause a plan to lose its HSA-qualified status, that requirement would only apply after the enrollee meets the minimum federal deductible for high-deductible health plans. HB 265 would create a process for solvent workers' compensation self-insurance

pools to follow in order to dissolve. This option would only be available to solvent companies that are not the subject of delinquency proceedings. The measure also prevents authorization of new groups. HB 280 would grant the Kentucky Board of Nursing the authority to investigate the licenses of nurses holding credentials from other states and ensure that any nurse practicing in Kentucky under an out-of-state license meets the same

standards and requirements as Kentucky-licensed nurses. The bill also modernizes school health policies by updating rules related to prescribed rescue medications, including rescue inhalers, nebulizers, glucagon, and epinephrine, helping ensure schools are better prepared to respond to student health emergencies. HB 312 would allow Kentucky adults between the ages of 18 and 20 to obtain a provisional concealed carry

license, which has the same requirements as Kentucky's standard concealed carry license: a background check, training, and proficiency in handling and operating a firearm. As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.


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I am looking forward to a productive 2026 legislative session, which continues through April 15.




RYAN BIVENS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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