

Bivens' Legislative update—

House approves bus safety, elections, 'Food is Medicine' bills



State Representative Ryan Bivens

systems on school buses to enforce a civil penalty against cars that are recorded passing a school bus with a deployed stop arm and allow school districts to contract

with a private vendor or manufacturer to install, operate, and maintain them.

HB 44 would establish a robotics program trust fund in the State Treasury to award grants to programs promoting hands on learning, establishing Community partnerships, highlighting career opportunities, and establishing connections to manufacturing, machining, and fabrication skills for high school students.

HB 139 would strengthen election integrity and clarifies key procedures. The measure would allow the State Board of Elections to share data with other government agencies investigating election offenses; require voting systems to at least meet Election Assistance standards; and clarify candidate filing requirements for commonwealth's attorney races and special elections.

HB 253 would phase out the use of the "three-



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Representative Ryan Bivens presents House Bill 313 on the House floor. The measure would allow cities to negotiate franchise agreements closer to their expiration, which allows better understanding of market conditions, utility performance, and Community need.

cueing" reading method in Kentucky schools and teacher preparation programs. The bill would prohibit three-cueing instruction by the 2029-2030 school year, instead emphasizing an evidence-based approach built around five key components: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency,

and comprehension
HB 264 would update existing statute to clarify that if someone lists or advertises a house, apartment, or commercial property for sale or rent without actually owning it or having permission from the owner, the law will assume they are trying to deceive people.

time necessary to get the best deal possible.

HB 436 would allow free greens fees at state park golf courses to veterans who graduate from the PGA HOPE program and one guest.

HB 459 would strengthen Kentucky's health care workforce by requiring licensing boards to collect workforce participation data during license renewals, giving policymakers clearer insight into provider availability and shortages. The bill also allows the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists to grant licenses to qualified applicants already licensed in other states, helping attract experienced professionals while maintaining high standards of care.

HB 508 would create guidelines for private companies who charge a fee to help Kentucky veterans access benefits. The measure would not impact the free options available through nonprofit veterans' service organizations and would require for-profit companies to provide written notification that there are free services available.

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Senator Givens' Update: Week six of the '26 Regular Session



Senate report State Sen. David Givens

tee hearings, the Senate approved several bills on the floor this week.

SB 2 ensures administrator pay increases do not exceed the average percentage raise given to classroom teachers within the same district. The bill maintains existing waiver flexibility while updating and cleaning up outdated statutory language.

SB 4 creates a statewide leadership development program for new principals beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. First- and early-career principals would participate in a structured practicum focused on instructional leadership, school safety and accountability, with most costs covered by the state.

SB 45 protects agritourism and working-animal operations from unreasonable local regulations while preserving existing health, safety and animal welfare standards. The measure supports family farms and rural economies.

SB 71 expands required train-

ing for local school board members, with a focus on finance, ethics, open meetings and superintendent evaluation. The measure strengthens oversight and promotes greater consistency and accountability in district governance.

SB 118 strengthens consumer protections for credit personal property insurance sold with closed-end loans. It limits coverage terms, requires clear disclosure, prohibits cost-inflating practices and ensures refunds of unearned premiums.

SB 136 streamlines unemployment insurance fraud procedures by requiring suspected cases to be referred directly to federal and local authorities within 30 days. The bill clarifies accountability and protects due process standards.

SB 145 modernizes alcoholic beverage catering laws and streamlines licensing at the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

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Senate President Pro Tempore David P. Givens, R-Greensburg, presents Senate Bill 141, an act related to legal advertisements in Wednesday's Senate Committee on State and Local Government meeting.

This week in the Senate State and Local Government Committee, I presented Senate Bill (SB) 141 to modernize Kentucky's public notice laws. For years, we have seen recurring tension between protecting transparency and managing the taxpayer cost of required publications. I encouraged the Kentucky Press Association, the Kentucky League of Cities and the Kentucky Association of Counties to work together on a solution.

SB 141 reflects that agreement. It clarifies which newspapers qualify to publish notices, sets objective standards when more than one paper serves a community, updates timelines, ensures fair rates for public agencies and expands statewide online access at no cost to taxpayers, all while maintaining required print publication. I'm encouraged by the collaboration and support this bill has received so far. In addition to commit-

Green County PVA wishes you a Happy 65th Birthday

Dear Taxpayer:

Reaching the age of 65 comes with a few benefits. **SAVING YOU MONEY** is one where we are directly involved with. If you own your home; live in it; maintain it; and reaching or already reached the age of 65, you may qualify for the "Homestead Exemption". Please contact our office to see if you qualify and make sure you are receiving this exemption.

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