

# 2025 Kentucky Legislation

## Call Your Legislator on How to Vote on This Legislation

Hello, friend!

The 2025 legislative session is upon us, which means it's time to make our voice heard in Frankfort to our state government. We encourage you to email or **call** your state legislators at **1-800-372-7181** on the topics of legislation below. Be brief and courteous. Mention the bill number or name when calling, as well as how you want your legislator to vote on that bill.

Legislation **underlined** is supported by the Family Foundation. Legislation **highlighted in yellow** is legislation that we at the Kentucky Family Association supported in a prior year or is similar to legislation that we supported in the past. Bills **highlighted in blue** are ones Dr. Lance Pearson with the Liberty Caucus wants.

### Abolishing the Death Penalty:

- **House Bill 209**: abolishes the death penalty

### Defending Our Constitution and State Sovereignty

- **House Bill 64**: overrides Andy Beshear's unconstitutional executive order on conversion therapy
- **House Bill 84**: establishes that the Kentucky Cabinet of Health shall **not** take orders from the World Health Organization concerning the implementation of health regulations

### Government Accountability:

- **House Bill 182**: prohibits a state or local government from using the word "free" to describe a product or service financed with taxpayer funds
- **House Bill 169**: makes Board of Education elections (**school board** elections) to be **partisan** (political party identifying) **elections**

### Election Security Legislation

- **House Bill 180**: removes credit card and debit card as legit IDs to vote (but does not eliminate Social Security as legit ID to vote)

### Ten Commandments in School Legislation

- **House Bill 65:** requires the 10 Commandments be displayed in schools but only upon voluntary donations to the state government to put them up
- **House Bill 116:** permits school teachers and principals to read or post the Ten Commandments in a public school classroom or event and treats the Ten Commandments as a historically noteworthy document (like the Mayflower Compact or Declaration of Independence)

House Bill 65 is a stronger bill than HB 116; however, House Bill 65 is also more likely to be overturned in a court ruling, due to the display being a requirement rather than being optional. HB 116 preserves more liberty and should win in a legal challenge. Dr. Simon supports both bills and wants us to try to get passed whatever we can here.

### Pro-liberty Legislation

- **Mary Carol Akers Birth Centers Act (Senate Bill 17 [HB90]):** makes it easier to establish Freestanding Birthing Centers (medical clinics specializing in child birth) in Kentucky (Note: Dr. Simon prefers this to be amended so that a gynecologist is required to be present; Kentucky Right to Life supports this legislation.)
- **The New Voices Act (Senate Bill 40):** establishes free speech protections for student journalists writing in student newspapers in high schools and establishes protections for school student media advisors
- **Senate Bill 60:** specifies that the implementation of laws and other government rules shall “not substantially burden” religious practices
- **House Bill 83:** bans Red Flag laws on firearm ownership
- **House Bill 177 Religious Freedom Restoration Act Update:** ensures religious liberty for incarcerated individuals, to be enforced by the Attorney General

### Interest Rate Control:

- **House Bill 202:** makes 36% the maximum borrowing interest rate for loans in Kentucky

### Lowering Taxes Legislation

- **House Bill 37** removes sales taxes on churches
- **House Bill 151:** establishes a refundable income tax credit for certain volunteer firefighters
- **House Bill 158:** puts on the ballot a Constitutional amendment for giving a discount on property taxes to military veterans and first responders
- **House Bill 198:** puts on the ballot a Constitutional Amendment **enabling the General Assembly to eliminate property taxes or some portion of property taxes** by later legislation (it could be worded better, though)

## Child Safety Legislation

- **Senate Bills 31 and 38:** installs sensors or cameras on school buses to monitor activity within and within a short distance from the school buses
- **Senate Bill 73: opposes sexual extortion** (like House Bill 47), but with local school districts notifying students grade four and up and their parents about sexual extortion issues
- **House Bill 42:** makes it **illegal** for those convicted of child-sex offenses from attending Halloween parties that have children attending
- **House Bill 47: opposes sexting sexual extortion** of children **and establishes** a notification in schools of a description of sexual extortion, contact info for local law enforcement, and contact info for the suicide prevention hotline
- **House Bill 163:** requires some **gender-specific** bathrooms in public schools

## Education Legislation

- **Senate Bill 68:** encouraging schools to get students to think critically, and to remove various reporting requirements related to physical activity of students and participation in breakfast programs
- **House Bill 156:** requires **the Kentucky Department of Education** to develop a guide for instructional materials for academic standards addressed by the materials, how the instructional materials are connected to specific learning targets aligned to the standards, sample questions, skills, and products students should be able to answer or demonstrate to meet the academic standards, and a curriculum guide for using the educational materials [why can't the legislators do this for civics education?]
- **House Bill 207:** allows a way to remove erotic literature from school libraries if that literature is inappropriate to quote from at a school board meeting
- **House Bill 208:** restricts cell phone use by students in classes at school

## Call Your Legislator to **OPPOSE** This 2025 Legislation

The Family Foundation opposes all of this legislation and for good reason.

- **Hadley's Law (Senate Bill 35):** allows abortion procedures in the cases of (adult) incest, rape, and fetal anomalies or deformities
- **House Bill 33:** legalizes more casino gambling
- **House Bills 105-106 & Senate Bills 33 & 36:** legalizes recreational marijuana
- **House Bill 203 (by Republicans):** establishes the rape, (adult) incest, and lethal fetal anomaly exceptions to permit abortion procedures

## Legislation We Liked Last Year That Hasn't Appeared So Far

- Physician right of conscience legislation (HB49)
- Anti-discrimination student and faculty freedom of conscience bill (SB6)
- **Baby Olivia Act** to cultivate a culture of life in the next generation (HB346)
- Enhanced school accountability to parents (HB304)
- **No** Covid19 vaccination requirement for children (HB177)
- Quality textbooks for civics education for middle and high school
- Increasing the jury duty pay to \$125/day

## Constitutional Amendment Ideas for the 2026 Election Ballot

*Note: Only four amendments can legally be put on the ballot for any individual election*

- Pro-life constitutional amendment(s), such as no tax money for abortion and an anti-homicide pro-life amendment
- School choice constitutional amendment
- **Abolition of all property taxes for everyone** constitutional amendment
- Abolition of income taxes constitutional amendment
- Abolition of civil asset forfeiture policy amendment
- **Supreme Court judge** races being **partisan** races

## 2024 Legislation We Want Repealed or Softened

- **2024's Senate Bill 155 Uniform Commercial Code Article 12:** established the legal framework for a **Central Bank Digital Crypto-currency (CBDC) system** and **outlawed** Bitcoin and Ethereum as being money (we want this repealed)

## Legislation Dr. Lance Pearson Wants

- Legislation against DEI training and hiring in universities in Kentucky
- Protect campus free speech by requiring an institution to adopt a policy to not restrict off-campus and online speech (HB139 from 2023)
- Ban “Flock cameras” that use AI to read license plates of everyone who is driving down the road, as that is against the spirit of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- Ban the use of taxpayer-funded lobbying of the state legislature
- Repeal the “certificate of need” laws that are anti-competitive, in the medical and hospital space
- Require the state government to accept U.S. dollar **cash** payments for paying taxes and establish the acceptance of analog (non-digital) IDs
- **REINS Act:** Establish that any regulation that affects the economy above a particular threshold must be passed by the state legislature if it is going to be put into force
- **Revoke** the FDA Safe Harbor law for **vaping** products
- **Eliminate** the requirement that a veterinarian must see an animal in-person once per year in order to provide animal healthcare
- **Establish Universal Cross State Licensure:** Enable those licensed to do work in other states to be automatically licensed to do the same work in Kentucky
- **Expand the ESG Finance Companies Ban:** Companies that discriminate against a wide variety of our Kentucky industries is a problem to address
- **Allow anonymous donations** to candidates running for state office up to \$200, just like the federal government elections already have it

## 2024 Legislation We Don't Want That the Family Foundation Supported

- **Social media “age-verification” legislation** (it would have had negative consequences for us or our supporters, would have blocked the good influencers out with the bad if it worked as intended, and **didn't** deliver on what we really need to do, which is to **teach** that children know how to stay safe online) (HB450 in 2024)