

KEA President's Points

March 2, 2018



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

Dear Member,

This week was a busy one in Frankfort! Monday night we had 6,000 of you on another Tele-Town Hall Call. Tuesday brought dozens of members from the Middle Cumberland Education Association district for their Day of Learning. Wednesday, hundreds of retired, active, and pre-service members to the Capitol to rally against SB 1. Yesterday, the House and Senate Education Committees met jointly to have a hearing around the topic of School Safety and the Upper Cumberland Education Association District also had their Day of Learning.

We will continue keep you updated on the KEA Facebook and Twitter pages if things move at all on SB 1.

Quick Links

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Section by Section](#)

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SB 1](#)

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PENSION NEWS

On Wednesday, I testified in the Senate State and Local Government Committee against the original version of SB 1. You can find a copy of my testimony [here](#). Actuary, Flick Forna was hired by the Kentucky Public Pension Coalition (of which KEA and JCTA are members of) to do an analysis of the **original SB 1**, it is posted [here](#) and [here](#). During the committee meeting Chairman Bowen announced that there would be a Committee Substitute submitted. He presented a PowerPoint that outlined the changes to the bill. He also relayed that the actuarial analysis by TRS was not back yet and so the Committee could not technically vote on the bill as amended. The revised version of SB 1 can be found [here](#).

KEA is still opposed to SB 1 and encourages legislators to come up with a better solution that doesn't harm our educators and students!



CALL TO ACTION: Please contact your legislators EVERY DAY and let them know that SB 1 is not the answer to our pension problem. The answer is to simply FUND IT! The House version of the Budget includes FULL FUNDING for pensions. Please tell legislators to keep this funding without harmful structural changes that will not attract or retain public school employees. Call, email, or visit your legislators and tell them your public school students funding needs. The Legislative Message Line is 1-800-372-7181.

BUDGET NEWS:

The House A & R Committee met late Wednesday evening and passed the proposed Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branch budget bills: [HB 200](#), [HB 203](#), and [HB 204](#). The Committee also passed HB 366, a revenue bill which increases the cigarette tax by \$.50, taxes distributors of opioid drugs, and does away with the Film Industry Tax Credit temporarily. These revenue measures bring in receipts of around \$500 million over the biennium.

The House passed all four of the bills mentioned above and they now move on to the Senate to be considered. KEA applauds the House for finding new revenue and restoring some of the cuts to education contained in the original proposal. An initial analysis of the House Budget bill can be found on the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy [here](#).

BILL WATCH

Education Committee Update:

The House Education Committee met on Tuesday. Here is a recap of the action taken at the meeting.

[SB 71](#)- was passed over and not heard

[SB 102](#)-Sponsored by E. Harris, T. Buford, J. Carpenter, D. Carroll

AN ACT relating to the evaluation of children for special education services. Amend KRS 157.196 to require the initial evaluation and determination of a four-year-old child's eligibility for special education services to occur within 60 calendar days of parental consent. **KEA is TRACKING this bill.**

[HB 278](#)- Sponsored by J. Blanton, K. Moser, D. Bentley, C. Fugate, D. Hale, M. Prunty, J. Sims Jr

AN ACT relating to automated external defibrillators in schools. Amend KRS 158.162 to require, as funds are available, the school council or, if none exists, the principal to obtain a portable automated external defibrillator; require a minimum of three employees be trained on its usage; require the school council or, if none exists, the principal to adopt procedures for its usage and availability and policies on training and maintenance; amend KRS 158.302 to delete language stating that a school is not required to have an automated external defibrillator; this act shall be known as Cameron's Law.

KEA SUPPORTS this bill.

HB 360- Sponsored by J. Carney

AN ACT relating to state agency children. Amend KRS 158.135 to include in the definition of "state agency children" those children referred by a family accountability, intervention, and response team to a Department of Juvenile Justice operated or contracted day treatment program. ***KEA does not have a position on this bill.***

On Thursday, the House and Senate Education Committees met jointly to have a hearing on school safety. Please read the synopsis of that meeting [here](#).

Dates to Remember:



March 2 Read Across America Day

Mar. 16-18 NEA Leadership Summit, Chicago

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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