

KEA President's Points

March 16, 2019



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.

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Dear Member:

This Week the Red Tide Came Roaring to Frankfort, AGAIN...

This week we were joined again by **thousands** of educators from across the Commonwealth. It was heartening to see so many educators, parents, students, and supporters of public education come to Frankfort and stand up for the dignity of our profession and the value that public education provides to strengthen every community across our Commonwealth.

Here is a final legislative update from the past week.

The Senate Education Committee met at Noon in Annex Room 154. The committee passed the following bills:

Monday, March 11, 2019

[HB 46](#), a bill relating to the display of the national motto in public schools. Passed the Senate 3/14/19 (29-8). Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA supported [HB 328](#), a bill relating to firearms on school property, which would prohibit students who are 18 from bringing firearms onto school property, even if leaving them in their vehicle. Passed the Senate on 3/14/19 (37-0) and the House passed on 3/14/19 (91-0). Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA supported [HB 356](#), a bill relating to residency requirements for children in Military families. Passed the Senate 3/14/19 (37-0). Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA supported [HB 378](#), a bill concerning youth homelessness. Passed the House with Senate Amendment 3/14/19 (90-0). Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA tracked [HB 444](#), a bill concerning funding for locally operated area technology centers. Passed the Senate 3/14/19 (37-0). Sent to the governor for signature.

Tuesday March 12, 2019

KEA supported [SB 162](#) which defines the requirements for employment of Kentucky State Police School Resource Officers. This is another resource, at no cost to the districts, for trained SRO's who are retired KSP. Attached to this bill was a House Amendment that requires new schools to have a

minimum of two water stations with water bottle filling capabilities on each floor. Passed the House 3/14/19 (74-14). Sent back to Senate. The committee did not hear the proposed changes to minimum high school graduation.

KEA opposed [SB 250](#), which would among other things give a superintendent in a county school district in a county with a consolidated local government sole authority to appoint a principal without the participation of the school council and would prevent a teacher who enters an administrative position that reports directly to the superintendent in a county school district in a county with a consolidated local government from being issued a continuing service contract. Passed the House 54-42. Sent to the Governor for signature.

Wednesday March 13, 2019

KEA tracked [HB 11](#), which would prohibit the use of tobacco products by students, school personnel, and visitors in schools, school vehicles, properties, and activities. **Passed the House (85-11). Passed out of Senate Health & Welfare. 3/14/19.**

KEA supported [HB 58](#), raises the pension exclusion income from \$31, 110 to \$41, 110 and would apply retroactively to January 1, 2018. We are grateful to the sponsor of the bill, Rep. Regina Huff, for bringing the bill forward and fighting for it to be heard on the floor. **Passed the House 3/13/19 (94-0).**

[House Bill 354](#) is a tax bill which has been assigned to the Conference Committee. This bill, among other things, provided over \$100 million dollars in tax breaks for banks. Passed the House (87-8) and Senate (34-3) Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA opposed [HB 358](#), which is a bill that would allow regional universities and quasi-governmental agencies to leave KERS, passed the Senate on Wednesday, March 13. The bill was bad without the Senate Committee Substitute (SCS) but with it became even worse. The House refused to concur with the SCS. We will continue to monitor this bill over the waning days of the session and will send an alert if there is any action needed.

Thursday March 14, 2019

KEA tracked [HB 166](#), a bill that designates the last Wednesday in September of each year as A Day of Prayer for Kentucky's Students. This bill was amended to include principal selection language from SB 3. That language was withdrawn. Passed the Senate on 3/14/19 (32-5). Sent to the governor for signature.

[HB 268](#). A free conference committee was formed to develop an appropriations bill that could pass both chambers. A free conference committee is a committee composed of appointees from both the House and the Senate. These conferees, usually senior leaders from both parties, as well as both chambers, are tasked with resolving disagreements

between pieces of legislation that have passed both chambers with different language. In the Free Conference, however, conferees may change the bill itself and insert new language that was not previously voted on by either chamber.

The chambers had several disagreements, including capping the salary for the state Chief Information Officer and appropriating \$75 million dollars for updates to state parks. Passed the Senate (36-0) and the House (76-20) on 3/14/19. Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA tracked [HB 489](#) a bill requested by KTRS to strengthen the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards utilized by the Board of Trustees. Passed both chambers on 3/1/19. Sent to the governor for signature.

KEA tracked [SB 98](#) a bill that creates a Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship and allows KEES money to be used in apprenticeship programs. Passed the Senate earlier in the session. Passed the House on 3/14/19 (85-0). Sent to the governor for signature.

Updates on Filed Bills

- **KEA TRACK** [House Bill 504](#), saw no movement this week on HB 504.
- **KEA OPPOSE** [House Bill 525](#) has been on the Order of the Day in the House for two weeks with no action on the floor.
- **KEA OPPOSE** [HB 205](#) the Scholarship Tax Credit (Voucher) bill. Never moved from committee which effectively killed the bill. The language has not been added to any other bill.

What Happens Next

- The session entered the veto period on March 15, 2019. During this time the legislature will not meet, and the Governor will have the next ten (10) days to sign bills into law, veto bills, or allow the bills to become law without his signature.
- The legislature will convene for their final day on Thursday March 28, 2019 and must adjourn by 11:59 p.m.

For More Information

- To track our stances and/or follow legislation, please visit <https://legiscan.com/reports/amxx622v> .
- If you cannot join us in Frankfort, always feel free to tune in on KET by clicking here, <https://www.ket.org/legislature/>.
- For One-Pagers on our Issues and Stances, please visit <http://kea.org/issues-action-2019-session-issues-and-stances>

#Red4Rights

Save the Date



March	KEA Delegates check with you local office to find out when your Pre-Delegate Caucus occurs so you can attend!
Apr 3-5	KEA Delegate Assembly, Louisville

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

KEA President
401 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-231-4532
www.kea.org