

Legislative Report

January 23, 2026
Prepared by: KPPA
Staff



Bill Information

HB37 **RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR HAZARDOUS POSITIONS** (LEHMAN, MATTHEW; Aull, Chad; Chester-Burton, Beverly; Clines, Mike; Hancock, Erika; Roarx, Rachel)

AN ACT relating to retirement benefits for state and county employees in hazardous positions.

Create a new section of KRS 16.505 to 16.652 to change the retirement benefits for members participating in the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) or in a hazardous position in either the Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS) or County Employees Retirement System (CERS) who are hired after January 1, 2014, but before January 1, 2027, so that, in lieu of continued participation in the hybrid cash balance plan (Tier 3 benefits), these members receive the benefits provided to members in a hazardous position who began participating immediately prior to January 1, 2014 (Tier 2 benefits); for those eligible hazardous employees, create a presumption that service credit in a hazardous position earned after January 1, 2014, is service credit earned immediately prior to January 1, 2014; for eligible hazardous members transitioning to Tier 2, require that accumulated contributions in the hybrid cash balance plan remain in the member's account, but any employer credit be transferred to the retirement allowance account; allow a member in a hazardous position subject to a change from Tier 3 to Tier 2 benefits to make a one-time election to opt out of the change of benefits within 30 days; establish exclusions; amend KRS 16.576, 16.577, 16.578, 16.582, 61.546, 61.552, 61.597, 61.615, 78.5512, 78.5514, 78.5524, 78.5528, and 78.616 to grant to members in a hazardous position who begin participating after January 1, 2027, or whose participation is presumed under Section 1 of this Act to begin immediately prior to January 1, 2014, the same benefits provided to members whose participation began immediately prior to January 1, 2014 (Tier 2 benefits), including death and disability benefits, benefit factors and service credit that includes service credit for unused sick leave, and eligibility for early retirement and service purchases; make technical corrections; amend KRS 16.583 and 78.5516 to limit the hybrid cash balance plan (Tier 3 benefits) only to members participating in SPRS or in hazardous positions in KERS or CERS who make an election to opt out of Tier 2 benefits under Section 1 of this Act or who make an election, prior to the effective date of the Act, under KRS 61.5955; amend KRS 61.5955 to provide that only a member in a nonhazardous position who began participating in KERS or CERS as a Tier 2 member may elect to receive Tier 3 benefits in the hybrid cash balance plan in lieu of Tier 2 benefits; amend KRS 16.505, 61.510, and 78.510 to amend definitions of various terms to conform and make technical changes; amend KRS 16.560, 61.575, and 78.640 to allow interest credited on the accounts of members participating in SPRS or in a hazardous position in KERS or CERS to be adjusted to conform; amend KRS 61.592 and 78.5520 to exempt only hazardous members who opt out of receiving Tier 2 benefits from eligibility for an employer payment to convert nonhazardous service to hazardous service; amend KRS 61.680 to require that a member who is eligible under Section 1 of this Act and who has nonhazardous service credit as a Tier 3 member of either KERS or CERS to have his or her nonhazardous and hazardous service consolidated to determine eligibility and benefits; amend KRS 78.545 to add Section 1 of this Act as one of the provisions that shall be administered for the CERS in the same manner as for the KERS.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB72 **HAZARDOUS DUTY RETIREMENT** (ROARX, RACHEL; Gentry, Alan)

AN ACT relating to hazardous duty retirement for code enforcement personnel of a consolidated local government.
Amend KRS 78.5520 to redefine "hazardous position" to include code enforcement and zoning inspection personnel employed by a consolidated local government for the purposes of benefits of the County Employees Retirement System.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Local Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB83 OPEN MEETINGS *(ROBERTS, T.J.; Hodgson, John)*

AN ACT relating to open meetings.

Amend KRS 61.848 to establish that any formal action of a public agency is voidable by a court if there was not substantial compliance with statutes regarding video conferencing of meetings, recording of minutes, and conditions for attendance.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Local Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB97 SPORTS WAGERING ADMINISTRATION FUND *(TIPTON, JAMES)*

AN ACT relating to the sports wagering administration fund.

Amend KRS 230.817 to redirect a portion of the amount deposited in the sports wagering administration fund from the permanent pension fund to the Kentucky lottery trust account.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Appropriations & Revenue (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB98 RETIREE HEALTH PROVISIONS *(TIPTON, JAMES; Blanton, John; Decker, Jennifer; Gentry, Alan; Hancock, Erika)*

AN ACT relating to retiree health provisions of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.

Amend KRS 61.702, relating to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System, to increase the nonhazardous and hazardous duty under age 65 retiree health subsidy to \$40 and \$50 per month for each year of service, respectively, for those members who meet the "career threshold" who began participating in the system on or after July 1, 2003, and who are eligible for a fixed-dollar retiree health subsidy not tied to the premium; extend the employee contribution used to fund retiree health benefits to include members who began participating in the system on or after July 1, 2003, and increase the current hazardous employee contribution rate to 2% of pay for those eligible for the fixed-dollar retiree health subsidy; make technical

amendments regarding the retiree health premium reimbursement program to conform to current policy; provide that the amendments to the employee contributions shall be effective July 1, 2027; for calculation of the retiree health subsidy increase, provide that the change shall apply to service earned prior to the effective date of this Act by eligible members, including retirees, and shall prospectively be adjusted annually by the 1.5% increase currently provided in statute; provide that subsidies payable to impacted retirees shall begin on or after January 1, 2027, to coincide with the next health plan year; direct the Public Pension Oversight Board to continue to review the retiree health fund actuarial data and evaluate potential legislative options to address any future continued improvements in the funds; RETROACTIVE.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB106 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES *(HART, MARK)*

AN ACT relating to emergency medical services.

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 311A to create the EMS Professionals Foundation Program fund; specify the ambulance services and EMS professionals that are eligible to share in the distribution of the fund; provide that the Board of Emergency Medical Services shall administer the fund and may promulgate administrative regulations to facilitate its administration; authorize reimbursement for an EMS professional's out-of-pocket costs for mental health treatment for a diagnosed post-traumatic stress injury or post-traumatic stress disorder; provide for annual supplements to ambulance providers for each EMS professional it employs; amend KRS 42.190 and 136.392 to include the EMS Professionals Foundation Program fund to the premium surcharge; amend KRS 61.315 to include eligibility for in the line of duty death benefits to specified ambulance service providers.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Local Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB182 DUTY-RELATED DISABILITY BENEFITS *(TACKETT LAFERTY, ASHLEY; Blanton, John; Dotson, Ryan; Fugate, Chris; Gentry, Alan; Gordon, Deanna; Griffee, Peyton; Hale, David; Hart, Mark; Hodgson, John; Kulkarni, Nima; McCool, Bobby; Wesley, Bill)*

AN ACT relating to duty-related disability benefits.

Amend KRS 61.621 to allow a member of a state-administered retirement system who works in a nonhazardous position that could be certified as a hazardous position and who receives a duty-related injury to be eligible for the same minimum retirement benefit provided to members who receive a hazardous disability retirement; amend KRS 61.702 to allow Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS) members working in a nonhazardous position that could be certified as a hazardous position who receive a duty-related injury to receive the same health benefit provided to members who receive a hazardous disability retirement; amend KRS 78.5536 to allow County Employees Retirement System (CERS) members working in a nonhazardous position that could be certified as a hazardous position who receive a duty-related injury to receive the same health benefit provided to members who receive a hazardous disability retirement; allow certain persons whose last day of paid employment was on or after January 1, 2022, but prior to the effective date of the Act to apply for benefits; RETROACTIVE.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB183

TAXATION OF RETIREMENT DISTRIBUTIONS *(TACKETT LAFERTY, ASHLEY; Elliott, Daniel; Gentry, Alan)*

AN ACT relating to the taxation of retirement distributions.

Amend KRS 141.019 to increase the retirement distribution exclusion from \$31,110 to \$41,110 for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Appropriations & Revenue (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB213

REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS *(CALLAWAY, EMILY)*

AN ACT relating to reemployment of retired police officers.

Amend KRS 70.292, 70.293, and 95.022, regarding city and county programs to reemploy retired police officers without incurring employer retirement contributions, to reduce the required service of the officer or sheriff before retirement from 20 years to 15 years and to allow retired officers to take health insurance coverage through the employing city or county; amend KRS 61.702 and 78.5536 to conform.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

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HB218

KENTUCKY EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM *(BLANTON, JOHN; Fugate, Chris)*

AN ACT relating to membership dates in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System.

Amend KRS 61.510 to change the current definition of "membership date" in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System to remove date restrictions regarding educational contracts and allow any member who entered into an educational contract as a conditional employee of the state of Kentucky to have their system membership date, for purposes of retirement benefits determination, be based upon the earliest date of the contract.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

**HB219****RETIREE HEALTH PROVISIONS** (BLANTON, JOHN; Fugate, Chris)

AN ACT relating to retiree health provisions of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.

Amend KRS 61.702, relating to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System, to increase the nonhazardous and hazardous duty under age 65 retiree health subsidy to \$40 and \$50 per month for each year of service, respectively, for those members who meet the "career threshold" who began participating in the system on or after July 1, 2003, and who are eligible for a fixed-dollar retiree health subsidy not tied to the premium; extend the employee contribution used to fund retiree health benefits to include members who began participating in the system on or after July 1, 2003, and increase the current hazardous employee contribution rate to 2% of pay for those eligible for the fixed-dollar retiree health subsidy; make technical amendments regarding the retiree health premium reimbursement program to conform to current policy; provide that the amendments to the employee contributions shall be effective July 1, 2027; for calculation of the retiree health subsidy increase, provide that the change shall apply to service earned prior to the effective date of this Act by eligible members, including retirees, and shall prospectively be adjusted annually by the 1.5% increase currently provided in statute; provide that subsidies payable to impacted retirees shall begin on or after January 1, 2027, to coincide with the next health plan year; direct the Public Pension Oversight Board to continue to review the retiree health fund actuarial data and evaluate potential legislative options to address any future continued improvements in the funds; RETROACTIVE.

 **ALL BILL STATUS**

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

**HB220****PENSION SPIKING** (BLANTON, JOHN; Fugate, Chris; Meredith, Michael)

AN ACT relating to pension spiking in the systems administered by the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority.

Amend KRS 61.598, relating to pension spiking and the definition of "bona fide promotion or career advancement," to retroactively exempt pension spiking adjustments that were due to increases in rates of pay authorized or funded by the legislative or administrative body of an employer or mandated in a collective bargaining agreement approved by the legislative body of the employer for members of the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, County Employees Retirement System, or State Police Retirement System who retired on or after July 1, 2022; require the Kentucky Public Pension Authority to review and make necessary adjustments to benefits payable on or after July 1, 2022, to impacted members; RETROACTIVE.

 **ALL BILL STATUS**

1/14/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/7/2026 - Introduced

**HB251****HAZARDOUS DUTY COVERAGE** (TACKETT LAFERTY, ASHLEY)

AN ACT relating to hazardous duty coverage in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System.

Amend KRS 61.592 to redefine "hazardous position" to include Department of Kentucky State Police forensic lab and crime scene personnel.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/15/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/8/2026 - Introduced

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HB252 IN LINE OF DUTY DISABILITY BENEFITS (*CALLAWAY, EMILY*; Blanton, John; Johnson, DJ; Lewis, Scott; Lewis, Derek; Lewis, Chris)

AN ACT relating to in line of duty disability benefits and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 61.702 and 78.5536 to provide full hospital and medical insurance benefits for a member, their spouse, and their dependents if the member becomes disabled in line of duty with a hazardous disability; EMERGENCY.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/15/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

1/8/2026 - Introduced

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HB297 PEACE OFFICERS (*LEWIS, CHRIS*; Callaway, Emily; Fleming, Ken; Griffie, Peyton; Hodgson, John; Nemes, Jason; Witten, Susan)

AN ACT relating to peace officers.

Amend KRS 15.420, relating to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund, to include in the definition of "police officer" a Kentucky State Fair Board special police officer.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/16/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Judiciary (H)

1/9/2026 - Introduced

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HB304 APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES (*STEVENSON, PAMELA*; Burke, Lindsey; Aull, Chad; Bojanowski, Tina; Camuel, Adrielle; Chester-Burton, Beverly; Donworth, Anne; Gentry, Alan; Hancock, Erika; Lehman, Matthew; Marzian, Mary Lou; Moore, Adam; Roarx, Rachel; Stalker, Sarah; Watkins, Joshua; Willner, Lisa)

AN ACT relating to appropriations measures providing funding and establishing conditions for the operations, maintenance, support, and functioning of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its various officers, cabinets, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, subdivisions, agencies, and other state-supported activities.

The Governor's recommended State/Executive Branch Budget: Detail Part I, Operating Budget; detail Part II, Capital Projects Budget;

detail Part III, General Provisions; detail Part IV, State Salary/Compensation, Benefit, and Employment Policy; detail Part V, Funds Transfer; detail Part VI, General Fund Budget Reduction Plan; detail Part VII, General Fund Surplus Expenditure Plan; detail Part VIII, Road Fund Budget Reduction Plan; detail Part IX, Road Fund Surplus Expenditure Plan; detail Part X, Phase I Tobacco Settlement; and detail Part XI, Executive Branch Budget Summary; detail Part XII, Appropriations from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund; APPROPRIATION.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/16/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Appropriations & Revenue (H)

1/9/2026 - Introduced

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HB406 SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION PAYMENT *(TIPTON, JAMES; Blanton, John; Fister, Daniel; Fugate,*

Chris; Gentry, Alan; Hale, David; Hancock, Erika; Huff, Thomas; Jackson, Kevin; Lawrence, William; Lewis, Scott ; Lewis, Derek; Lewis, Chris; McPherson, Shawn; Moore, Adam; Neighbors, Amy; Riley, Steve; Smith, Tom; Truett, Timmy; Wesley, Bill; White, Richard)

AN ACT relating to a supplemental payment for recipients of a monthly retirement allowance from the systems administered by the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

Appropriate \$96 million from the Kentucky Permanent Pension Fund in fiscal year 2026-2027 to the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority to fund 1-time supplemental payments on July 1, 2026, to recipients of a retirement allowance who have been retired for at least 12 months from the Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS) and the State Police Retirement System (SPRS); allow the Board of Trustees of the County Employees Retirement System to, by board decision, provide a one-time supplemental payment to recipients of a retirement allowance who have been retired at least 12 months by increasing employer contribution rates over a one-year or two-year period; specify that the 1-time supplemental payment shall be equal to the monthly payment received by the recipient in the month of June 2026; APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/23/2026 - (H) Referred to Committee House Appropriations & Revenue (H)

1/15/2026 - Introduced

[HB406 Bill Page](#)



HB445 RETIREMENT BENEFIT COST OF LIVING INCREASE *(HANCOCK, ERIKA)*

AN ACT relating to a cost-of-living increase to the retirement benefits for retired state employees, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

Appropriate \$221.4 million, \$18.7 million, and \$16 million in fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS) nonhazardous pension fund, the KERS hazardous pension fund, and the State Police Retirement System pension fund, respectively, to provide a one-time 2% COLA effective July 1, 2026; APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/21/2026 - Introduced

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SB47 IN THE LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS *(DENEEN, MATTHEW)*

AN ACT relating to in the line of duty death benefits.

Amend KRS 61.315 to define "rescue squad personnel"; expand eligibility for in the line of duty death benefits to rescue squad personnel; require the Division of Emergency Management to promulgate administrative regulations establishing necessary criteria and procedures; amend KRS 164.2841 to define "rescue squad personnel"; expand eligibility for tuition and fee exemption to dependents of rescue squad personnel who died in the line of duty; amend KRS 342.316 to conform.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/7/2026 - Introduced

[SB47 Bill Page](#)



SB70 PUBLIC PENSION OVERSIGHT BOARD *(HIGDON, JIMMY)*

AN ACT relating to the Public Pension Oversight Board.

Amend KRS 7A.220 to amend the membership and membership qualifications of the Public Pension Oversight Board by adding the chairs or vice chairs of the Senate State & Local Government Standing Committee and House State Government Standing Committee to the board, adding the State Treasurer to the membership, removing 1 of the gubernatorial appointees from the membership, and amending "retirement experience" requirements for appointed members to include experience in retirement plan management or policy by a former elected official; make technical and conforming changes; amend KRS 7A.255 to require the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority to annually report line of duty death benefit payments to the Public Pension Oversight Board in addition to line of duty disability benefit payments; make technical amendments; EFFECTIVE, in part, January 1, 2027.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/12/2026 - Introduced

[SB70 Bill Page](#)



SB85 SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST *(WEBB, ROBIN L.; Carroll, Danny)*

AN ACT relating to designating a special needs trust to receive state-administered retirement benefits.

Amend KRS 16.505, 61.510, and 78.510 to define "special needs trust" (SNT) for purposes of the State Police Retirement System, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, and County Employees Retirement System; amend the definition of "beneficiary" to include a SNT; amend KRS 16.578 to allow a SNT to receive a lifetime retirement payment if a member dies before retirement; amend KRS 61.635 to allow a person who is the beneficiary of a SNT to be designated as the beneficiary of a lifetime retirement benefit; require the trustee of a SNT to notify the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA) upon the death of the beneficiary of a SNT and repay any payment not properly payable to the SNT; allow KPPA to promulgate administrative regulations to administer the SNT provisions; amend KRS 61.640 to allow a SNT to receive a lifetime retirement payment if a member dies before retirement; amend KRS 61.690 to allow a recipient or legal representative to direct retirement benefits to be paid to a SNT and clarify that it is not an assignment or transfer; amend KRS 78.5532 to allow a SNT to receive a lifetime retirement benefit if a member dies before retirement; amend KRS 161.525, relating to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) to allow a SNT to receive a lifetime annuity if a member dies before retirement; amend KRS 161.640 to allow checks to be sent by mail to the trustee of a SNT; require the trustee to notify the TRS upon the death of the beneficiary; require any payments not properly payable to the SNT to be repaid to TRS; allow TRS to promulgate administrative regulations to administer the SNT provisions; amend KRS 161.700 to require TRS to assign annuity payments to a SNT, issue payments to the trustee, and prevent annuity payments from being used to reimburse any state for any Medicaid benefits paid on behalf of the beneficiary of a SNT; amend KRS 21.420, relating to the Judicial Retirement Plan, to allow for a SNT to be selected as a

beneficiary, and define "special needs trust"; amend KRS 21.425 to allow a member to designate a SNT to receive lifetime survivorship benefits on behalf of a surviving spouse, dependent child, or disabled child.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/13/2026 - Introduced

SB85 Bill Page



SB102 KENTUCKY STATE POLICE *(REED, AARON)*

AN ACT relating to the Kentucky State Police.

Amend KRS 16.197 to allow an individual previously appointed to Trooper R Class or commercial vehicle enforcement officer R class to return to service with the Department of Kentucky State Police after 1 month of separation from service but no more than 60 months following the individual's latest separation date from service.

ALL BILL STATUS

1/15/2026 - Introduced

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