



**Kentucky Chamber**  
*Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.*

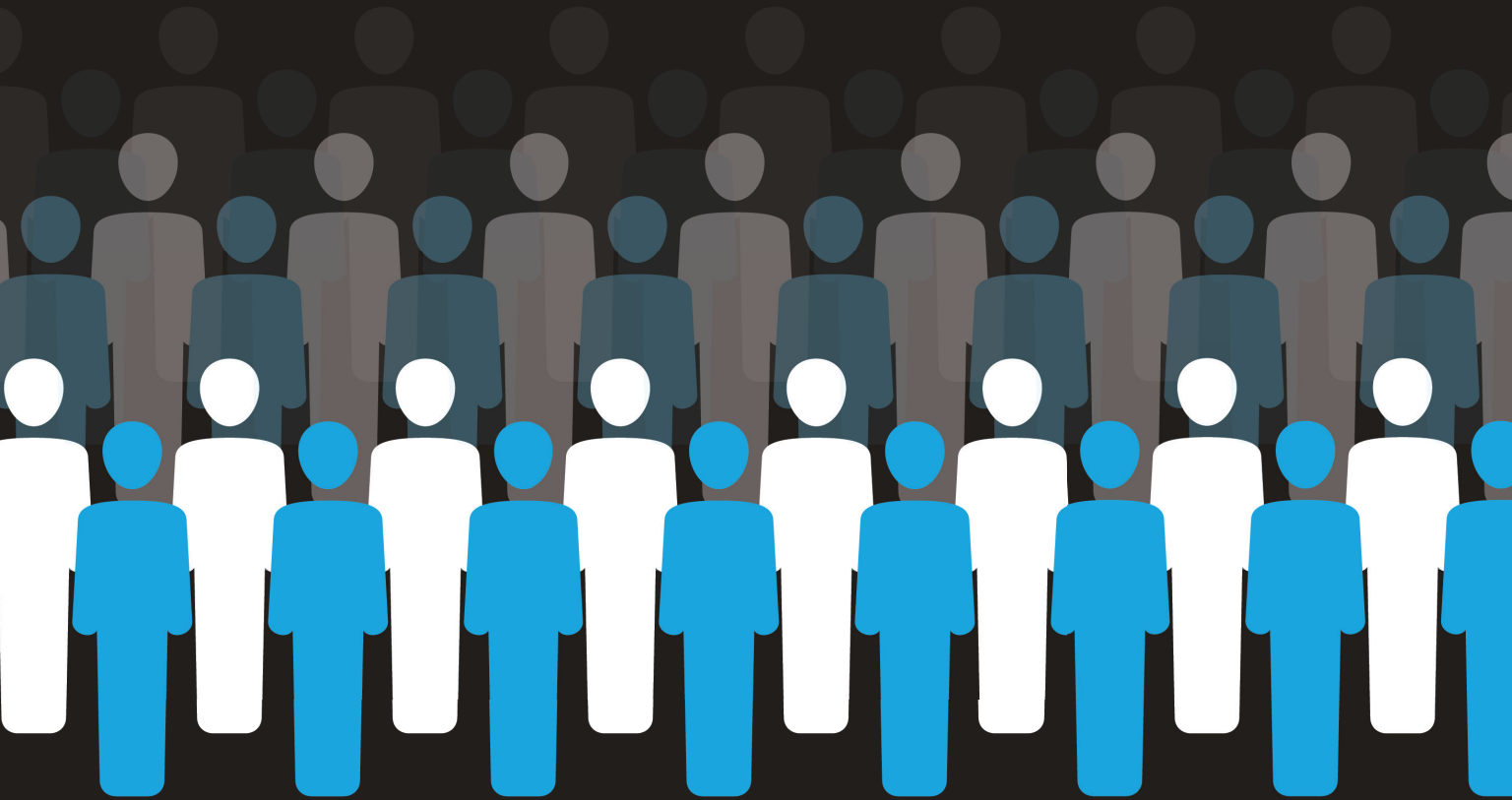


# Results for **2023** **Business**

What passed. What didn't. And what it means to your bottom line.

Legislature delivers again for

# Kentucky's job creators







## Ashli Watts

### PRESIDENT & CEO

*Kentucky Chamber of Commerce*

While the Chamber supported various bills throughout the 2023 session, it also opposed and defeated other measures that would significantly raise the cost of doing business in Kentucky. One was Senate Bill 15, which sought to create data privacy standards like those enacted in Europe and California. This would have cost Kentucky businesses hundreds of millions in compliance fees, litigation costs, and lost marketing opportunities.

Though it may seem like politics can be divisive, the General Assembly saw passage of many bills with support from both sides of the aisle, including legislation supporting signature industries, addressing workforce challenges, and tackling the substance use disorder crisis.

Reflecting on the 2023 session, I would never have imagined we would come close to topping our success from the 2022 General Assembly. However, the 2023 session gave it a serious challenge, again making great strides for the job creators of the Commonwealth. Policy matters, and the Kentucky Chamber applauds the legislature on another great session and looks forward to working together to reach our full economic potential.

While legislative leadership tempered expectations heading into the 2023 legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly delivered in a big way for the business community, continuing efforts to make Kentucky more competitive and address workforce challenges. The work of the General Assembly resulted in more than \$1.5 billion in savings for businesses.

Despite the short, 30-day session that typically doesn't result in substantial revenue policy, the General Assembly swiftly enacted an individual income tax reduction for the second year in a row with House Bill 1. One of the last bills to pass this session sets a phase-out to the bourbon barrel tax, an unfair, job-killing tax on one of Kentucky's signature industries as well as a pass-through entity tax that alleviates the federal tax burden on certain businesses.

In dramatic fashion, with just hours left in the 2023 session, the Senate passed House Bill 551, the popular sports wagering bill, which will soon allow Kentuckians to wager on their favorite games online and at Kentucky racetracks.

Piggy-backing on their successes of 2022, the legislature passed several bills to address workforce challenges, including additional study of benefits cliffs, and Senate Bill 54, which expands the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship to apply to proprietary schools for the most in-need professions.

“Though it may seem like politics can be divisive, the General Assembly saw passage of many bills with support from both sides of the aisle, **including legislation supporting signature industries, addressing workforce challenges, and tackling substance use disorder.**”

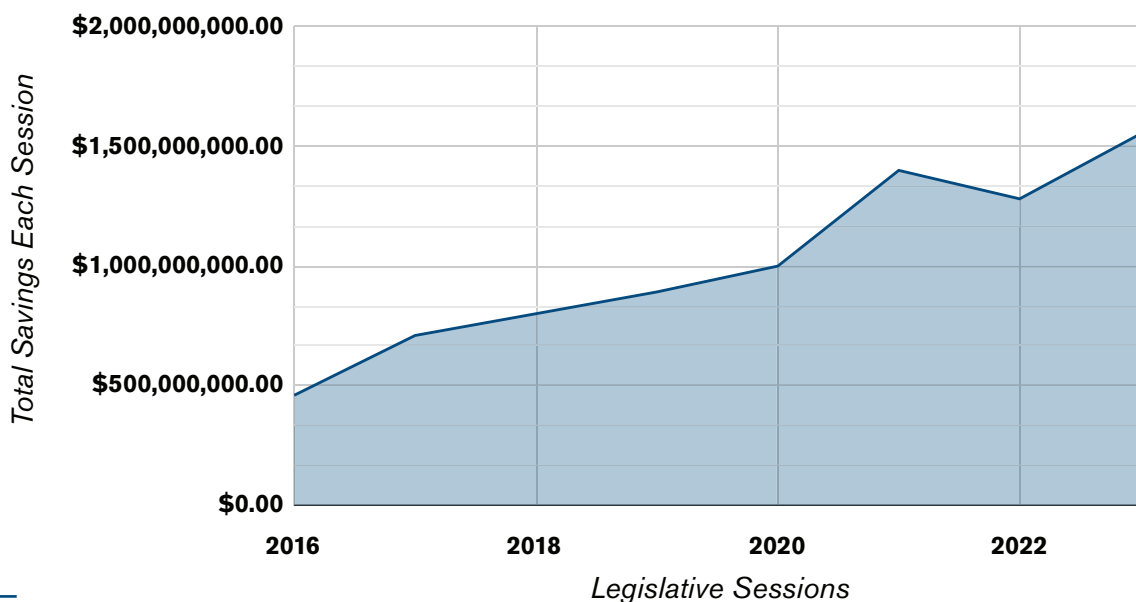


## THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER'S ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

# Saving Money for Kentucky Businesses

The Kentucky Chamber's advocacy efforts continue to result in major returns for Kentucky's business community, saving businesses an estimated **\$1.553 billion** in the 2023 legislative session. This equates to a savings of **\$921 per employee**. This marks the fourth year in a row of savings equal to more than a billion dollars for the business community thanks to the General Assembly and the Chamber's aggressive advocacy. Every dollar saved for businesses is another dollar to be reinvested in the Commonwealth's economy. Employer savings from actions by the General Assembly and advocacy by the Chamber have steadily increased since 2017, when savings for businesses surpassed half-a-billion dollars.<sup>1</sup>

### Savings for Kentucky Businesses, 2016-2023



<sup>1</sup> Estimates of savings for businesses are compiled by the Kentucky Chamber Center for Policy and Research, using data made available by the Legislative Research Commission and other publicly accessible resources and reports. The per employee estimate is based on a count of 1,686,200 nonfarm payrolls in Kentucky as of January 2023, excluding government sector payrolls.



# 2023 SAVINGS

TOTAL SAVINGS **\$1.553** Billion

**\$921** for each employee in the Commonwealth

## Legislation

## Estimated Annual Savings

*(To the Kentucky Business Community  
Under Normal Economic Conditions)*

HB 1

### Income Tax Reform **passed**

**House Bill 1** reduced Kentucky's individual income tax rate from 4.5 percent to 4.0 percent effective January 1, 2024. While this bill will save Kentucky taxpayers an estimated \$630 million in reduced income taxes, it will also have a direct and positive impact on employers with an estimated \$85.8 million in savings. Many businesses — especially small businesses — pay income taxes at the individual level, meaning this legislation will save money for small businesses and lead to reinvestments in our local communities.

**\$85.8**  
Million

HB 360

### Pass-Through Entity Tax **passed**

**House Bill 360** and **House Bill 5** created an optional pass-through entity tax that would enable many business owners to reduce their federal income tax burden by allowing them to take full advantage of the federal state and local tax deduction. Estimates have suggested that this provision could save Kentucky owners of pass-through businesses up to \$40 million on their federal income tax liability.

**\$40**  
Million

HB 551

### Sports Wagering **passed**

**House Bill 551** authorized sports wagering in Kentucky. Based on previous estimates, this legislation is anticipated to generate at least \$23 million per year in new revenues, the majority of which will go towards paying down Kentucky's unfunded pension liability. Reducing Kentucky's pension liabilities through new revenues generated by sports wagering will ultimately save Kentucky taxpayers down the road.

**\$23**  
Million

## Legislation

## Estimated Annual Savings

(To the Kentucky Business Community  
Under Normal Economic Conditions)

SB 15

### Data Mandates on Employers **defeated**

**Senate Bill 15** would have imposed costly data mandates on employers similar to what California has done and would have made Kentucky a more difficult and expensive place to do business. Data mandates like those proposed by Senate Bill 15 would cost employers an estimated \$600 million to \$1.2 billion in compliance costs, market inefficiencies, and litigation based on a research model created by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.

**\$600**  
Million

SB 32  
& HB 471

### Employer Wage Mandates **defeated**

Legislation like **Senate Bill 32** and **House Bill 471** would have imposed new wage mandates on employers. While many employers have dramatically increased wages in recent years, mandates like those proposed in these bills would still increase costs for employers, lead to less job creation, and likely reduce jobs in some industries.

**\$297**  
Million

HB 280

### Employer Paid-Leave Mandate **defeated**

**House Bill 280** would have required Kentucky employers to provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave but established no mechanism for covering the cost of benefits or providing financial assistance for impacted employers. The bill also delegated wide-ranging authority to state agencies to implement the program and address major policy questions. Estimates of the cost to implement a paid parental leave program in Kentucky are around \$200 million.

**\$202**  
Million

HB 34  
& HB 366

### Reinstatement of Prevailing Wage **defeated**

Kentucky's repeal of its prevailing wage statutes in 2017 has reduced costs for businesses and state and local governments. Legislative proposals such as **House Bill 34** and **House Bill 366** would reverse this progress. Past estimates of savings for employers have been adjusted for inflation in this estimate.

**\$234**  
Million

HB 451

### Construction Materials Mandate **defeated**

**House Bill 451** would have imposed sourcing mandates for materials used in public construction projects that would inflate costs and make projects more expensive. This estimate adjusts estimated costs of past legislation for inflation, though some of these costs may be mitigated by the inclusion of a proposed waiver for certain projects.

**\$70.3**  
Million



HB 111

## Tax Increases on Businesses **defeated**

**House Bill 111** sought to abolish Kentucky's flat income tax structure and raise taxes on both employers and workers. While an estimate of this bill's fiscal impact is not available, it would likely have resulted in a tax increase on many employers and workers comparable to the savings created by House Bill 1. Other legislative proposals in the 2023 session such as an inadvertent tax on digital advertising and an effort to limit Kentucky's manufacturing supplies sales tax exemption also would have increased cost on employers, though exact estimates are indeterminable.

Indeterminate

HB 224

## Third-Party Lawsuit Lending **defeated**

**House Bill 224** would have legitimized third-party lawsuit lending in Kentucky. This would drive up the overall cost of litigation and make Kentucky's legal liability climate even more uncompetitive.

Indeterminate





# General Assembly Starts and Ends Strong on **Tax Reform in the 2023 Session**

Progress continued in the 2023 session to reform Kentucky's tax code to support economic growth and competitiveness.

In the first week of the 2023 session, lawmakers passed House Bill 1, which reduced Kentucky's individual income tax rate from 4.5 percent to 4 percent effective January 1, 2024. This priority legislation came on the heels of House Bill 8 in the 2022 session, which created the framework for gradually phasing out Kentucky's individual income tax. Governor Beshear signed the bill into law on February 17, making Kentucky the first state in the nation to pass income tax reduction legislation in 2023.

"The General Assembly prioritized House Bill 1 this session because of the importance of supporting hardworking Kentucky families and ensuring the long-term, sustainable growth of Kentucky's economy and workforce," said Representative Brandon Reed, the lead sponsor of House Bill 1. "I appreciate the business community's partnership and advocacy for this critical legislation."

Later in the session, lawmakers considered House Bill 360, which included a range of tax provisions, including cleanup to sales tax changes made in the 2023 session as well as new ideas. As this legislation saw several iterations, the Chamber successfully advocated against a proposal that would have threatened an important manufacturing sales tax exemption.

Lawmakers also passed House Bill 5 in the final days of session, which created a process to phase out state and local taxes on bourbon barrels while mitigating any financial losses to local communities. This has long been an anti-growth feature of our tax code and jeopardized the future of a critical Kentucky signature industry.

Another important tax win for the business community this session was the establishment of an optional pass-through entity tax. This electable tax – popularly known as a "SALT cap workaround" – allows owners of pass-through businesses like partnerships and S-corporations to optimize the state and local tax deduction on their federal income taxes, leading to an estimated savings of \$40 million for Kentucky employers. Kentucky joins 30 other states with a pass-through entity tax. The Chamber also successfully rolled back a proposal to tax digital advertising services, which was initially included in House Bill 360.

This year's pro-growth tax wins build on reforms that lawmakers have been pursuing since 2018. Thanks to these efforts, Kentucky's state tax competitiveness ranking has improved from 37th in the nation to 18th and the state has begun setting records for levels of economic investment and job growth.



Arnett & Associates President Larry Arnett, representing many veteran services organizations across the state, Rep. Killian Timoney (R-Nicholasville), Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts, and Rep. Matt Koch (R-Paris) testify on House Bill 594, legislation to ban gray machines

## Signature Industries Score Big in Final Hours of 2023 Session

Kentucky's signature bourbon and horse racing industries each passed in the final hours of the 2023 legislative session. Both House Bill 5, which phases out a property tax on aging spirits, and House Bill 551, which legalizes sports wagering, were signed into law by Governor Beshear the day after the bills saw final passage.

Sports betting has been a popular issue among the public for several years, with 2023 marking the fourth consecutive session that the Kentucky Chamber worked on similar legislation to keep the Commonwealth competitive— six of the seven states bordering Kentucky have already passed similar legislation.

“Sports betting was a no-brainer for us at the Kentucky Chamber,” said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts. “The support for the issue is overwhelming, so why should we continue to let that revenue go out the door? This is simply another entertainment tool that will help Kentucky attract talent in the workforce and aid in tourism attraction as well.”

Sponsored by Representative Michael Meredith, House Bill 551 will legalize sports betting online and at existing facilities, such as race tracks, that are already authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering in Kentucky.

The bourbon barrel tax, which is the only tax of its kind in the entire country, creates a disincentive to store bourbon barrels in Kentucky while serving as a barrier to production startups in the state. Sponsored by Jason Petrie, House Bill 5 begins phasing out the barrel tax in 2026 and completes the phase-out by 2039.

“The bourbon industry made several concessions in the process to ensure that school districts currently receiving funding via the barrel tax would be kept whole and that the impact to local communities would be extremely limited,” Watts said. “We applaud their efforts in working toward a compromise that will eventually do away with a regressive tax on one of our signature industries.”

Earlier in the 2023 session, the General Assembly passed legislation to ban an illegal form of gambling known as “gray machines,” which are unregulated, untaxed betting machines that had been popping up at convenience stores, bars, and restaurants across Kentucky.

Sponsored by Representative Killian Timoney, House Bill 594 was also signed into law by Governor Beshear.

# Pro-Business Legislative Victories

Many pro-business victories were enacted in the **2023 session of the General Assembly.**

## Gray Machines Ban

HB 594

Prohibits gray machines and clarifies definitions for illegal gambling in Kentucky.

## Recovery Housing Standards

HB 248

Ensures high-quality recovery housing by establishing statewide minimum standards for the operation of recovery residences.

## Unemployment Insurance Updates

HB 146

Provides clarification and technical changes to unemployment insurance reform legislation passed in the 2022 legislative session in support of making the system more sustainable and encouraging rapid re-employment for laid-off workers.

## Income Tax Reform

HB 1

Further reduces the personal income tax rate from 4.5 percent to 4 percent to create a more competitive state tax environment.

## Sports Wagering

HB 551

Authorizes sports wagering in Kentucky.

## Rural Hospital Resources

HB 75

Provides beneficial changes to the hospital rate improvement programs.

## Aging Spirits

HB 5

Modernizes alcohol tax policy to support economic growth.

## State and Local Tax Deduction

HB 5

Establishes an electable pass-through entity tax to allow small business owners to optimize the state and local tax deduction on federal income tax returns.

## Benefit Cliffs Solutions

HJR 39

Requires executive branch agencies to undertake efforts to address the benefit cliffs in Kentucky.

## Healthcare Workforce

HB 200

Creates the Kentucky Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, a public-private partnership to improve access to workforce training and education opportunities for those interested in pursuing a career in healthcare.

## KEES Flexibility

SB 54

Broadens the use of the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships (KEES) to address Kentucky's workforce needs.

## Child Care Assistance

HB 165

Provides technical updates to the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership.



## Public Contracts

HB 188

Allows contractors to self-perform tasks on state contracts when subcontractors fail to perform or certain conditions are not met.

## Economic Development

HB 9

Creates a framework and a new state fund to assist distressed local communities in Kentucky in accessing new federal grant opportunities.

## Harm Reduction

HB 353

Clarifies that fentanyl found on test strips should not be included in the definition of fentanyl and test equipment is not drug paraphernalia.

## BILLS THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER DEFEATED

### Lawsuit Lending

HB 224

Would have authorized expensive lawsuit loans in Kentucky that prolong the duration of cases leading to a less efficient tort system and higher costs for Kentuckians.

### Data Privacy

SB 15

Would have created new data privacy requirements that are difficult and costly for businesses.

### Removal of Employer Rights

HB 110, HB138, HB 542, SB 31, SB 139, SB 155, SB 237

Would have limited the rights of employers regarding vaccination policies and other workplace standards.

### Employer Mandates

SB 32, HB 15, HB 280, SB 257, HB 471, HB 451

Would have established new mandates for employers.



## General Assembly Stops Short of Passing **Harmful Data Privacy Bill**

The Kentucky Chamber along with the Kentucky Retail Federation, metro chambers of commerce, and the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers successfully defeated a data privacy bill that would have cost businesses \$600 million, according to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Whitney Westerfield, passed the Senate but died in the House without a committee hearing.

The bill was based on legislation passed in California and Europe and also included unique definitions and provisions. Kentucky Chamber Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Kate Shanks testified in opposition to the legislation, stating that the bill would create confusing rules for businesses to comply with while disrupting the user experience online.

It is critical that any data privacy law passed in Kentucky balances the needs of different consumers when it comes to privacy. Those that are concerned about their data being used should be able to simply opt out without disrupting the user experience for all with repeated opt-in requirements. Equally important, is legislation should be crafted in a way that is understandable and reasonable for businesses to follow.

Complicating the data privacy landscape in the U.S. is the lack of action at the federal level. The Chamber has long supported a federal approach to data privacy regulation, but in the absence of such action, recommends Kentucky pass legislation modeled after what has been passed in many other states that balances the needs of consumers with a framework that is workable for businesses.

# Left on the Table

Several measures would have improved the economic climate of Kentucky. Unfortunately, many positive, pro-business measures below were not passed by the **2023 General Assembly**.

## Student Financial Aid (FAFSA)

HB 171

Would have improved access to higher education by providing awareness of costs and opportunities for aid when students consider continuing their education after high school.

## State Contract Data

SB 246

Would have required the Finance and Administration Cabinet to collect and maintain race and ethnicity data for certain contracts.

## Automatic Expungement

HB 417 & HB 588

Would have removed barriers to expungement by automating the process.

## Autonomous Vehicles

HB 135

Would have allowed an autonomous vehicle to operate in Kentucky without a human driver if it meets certain safety conditions.

## Limited Liability Entity Tax

HB 123

Would have removed the limited liability entity tax for certain small businesses, thereby improving the tax code for simplicity and competitiveness.

## Bonus Depreciation

HB 46

Would have improved Kentucky's tax treatment of investments in machinery and other assets.

## Dual Credit Scholarships

HB 18

Would have increased dual credit ceiling amounts. It would have also added career and technical education courses eligible to receive scholarships.

## Medical Cost Recovery

SB 137

Would have limited the recovery of medical costs from a lawsuit to actual costs paid or incurred to be paid after adjustments.

Kentucky Chamber Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Kate Shanks and Representative Nima Kulkarni (D-Louisville) discuss workforce issues





2023 Chamber

# Engagement



**80**

Business leaders participated in Small Business Day at the Capitol

Bills tracked throughout the legislative process

**224**

**37**

Local chambers of commerce engaged in advocacy process



10

Testimonies in front of legislative committees

Kentuckians contacted their legislators through the Kentucky Chamber

3,500







Key representatives from the Chamber attend a bill signing for Senate Bill 54, legislation that expands access to Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)

## Addressing Kentucky's Workforce Challenges **Remains a Top Priority**

During this legislative session, the Chamber championed several bills to help alleviate industry-specific workforce shortages. Senate Bill 54, sponsored by Senator Jared Carpenter, allows Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) awardees to use their scholarship money at proprietary schools that offer training programs within Kentucky's top-five high-demand workforce sectors. This legislation has been a long-time priority for the Chamber.

"I know from my own professional experience in the construction industry how badly businesses need access to trained workers," said Senator Carpenter. "This legislation is an important step in addressing workforce challenges across some of Kentucky's key industries. The Chamber has been steadfast in their advocacy for this bill, and I appreciate their partnership."

House Bill 200, sponsored by Representative Ken Fleming, aims to address workforce challenges in the healthcare sector. It creates the framework for a new state scholarship fund to encourage public-private partnerships in training future Kentucky health care workers.

House Joint Resolution (HJR) 39, sponsored by Representative Johnathan Dixon, proposes next steps to address Kentucky's benefits cliff challenges— when an individual suddenly loses eligibility for public assistance due to a wage or hour increase. The resolution charges state agencies with studying public assistance programs, analyzing the costs of the state's child care subsidy program, examining Kentucky's use of federal relief dollars, and more.

Lawmakers also passed important bills to address the substance use disorder crisis. House Bill 248, sponsored by Representative Samara Heavrin, creates statewide standards to ensure quality and safety in recovery housing. The General Assembly also passed House Bill 353, legislation sponsored by Representative Kim Moser to legalize fentanyl test strips in an effort to help reduce overdose deaths.

"I was proud to sponsor House Bill 248 because of the positive impacts this legislation will have on local communities, families, and our workforce here in Kentucky," said Representative Heavrin. "Ensuring quality and safety in recovery housing protects vulnerable Kentuckians and keeps them on a path to rebuilding their lives. The Chamber and its members were key parts of the success of this bill."

These efforts are part of the Kentucky Chamber's broader strategy to support and strengthen the state's workforce and economy. By investing in education and training programs and addressing barriers to employment, the Chamber hopes to attract and retain a skilled workforce that can drive Kentucky's growth.



# 2023 Session 100% Voters

The following legislators had a perfect score on pro-business issues during the 2023 legislative session.



**Adam Bowling**  
Representative



**Steve Bratcher**  
Representative



**Mike Clines**  
Representative



**Jonathan Dixon**  
Representative



**Myron Dossett**  
Representative



**Kenneth Fleming**  
Representative



**Chris Freeland**  
Representative



**Samara Heavrin**  
Representative



**John Hodgson**  
Representative



**Kevin Jackson**  
Representative



**Matthew Koch**  
Representative



**Derek Lewis**  
Representative



**Michael Meredith**  
Representative



**Kimberly Moser**  
Representative



**Amy Neighbors**  
Representative



**David Osborne**  
Speaker of the House



**Phillip Pratt**  
Representative



**Rebecca Raymer**  
Representative



**Damon Thayer**  
Senate Majority Leader



**Killian Timoney**  
Representative



**Wade Williams**  
Representative







# House

LEGISLATOR	DISTRICT	SUPPORT%	INCOME TAX REFORM HB 1	AGING SPIRITS HB 5	RURAL HOSPITAL RESOURCES HB 75	AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES* HB 135	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE UPDATES HB 146	HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE HB 200	RECOVERY HOUSING STANDARDS HB 248	HARM REDUCTION HB 353
Kulkarni, Nima	D-Louisville	64%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence, William	R-Maysville	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lewis, Derek	R-London	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lewis, Scott	R-Hartford	73%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lockett, Matt	R-Nicholasville	82%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maddox, Savannah	R-Dry Ridge	64%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Massaroni, Candy	R-Bardstown	64%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
McCool, Bobby	R-Van Lear	82%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
McPherson, Shawn	R-Scottsville	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meade, David	R-Stanford	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meredith, Michael	R-Oakland	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Miles, Suzanne	R-Owensboro	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
Moser, Kimberly	R-Taylor Mill	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Neighbors, Amy	R-Edmonton	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nemes, Jason	R-Louisville	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Osborne, David	R-Prospect	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Palumbo, Ruth Ann	D-Lexington	82%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Petrie, Jason	R-Elkton	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pollock, Michael	R-Campbellsville	91%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pratt, Phillip	R-Georgetown	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Proctor, Marianne	R-Union	64%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rabourn, Felicia	R-Pendleton	55%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Rawlings, Steve	R-Burlington	82%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Raymer, Rebecca	R-Morgantown	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Raymond, Josie	D-Louisville	64%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reed, Brandon	R-Hodgenville	73%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Riley, Steven	R-Glasgow	82%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roarx, Rachel	D-Louisville	64%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roberts, Rachel	D-Newport	82%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rudy, Steven	R-Paducah	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sharp, Scott L.	R-Ashland	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith, Thomas	R-Corbin	82%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stalker, Sarah	D-Louisville	64%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stevenson, Cherylynn	D-Lexington	82%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stevenson, Pamela D.	D-Louisville	64%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Swann, Lamin	D-Lexington	82%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tackett Laferty, Ashley	D-Martin	73%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tate, Nancy	R-Brandenburg	73%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thomas, Walker	R-Hopkinsville	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Timoney, Killian	R-Nicholasville	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tipton, James	R-Taylorsville	82%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Truett, Timothy	R-McKee	64%	Yes	No	X	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Upchurch, Kenneth	R-Monticello	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Webber, Russell	R-Shepherdsville	91%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wesley, Bill	R-Ravenna	64%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
White, Richard	R-Morehead	64%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Williams, Wade	R-Earlinton	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Willner, Lisa	D-Louisville	64%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilson, Nick	R-Williamsburg	64%	Yes	X	Yes	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
Witten, Susan Tyler	R-Louisville	91%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

“The General Assembly prioritized House Bill 1 this session because of the importance of supporting hardworking Kentucky families and ensuring the long-term, sustainable growth of Kentucky’s economy and workforce. I appreciate the business community’s partnership and advocacy for this critical legislation.”

— Representative Brandon Reed  
(R-Hodgenville)



# 2023 Legislative Voting Record Senate

LEGISLATOR	DISTRICT	SUPPORT%	INCOME TAX REFORM HB 1	AGING SPIRITS HB 5	RURAL HOSPITAL RESOURCES HB 75	AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES* HB 135	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE UPDATES HB 146	HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE HB 200	RECOVERY HOUSING STANDARDS HB 248	HARM REDUCTION HB 353
Berg, Karen	D-Louisville	75%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boswell, Gary	R-Owensboro	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carpenter, Jared K.	R-Berea	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carroll, Danny	R-Benton	75%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chambers Armstrong, Cassie**	D-Louisville	82%	-	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deneen, Matt	R-Elizabethtown	83%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Douglas, Donald	R-Nicholasville	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frommeyer, Shelley Funke	R-Alexandria	75%	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Girdler, Rick	R-Somerset	75%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Givens, David	R-Greensburg	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harper Angel, Denise	D-Louisville	75%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Higdon, Jimmy	R-Lebanon	58%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Howell, Jason	R-Murray	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mays Bledsoe, Amanda	R-Lexington	83%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
McDaniel, Christian	R-Ryland Heights	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meredith, Stephen	R-Leitchfield	67%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mills, Robert	R-Henderson	75%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Neal, Gerald	D-Louisville	75%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nemes, Mike	R-Shepherdsville	67%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Raque Adams, Julie	R-Louisville	92%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Schickel, John	R-Union	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith, Brandon	R-Hazard	75%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southworth, Adrienne	R-Lawrenceburg	42%	Yes	No	A	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Stivers, Robert	R-Manchester	92%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Storm, Brandon	R-London	92%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thayer, Damon	R-Georgetown	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thomas, Reginald	D-Lexington	75%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tichenor, Lindsey	R-Smithfield	75%	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Turner, Johnnie L.	R-Harlan	67%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Webb, Robin	D-Grayson	67%	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West, Stephen	R-Paris	75%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	A	Yes
Westerfield, Whitney	R-Fruit Hill	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wheeler, Phillip	R-Pikeville	75%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Williams, Gex	R-Verona	75%	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilson, Mike	R-Bowling Green	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wise, Maxwell	R-Campbellsville	83%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yates, David	D-Louisville	75%	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



Kentucky Chamber Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Kate Shanks and Senator Jared Carpenter (R-Berea) testify on **Senate Bill 54**, legislation allowing Kentucky students to use scholarship dollars at proprietary schools





**SPORTS WAGERING  
HB 551**      **GRAY MACHINES BAN  
HB 594**      **KEES FLEXIBILITY  
SB 54**      **DATA PRIVACY  
SB 15**

SPORTS WAGERING HB 551	GRAY MACHINES BAN HB 594	KEES FLEXIBILITY SB 54	DATA PRIVACY SB 15
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	X	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
No	X	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	X	X
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	No	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	X
Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



Senate President Robert Stivers (R-Manchester) was instrumental in ensuring passage of several top priorities of the business community



Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown) provided leadership on important issues, including critical policies to protect Kentucky's signature industries and efforts to block anti-business bills

Kentucky Chamber Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Kate Shanks, Kentucky Chamber 2023 Chair Kevin Smith of Beam Suntory, and Kentucky Chamber Center for Policy and Research Executive Director Dr. Charles Aull discuss a bold strategy to solving Kentucky's workforce crisis





## Public Policy Councils

As the state's premier business advocate, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is a recognized and respected voice at the state Capitol. With thousands of members representing every major industry sector, the Chamber's diverse business policy initiatives converge upon one goal: a healthy, vibrant Kentucky economy. Ensuring that business has a voice in the legislative process, we are working with local business leaders to identify critical trends. As part of its advocacy mission, the Kentucky Chamber has developed several public policy councils composed of business leaders from around the state, each of which is responsible for developing legislative positions and priorities for their respective policy areas.

### Energy & Environment



**Mike Buckentin**  
Logan Aluminum, Inc.

### Education & Workforce



**John Megibben**  
Messer Construction Company

### Health Care



**Rodney Shockley**  
Forcht Group of Kentucky

### Kentucky Competitiveness



**Les Fugate**  
Brown-Forman Corporation

### Small Business



**Sarah Whitaker**  
Williams Advertising

### Infrastructure & Technology Co-Chairs



**Stephanie Bell**  
Kinetic by Windstream



**Ryan Lindsey**  
CRH Americas Material

### Agriculture & Equine Co-Chairs



**Anthony Koch**  
Hallway Feeds



**Gemma Freeman**  
Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings

### Center for Policy & Research



**Jennifer Barber**  
Frost Brown Todd

### DE&I Task Force Chair



**Ray Daniels**  
Equity Solutions Group

Join a policy council today! If you are interested in joining a policy council contact **Claire True** at **502-848-8757** or **ctrue@kychamber.com**.





## Board of Directors

The Kentucky Chamber is the state's largest business organization, representing businesses of all sizes throughout the Commonwealth. The Board of Directors is composed of 60 business leaders which work directly with the Chamber's public policy councils to form the organization's annual legislative agenda - the document which shapes our advocacy efforts each year.

## Public Affairs & Communications Teams



**Ashli Watts**  
President & CEO



**Kate Shanks**  
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs



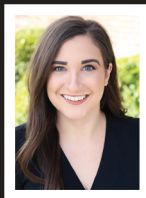
**Jacqueline Pitts**  
Senior Vice President, Communications & Marketing



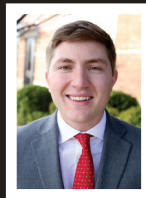
**Charles Aull, PhD**  
Executive Director, Center for Policy & Research



**John Cox**  
Director, Public Affairs



**Sawyer Coffey**  
Director, Communications



**John Hughes**  
Manager, Public Affairs



**Amy Cloud**  
Executive Director, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives



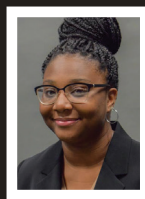
**Jon Dye**  
Field Organizer, Public Affairs



**Claire True**  
Coordinator, Public Affairs



**Nafisa Nigmatova**  
Public Affairs Intern



**Ciara Robinson**  
Public Affairs Intern





Kentucky Chamber

# BEING A MEMBER OF THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER STRENGTHENS YOUR VOICE IN FRANKFORT & BOLSTERS YOUR BUYING POWER



As a small business owner, I can't be at the Capitol every day. But so much of what happens in Frankfort impacts my business's ability to be successful in the Commonwealth. That's why I have found membership in the Kentucky Chamber to be so critical. The Chamber helps businesses of all sizes speak together and bring positive change by advocating for new laws, protecting businesses against policies that will harm growth, providing opportunities to be involved and informed during the legislative process, and promoting a collective vision for Kentucky's future.



— **Carl L. Williams Sr.,**  
President & CEO

*20/Twenty Strategic Consultants*

**JOIN  
TODAY!**

Affordable membership options for businesses of all sizes.

Contact Us (502) 695-4700 | [membership@kychamber.com](mailto:membership@kychamber.com)

464 Chenault Road | Frankfort, KY 40601 | [kychamber.com](http://kychamber.com)



## **The Bottom Line** YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS.

**A majority of the laws and regulations affecting Kentucky businesses are passed in Frankfort, not Washington.**

You can't be at the Capitol on a daily basis, but we can. With the goal of closely monitoring the progress and facts of business-related legislation in Kentucky and delivering behind the scenes knowledge of state government, The Bottom Line breaks down complex policy issues for the business community.

Stay up to date at [kychamberbottomline.com](http://kychamberbottomline.com).



## **Kevin Smith**

### **BOARD CHAIR**

*Kentucky Chamber of Commerce*

*Vice President,*

*Kentucky Bourbon Affairs*

*Beam Suntory*

*Bardstown*

“I congratulate the General Assembly on a successful legislative session aimed at improving Kentucky’s business climate. The Kentucky Chamber advocacy team had a very ambitious agenda to accomplish in a short session and worked with strong leadership and champions in the House and Senate to deliver for Kentucky’s job creators. As a result, Kentucky has much potential and is in a better position today to attract new businesses and employees. Our future is bright, and the Kentucky Chamber will continue our work to make Kentucky the best place to do business.”

# Kentucky Chamber Key Investors

## Commonwealth Partner



## Chairman's Circle



## Champion



## Advisor



## Trustee

Addiction Recovery Care  
AdventHealth Manchester  
Amteck of Kentucky  
AppHarvest  
Atlas Air  
Avantor Performance Materials  
Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass  
Bellarmine University  
Big Ass Fans  
Blackhawk Mining  
Brenntag  
Brightview Health  
Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital  
CareSource  
Carespring Healthcare Management, LLC  
Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC  
CertainTeed

Citizens National Bank  
Clark's Pump N Shop  
Coca-Cola Consolidated  
Commonwealth Credit Union  
Community Trust Bancorp. Inc.  
Computer Services, Inc. Dba CSI  
Consolplex  
Corning Incorporated  
Country Oven Bakery  
CRG Automation  
Dean Dorton  
Deloitte Consulting  
Diageo North America  
Dismas Charities  
Domtar Paper Company  
Dorman  
Double Kwik

EDF Renewables  
English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP  
Family Wealth Group  
Farmers National Bank of Danville  
Field & Main Bank  
Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership  
The Galt House Hotel  
German American Bank  
Gray Construction  
Hyster-Yale Group Inc.  
Johnson & Johnson Services, Inc.  
Kentucky Community and Technical College System  
Kentucky League of Cities, Inc.  
Laurel Grocery Company  
Louisville Water Company  
Marwood Land Company

Matrix Integration  
McBrayer PLLC  
Merck & Co.  
Meritor-Florence  
Merrick Hardwoods, Inc  
Mississippi Lime  
Mubea North America  
National Grid Renewables  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC  
Park Community Credit Union  
Partners for Rural Impact  
Pathways, Inc.  
Pinnacle Treatment Centers  
Piramal Pharma Solutions  
Planters Bank, Inc.  
Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky  
Republic Bank

Republic National Distributing Company  
Restoration Systems  
Robert W. Baird Co. Incorporated  
Scotty's Contracting & Stone LLC  
ServPro of Madison, Rockcastle, Garrard & Lincoln Counties  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
Stock Yards Bank and Trust  
Sullivan University System  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Thoroughbred Engineering  
Tiffany & Co.  
Transit Authority of River City  
Verizon  
Washington Penn Plastic Co., Inc.  
Whitaker Bank  
Zillow Group

\*Updated as of 5.1.23



**Kentucky Chamber**  
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.