



September 10, 2021

Special Session: 2021 Kentucky General Assembly

The Kentucky General Assembly convened for a special session on Tuesday, September 7 and adjourned sine die on Thursday, September 9. There was ten agenda items listed on Governor Beshear's special session [proclamation](#) dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and economic development. The General Assembly passed four pieces of legislation and one joint resolution during the special session. Since all these acts contained emergency clauses, they became effective immediately.

[SB 1: M. Wise - AN ACT relating to the delivery of education and care for children and declaring an emergency.](#)

This bill nullifies the statewide mask mandate for schools, directs each school district to have a COVID-19 operation plan in place, directs the Department for Public Health to develop a "test to stay" COVID-19 model for school districts. It also directs local health departments to assist school districts in implementing their COVID-19 operation plans and provides a temporary remote instruction option for school districts to use at the school, classroom, grade, or group level. Provides that districts may submit 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 attendance data for the 2021-2022 school year and requires all certified staff and classified staff designated by a school district to work on-site during a nontraditional instruction day. For the 2021-2022 school year, this bill temporarily revises requirements for emergency substitute certification, allows instructional activities to be performed by classified staff, and allows a district to temporarily hire staff upon receipt of a preliminary background check, it also temporarily revises retirement reemployment provisions until January 15, 2022. It also allows a school district to submit a school calendar plan to receive a waiver of 170 required student attendance days if 1,062 hours are achieved for the 2021-2022 school year. Governor Beshear did [veto](#) part of this Senate Bill, however last evening the General Assembly voted to override his veto.

SB 2: R. Stivers - AN ACT relating to COVID-19 emergency actions and declaring an emergency.

This bill requires visitation in long-term care facilities and residential long-term care facilities to be allowed by family members, legal guardians, outside caregivers, friends, or volunteers who provided regular care and support to the resident prior to the pandemic, who are designated as being important to the mental, physical, or social well-being of a resident in critical situations. It also requires the establishment and operation of COVID-19 antibody administration centers (CAACs) in each Area Development District. Permits paramedics to be employed by a hospital or nursing facility to work as a licensed paramedic in any department of a hospital or nursing facility subject to conditions. Requires the cabinet to produce public service announcements and develop strategies to urge vaccination and requires the cabinet to create a singular form in accordance with federal law for permits to offer and administer COVID-19 vaccinations to patients. This bill also requires that any administrative order issued by a local public health department requiring immunization during an epidemic include exemptions for medical contraindications, religious grounds, and conscientiously held beliefs. Governor Beshear did [veto](#) part of this Senate Bill, however last evening the General Assembly voted to override his veto.

SB 3: R. Stivers - AN ACT relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

This bill appropriates \$69,268,300 of American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery funds in fiscal year 2021-2022 to address the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting pressures that have been experienced in the healthcare, long-term care, and school systems.

SB 5: J. Adams - AN ACT funding programs and projects for economic development projects exceeding a minimum investment of \$2,000,000,000, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

This bill appropriates \$350,000,000 in General Fund moneys in fiscal year 2021-2022 for funding Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority forgivable loans for economic development projects with a minimum investment of \$2,000,000,000. It also appropriates \$10,639,600 in General Fund moneys in fiscal year 2021-2022 to pay a loan related to property in Hardin County, \$20,000,000 in General Fund moneys to the Bluegrass State Skills Corporation for training grants, \$5,000,000 in General Fund moneys for training grants under the KCTCS-TRAINS program, and \$25,000,000 in General Fund moneys to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System for construction of an on-site training center.

HJR 1: D. Osborne - A JOINT RESOLUTION extending emergency executive actions and declaring an emergency.

This resolution extends certain executive orders, including emergency executive orders, administrative orders, administrative regulations, or other administrative actions, relating to COVID-19 and declare that the extended orders expire until January 15, 2022.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2021 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Kyle Kelly, extension 7417; and Drew Graham, extension 5121. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Katie Weatherholt at 502.493.7669 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

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