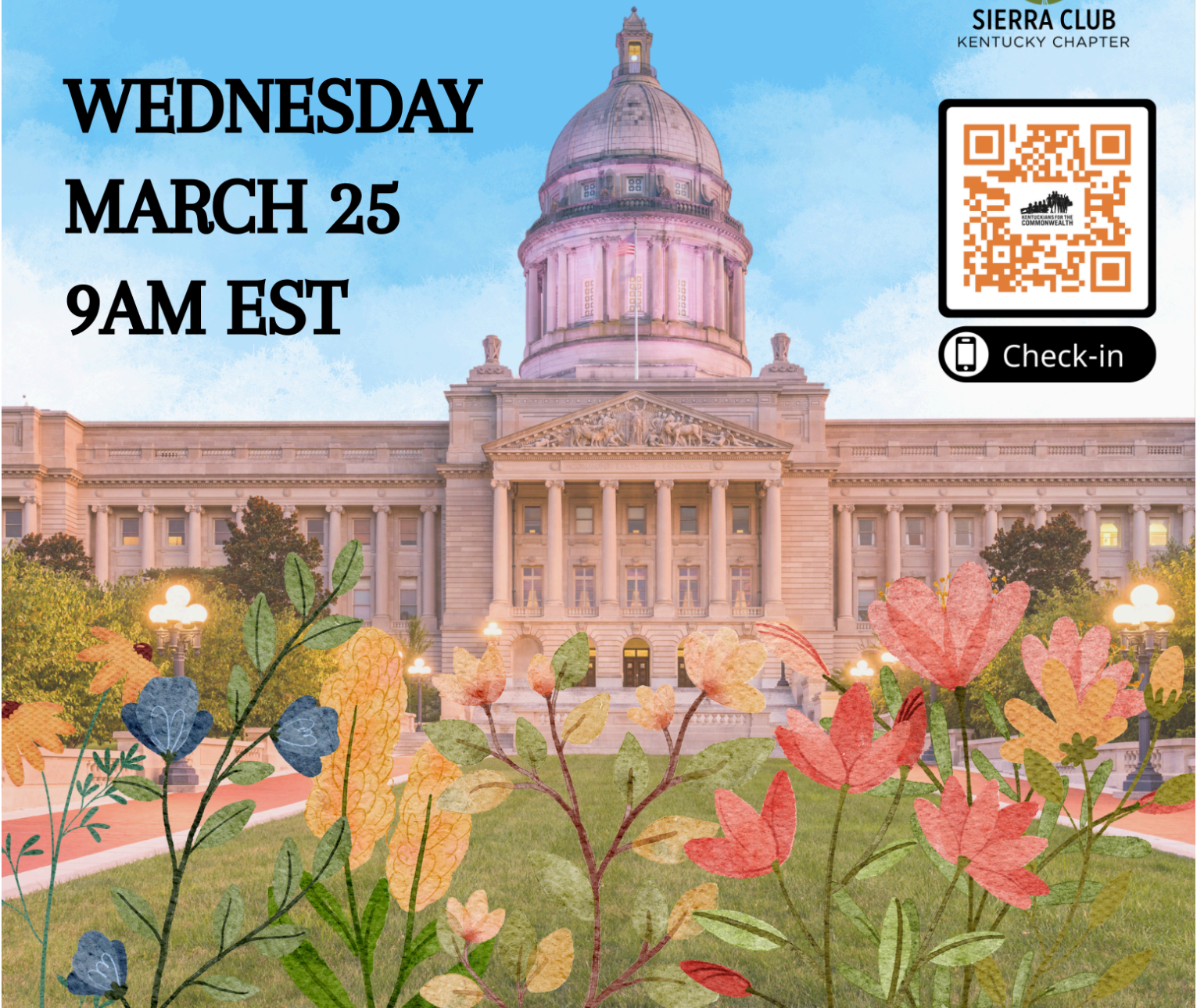


# CLIMATE LOBBY DAY

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 25  
9AM EST



# CLIMATE LOBBY DAY

## AGENDA

- **8:00 - 8:30 am**
  - Arrive early with ID to get through security (might take 30 minutes to get through)
- **8:30 - 9:30 am | Annex Room 171**
  - Sign in
  - Break into lobby teams and prepare for meetings
    - First time lobbying? Welcome! You'll be placed with a lobby team captain who will help guide your team through each meeting
    - Choose 1-2 bills your team would like to lobby on
- **9:30 - 10:00 am**
  - With your lobby team:
    - Deliver lobby materials to legislative assistants
    - Track down legislators to see if you can get an impromptu meeting!
- **10:00 - 11:30 am**
  - Lobby appointments begin at 10am
  - Late registration & gather meeting notes
  - Disconnections Campaign press conference 10:30 - 11am
- **11:30 am - 1:30pm | Cafeteria**
  - Lunch in the Cafeteria (located in the basement of the Annex)
  - Wrap up legislative meetings
  - Gather meeting notes

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**\*Meal tickets for lunch** will be available for the first 50 participants. Meal tickets will be available at the check-in site, along with your packet for the day, nametag, and other materials for the Education Justice Lobby & Rally Day.

**Emotional Processing** - The capitol can be a tough place to be mentally and emotionally. These are personal issues for a lot of us. Remember to utilize practices of mindfulness and grounding if that becomes needed during the day. Take care of yourself

KENTUCKY

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2026



## OUR LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

- ✎ We **SUPPORT** disconnection protections - **House Bill 377**
- 💧 We **SUPPORT** protecting our waterways - **House Bill 552**
- ✎ We **SUPPORT** protecting KY ratepayers from paying for energy production for data centers - **House Bill 593 \*with amendment to Section 6(1)\***
- ✎ We **SUPPORT** transparency around data center proposals - **Senate Bill 330**
- ✎ We **SUPPORT** a stronger PSC and fair ratepayer representation - **Senate Bill 8**
- ✎ We **OPPOSE** a taxpayer-funded commission that is not fully transparent - **Senate Bill 100**
- 🌳 We **OPPOSE** limiting state environmental regulations - **Senate Bill 178**
  
- 🌾 We **SUPPORT** establishing the KY Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative - **House Bill 195** (*Sierra Club KY*)

## ASKS TO LEGISLATORS



- Will you vote **YES** on **House Bill 377** and protect Kentuckians from disconnections?
- Will you vote **YES** on **House Bill 552** and protect Kentucky's waterways?
- Will you support an amendment to **Section 6(1)** to **House Bill 593** and protect Kentuckians from bearing the electric costs of data centers and fair NET metering?
- Will you vote **YES** on **Senate Bill 330** and ensure transparency around data center proposals?
- Will you vote **YES** on **Senate Bill 8** and support a stronger PSC and fair ratepayer representation?
- Will you vote **NO** on **Senate Bill 100**? Kentuckians deserve full transparency from a taxpayer-funded commission.
- Will you vote **NO** on **Senate Bill 178** and protect public health in Kentucky?
- Will you vote **YES** on **House Bill 195** and support youth farming in urban counties?

CLIMATE LOBBY DAY

# TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE GRASSROOTS LOBBYING

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD IN FRANKFORT

## BEFORE THE MEETING

- **Study Up!**
  - Know the basic facts of the bill, the bill number, its sponsors, and where it is in the legislative process
  - Use your lobby packets for reference
- **Make a Loose Meeting Agenda**
  - Discuss with your lobby team: What do we hope to gain from this meeting?
  - What are the core things we need to communicate? What could we learn from this legislator? What do we need this legislator to do/not do? (What's our ask?)
  - Make time in the agenda to chat with the legislator (if possible). It's always good to try and establish a personal connection.
- **Decide what roles people will take on for the meeting**
  - Make sure everyone is aware and comfortable with the things they are going to communicate to the legislator.
  - If not everyone wants to speak, that's okay! Presence alone is valuable.
  - **Possible roles people can take on during the meeting:**
    - **Lobby Team Captain:** Facilitates introductions, and keeps the meeting on track
    - **Point Person:** Multiple people can take on different parts of the agenda so they can introduce that aspect of the conversation
    - **Notetaker:** Writes down what is said during the meeting, and shares their notes with KFTC/Sierra Club so that we can track updates on each bill.

## DURING THE MEETING

- **Introductions:** Introduce yourself and your organization. Thank the legislator for meeting with you and let them know why you are meeting.
- **Share your story:** why this issue is important to you?
- **Problem/Solution:** What issue does this bill address/not address? What is the solution to the problem you see?
- **Opportunity:** What would it look like if this bill were to pass/not pass?
- **Ask directly for their support:** "Will you vote for this bill?" or "Will you vote against this bill?"
  - What do you want them to do/not do during this session?
  - They may try to dodge the question — if you notice them diverting from an answer, do your best to steer the conversation back on track.
  - Be specific, and don't be afraid to ask directly for what you want.
- **Follow Up:** Answer questions if you can and make a plan to follow up with other resources if needed.
- **Ask which other legislators you should discuss the issue with.**

## AFTER THE MEETING

- **Spend a few minutes debriefing with the other meeting attendees.** How did the meeting make you feel? What were some important things you learned? What are some next steps you might want to strategize about in the future? The notetaker can add to their notes as needed. Feel free to reach out to KFTC organizers if you need extra support from staff.
- **Share your notes with KFTC** so we can continue to track where we stand on bills, and so that we can update our strategy accordingly!
- **Send a thank you note to the legislator** restating your arguments and follow up with any commitments that were made.

Take deep breaths

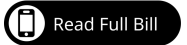
You have every right to be heard. Your voice and your perspective matter!



# House Bill 377



## Disconnection Protections



### ASK TO LEGISLATOR:

Will you **vote YES** on House Bill 377 and protect Kentuckians from disconnections?

#### SPONSORS

- Susan Witten (R) *District 31*
- Lisa Willner (D) *District 35*
- Al Gentry (D) *District 46*

#### STRATEGY

- Get a first reading in Natural Resources Committee
- Recruit a Republican sponsor
- Share personal stories of utility disconnection

## QUICK FACTS

Kentucky is one of **only 8 states** that has **ZERO disconnection protections**

<https://liheapch.acf.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm>

More than **1 in 5** Kentucky families **cannot afford** their monthly energy bills

*Lights Out in Kentucky: Energy Burdens and Electricity Disconnections Across the State*

**23%** of Kentucky families are **energy-burdened**, spending more than the recommended 6% of their annual income on essential utilities

*Lights Out in Kentucky: Energy Burdens and Electricity Disconnections Across the State*

## BILL DESCRIPTION

HB 377 will prevent gas and electric utilities from disconnecting residential service in situations including:

- When the National Weather Service forecasts temperatures to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower over a 72-hour timespan; disconnection would also be prohibited if temperatures are forecasted to be 95 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- When a residential ratepayer has entered into a payment plan and paid at least 10% of their accrued utility bill or \$200, whatever amount is less.
- When someone has received a "certificate of need" from a physician or a community or faith-based organization that shows a utility disconnection would "threaten the health and safety of the customer or the occupants of the customer's household."

The bill will only allow utilities to disconnect service between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; disconnections would be prohibited on Fridays, weekends and state and federal holidays. It will also specify how utilities give a final notice before a disconnection and require a utility to reconnect someone within 24 hours if they make a payment of at least 10% of an accrued bill and enter into a payment plan. It does not exempt Kentuckians from paying their bill indefinitely.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Many Kentuckians are already struggling to make ends meet right now, often having to choose between paying their power bill, affording medicine, or buying groceries.
- When utilities are disconnected during extreme weather it puts Kentuckians, especially our medically vulnerable friends and neighbors, at risk.
- Utility disconnection puts people at risk for eviction, and in turn housing instability. This perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty.

### NOTES:



# House Bill 552

## Waterway Protections



Read Full Bill

**ASK TO LEGISLATOR:** Will you **vote YES** on House Bill 552 and protect Kentucky's waterways?

### SPONSORS

- Sarah Stalker (D) *District 34*
- Chad Aull (D) *District 79*
- Beverly Chester-Burton (D) *District 44*
- Anne Gay Donworth (D) *District 76*
- Al Gentry (D) *District 46*
- Erika Hancock (D) *District 57*
- Matthew Lehman (D) *District 67*
- Adam Moore (D) *District 45*
- Rachel Roarx (D) *District 38*
- Pamela Stevenson (D) *District 43*
- Lisa Willner (D) *District 35*

### STRATEGY

- Get a first reading in Natural Resources Committee
- Recruit a Republican sponsor

## QUICK FACTS

Kentuckians use **more than 4.3 billion gallons of water every day**. About 95 percent of this is surface water, and 5 percent is groundwater.

*Kentucky Geological Survey (University of Kentucky)*

In Kentucky, **more than 1.5 million people** get their **drinking water** from groundwater sources.

*Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet*

Kentucky's surface-water withdrawals total **81 million gallons** per day for **agricultural** use.

*Kentucky Geological Survey (University of Kentucky)*

## BILL DESCRIPTION

House Bill 552 will revise the definition of "waters of the Commonwealth" to its previous definition (prior to 2025 Senate Bill 89), effectively repealing SB89 and its harmful effects.

The new definition includes all rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, ponds, impounded reservoirs, springs, wells, marshes and all other bodies of surface or underground water within "waters of the commonwealth."

## WHY IT MATTERS

- 2025's Senate Bill 89 stripped Kentucky of its longstanding authority to define and protect its own waters and removed the pollution prohibitions for groundwater. HB 552 will effectively reverse these negative impacts.
- **This is a public health issue.** Restoring Kentucky's ability to define "waters of the Commonwealth" is essential to protecting drinking water sources, headwaters, and interconnected surface and underground waters.
- Under SB 89, the risk of downstream flooding is significantly worsened due to the inability to regulate dumping of wastes from mining. This is especially concerning for Eastern Kentucky, which has suffered more frequent floods in the past few years alone.
- Many streams, wetlands, and especially groundwater resources are extremely vulnerable at a time when federal water protections are being rolled back.
- Reasserting state authority ensures Kentucky can respond to local water quality threats rather than relying on shifting and increasingly limited federal protections

### NOTES:



# House Bill 593



## Ratepayer Protections from Data Centers



Read Full Bill

**ASK TO LEGISLATOR:** Will you **support an amendment to Section 6(1)** to House Bill 593 and protect Kentuckians from bearing the electric costs of data centers and fair NET metering?

### SPONSORS

- Josh Bray (R) *District 71*
- Jason Petrie(R) *District 16*
- Daniel Elliott (R) *District 54*
- Jim Gooch Jr. (R) *District 12*
- Kim King (R) *District 55*
- David W. Osborne (R) *District 59*

### STRATEGY

- Amend Section 6(1) to protect NET metering
- Support committee assignment in the Senate & a first reading

## QUICK FACTS

Data center expansion is returning communities to **reliance on fossil fuels** and reversing our limited climate progress. States are keeping coal plants open, building new gas-fired power plants, and reopening nuclear plants solely for data center use.

*North Star Data Center Policy Toolkit  
AI Now, 2026*

**By 2030, data centers are expected to use 12 percent of US electricity consumption, triple the current 4 percent.** Even in lower estimates, this exceeds the amount of electricity needed to power **26 million households.**

*North Star Data Center Policy Toolkit  
AI Now, 2026*

## BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill helps ensure that companies hoping to build data centers in Kentucky are legitimate and able to take on additional energy costs instead of passing them on to ratepayers, like households and small businesses. If a tech company wants to bring a data center to Kentucky, HB 593 would require the company to do one of three things:

- Provide its own electric generation for a data center and donate any excess back to the local utility
- Enter into a power purchase agreement
- Purchase the electricity needed on the national open market

The legislation would also require a minimum, non-refundable \$75,000 application fee and includes a provision addressing water, gas and wastewater costs.

While this bill is a good first step to regulating data centers, we strongly encourage an amendment to Section 6(1), which exempts data center loads from how the utilities' "peak load" is calculated in determining when the utilities reach their 1% cap for net metering.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Kentuckians are already struggling to pay their own utility bills. We can't afford to subsidize the astronomic energy costs associated with data centers.
- Section 6(1) as written provides no benefit to ratepayers; in fact, it would further restrict access to solar net metering. Net metering allows solar owners to send excess electricity back to the grid for credits, often leading to significantly reduced or zeroed-out electricity bills. It maximizes solar investment returns, protects against rising utility costs, and supports the grid by providing clean energy during peak demand times.

### NOTES:



# Senate Bill 330



## Transparency Around Data Centers



Read Full Bill

**ASK TO LEGISLATOR:** Will you **vote YES** on Senate Bill 330 and ensure transparency around data center proposals?

### SPONSORS

- Kenturah J. Herron (D) *District 35*
- Gerald A. Neal (D) *District 33*

### STRATEGY

- Support committee assignment in the Senate & a first reading
- Recruit a Republican sponsor

## QUICK FACTS

An NBC News review of over 30 data center proposals across 14 states found that **in a majority of cases, local officials signed NDAs** and worked with what appeared to be shell companies that can conceal visibility into the project developers. Five elected officials in different counties said the agreements barred them from sharing information with their constituents.

*How NDAs keep AI data center details hidden from Americans*  
Natalie Kainz, NBC News

**Local example:** Mason County Attorney John Estill signed an NDA for a data project proposal. Many residents are demanding transparency. To stay updated on their fight, visit **We Are Mason County** on Facebook.

## BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill will ensure transparency and public access to information by banning public agencies from using nondisclosure agreements to keep data centers confidential beyond what's permitted by Kentucky law. It lists out information that can not be deemed as confidential, which includes:

- Identity of the owner or operator
- Project location
- Total public financial incentives or tax benefits (current and future)
- Public financial contributions toward infrastructure
- Projected and actual aggregate electricity demand and peak load
- Projected and actual aggregate water usage and wastewater discharge
- Required infrastructure upgrades (generation, transmission, water)
- Environmental mitigation or resource efficiency commitments
- Claw back provisions in case the center fails to meet legal obligations

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Widespread corporate use of nondisclosure agreements, backroom deals, and secretive practices excludes the public (and in some cases local officials) from decisions about data
- Frontline communities and ratepayers deserve to know how potential data center projects will impact their daily lives, bills, economy, and community at large.
- We are looking at rapid data center expansion nationwide and we need protections in place now.

### NOTES:



# Senate Bill 8



Public Service Commission



Read Full Bill

**ASK TO LEGISLATOR:** Will you **vote YES** on Senate Bill 8 and support a stronger PSC and fair ratepayer representation?

## SPONSORS

- Brandon Smith (R) *District 30*
- Robby Mills (R) *District 04*
- Robin L. Webb (R) *District 18*
- Stephen West (R) *District 27*

## STRATEGY

- Express appreciation for the amendments removing Section 2

## QUICK FACTS

**Community advocates** including Sierra Club and the Joint Intervenors (Kentucky Resources Council, KFTC, Mountain Association, Metropolitan Housing Coalition, The Kentucky Solar Energy Society) have officially intervened in PSC cases and **historically made some great wins for the environment and energy affordability**, including:

- Stopping Kentucky Power from slashing the value of credit for rooftop solar customers (2021)
- Negotiating a settlement with LG&E-KU to reduce proposed revenue increases and eliminating proposed hikes to the flat monthly service charge for residential customers (2021)
- Successfully petitioned for a rehearing in a LG&E-KU case which resulted in increasing the income eligibility threshold for the "Income Qualified Solutions" program to 200% of the federal poverty level (2023)

## BILL DESCRIPTION

Sierra Club, KFTC and allies strongly opposed Section 2 of the original bill, which would have altered how residential consumers are represented in Public Service Commission cases. After significant effort by SC, KFTC, the Joint Intervenors, and other consumer groups, Senate Floor Amendment 1 was adopted to remove the offensive language of Section 2. The new language would still allow our organizations to intervene on behalf of Kentucky ratepayers.

The amended bill:

- Expands the Commission to 5 members - three would continue to be appointed by the Governor, while two would be appointed by the Auditor of Public Accounts (auditor's appointees must meet specific qualifications)
- Broadens conflict-of-interest restrictions to include immediate family members of commissioners
- Attaches the PSC to the Auditor of Public Accounts rather than its current structure, though it would function as an independent department.
- Gives the PSC expanded authority over its own procurement and personnel matters and would be exempt from executive branch reorganization under KRS Chapter 12.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Under its original language, SB8 would have left Kentuckians relying on one politician, the Kentucky Attorney General, to advocate for us in Public Service Commission cases
- The Attorney General by law represents all consumers, so this would have prevented his effective representation of residential ratepayers when their interests in rates and service conflict with other classes of customers
- The implications of SB8 under its original language could have meant higher electric bills, less reliable service, and more polluted air & water

**NOTES:**



# Senate Bill 100



## EPIC exemption from Open Records Act



Read Full Bill

**ASK TO LEGISLATOR:** Will you **vote NO** on Senate Bill 100? Kentuckians deserve full transparency from a taxpayer-funded commission.

### SPONSORS

- Robby Mills (R) *District 04*
- Greg Elkins (R) *District 28*

### STRATEGY

- Highlight that while the House Committee substitute is positive, we still want full transparency.

## QUICK FACTS

**EPIC was created in 2024.** Its board is made up of KY representatives of coal, oil and gas producers, investor-owned utilities, electric coops, natural gas transportation, fossil fuel purchasing, nuclear generation, commercial and industrial consumers, economic development, renewable energy, banking and finance, & residential electricity consumers.

<https://caer.uky.edu/epic>

Kevin Nolan, President and **CEO of GE Appliances** was appointed to **the one EPIC seat meant to represent Kentucky residential ratepayers.**

## BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill will restructure EPIC (The Energy Planning and Inventory Commission) in the following ways:

- Granted authority over its own hiring, compensation, procurement, and contracting
- Limits board membership to no more than two out-of-state members
- Revises the executive committee to include two appointees from the Attorney General
- Grants the executive director full authority to act on behalf of the commission
- Makes all utility-submitted and EPIC-generated data confidential and exempt from Kentucky open records laws.
  - **Note:** The bill was amended to narrow the scope of the open records exemption. While that is somewhat of an improvement, it's still problematic that some important utility data will be exempt from open records and there's no firm metric for how EPIC will determine what is "confidential business information"

## WHY IT MATTERS

- EPIC reviews plant retirement requests and sends recommendations that the Public Service Commission is required to consider
- Kentuckians deserve full transparency from a commission funded with our tax dollars.
- This bill expands and further institutionalizes EPIC without addressing longstanding concerns about transparency and accountability.

### NOTES:



# Senate Bill 178



## Limiting State Environmental Regulations



Read Full Bill

**ASK TO LEGISLATOR:** Will you **vote NO** on Senate Bill 178 and protect public health in Kentucky?

### SPONSORS

- Greg Elkins (R) *District 28*
- Brandon Smith (R) *District 30*
- Robby Mills (R) *District 04*
- Steve Rawlings (R) *District 11*

### STRATEGY

- Highlight that this bill poses a severe threat to public health

## QUICK FACTS

Historically, **federal environmental laws are meant to operate as the floor, not the ceiling**, allowing states to adopt stronger regulations as needed and tailored to their specific climate, geology, and health needs.

Example of when KY regulations have been stronger than federal regulations:  
**In the early 2000s, KY was the first state to pass vertical integrator liability regulations pertaining to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)** to align with federal Clean Water Act requirements, focusing on permitting operations that discharged waste into state waters.

*AFOs and CAFOs  
 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet*

## BILL DESCRIPTION

**SB 178 will prohibit KY's Energy & Environment Cabinet and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from adopting environmental and public health protections that are stronger than federal standards.**

**This bill would affect virtually all major environmental programs including:**

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Drinking water
- Groundwater protection
- Waste management
- Mining regulation
- Hazardous materials
- Radioactive materials handling
- Solid waste districts
- Related public health protections

Where no federal standard exists, SB 178 imposes unusually restrictive scientific and technical thresholds before new protections may be adopted, elevating the burden of proof by requiring agencies not only to rely on peer-reviewed evidence, but to demonstrate a direct causal link between exposure and actual manifested bodily harm before acting to protect public health.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- At a time of the "bare minimum" for federal standards, KY's policies for protecting air, land, water and public health - regardless of KY specific risks, conditions, or emerging threats - would be the bare minimum.
- SB 178 departs from modern environmental and public health practice, which is designed to prevent foreseeable harm through risk assessment, toxicological evidence, and exposure modeling rather than waiting for documented injury.

### NOTES:



# House Bill 195



## Kentucky Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative

### ASK TO LEGISLATOR:

Will you **vote YES** on House Bill 195 and support youth farming in urban counties?

#### SPONSORS

- Nima Kulkarni (D) *District 40*
- Ryan Bivens (R) *District 24*
- George Brown Jr. (D) *District 77*
- Beverly Chester-Burton (D) *District 44*
- Myron Dossett (R) *District 09*
- Deanna Gordon (R) *District 81*
- Adam Moore (D) *District 45*
- Kimberly Poore Moser (R) *District 64*
- Joshua Watkins (D) *District 42*

#### STRATEGY

- Support committee assignment in the Senate & a first reading

## QUICK FACTS

A 2025 University of Kentucky project noted that **urban agriculture is a "minimally tapped economic opportunity" in Kentucky**, with few existing educational resources for urban growers.

*SARE Grant Management System*  
[\(https://projects.sare.org/sare\\_project/eds25-083/\)](https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/eds25-083/)

Nearly 70% of Kentuckians are unfamiliar with the Cooperative Extension Service, representing a **significant opportunity to connect urban youth to agricultural education.**

*Lane Report / UK Cooperative Extension*  
[\(https://www.lanereport.com/175696/2024/08/uk-extension-releases-ky-data-on-community-needs-for-future-programs/\)](https://www.lanereport.com/175696/2024/08/uk-extension-releases-ky-data-on-community-needs-for-future-programs/)

## BILL DESCRIPTION

**HB 195 establishes the Kentucky Urban Youth Agriculture Initiative, a pilot program that will be administered by the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University extension services. Beginning in 2027, the initiative will create one-year educational programs in urban counties (populations of 150,000 or more) to connect youth with agriculture.**

The initiative is designed to:

- Promote farming, agribusiness, and efficient land use in urban areas.
- Educate participants on urban agriculture best practices.
- Develop participants' skills to become informed agriculture consumers and advocates.
- Advance age-appropriate, work-ready programming, including formal internships and apprenticeships.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- This initiative invests in the next generation of Kentuckians by creating pathways to careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and food systems right in our urban centers.
- It provides youth with valuable, hands-on experience, teaching them where their food comes from and how to build a more resilient local food economy.
- By starting with a pilot program, this bill ensures a thoughtful, effective rollout that can be scaled to serve communities across the Commonwealth.

#### NOTES:

# HOW BILLS BECOME LAW



The legislative process starts when a lawmaker files a bill, which gets assigned to a committee that hears testimony, debates it, and votes.

If passed the committee, the full chamber (House and Senate) votes, then the other chamber repeats the same process.

If both chambers pass different versions, they reconcile them before sending the final bill to the Governor, who has 10 days to sign it, veto it, or let it become law by default.

If vetoed, a simple majority in both chambers can override it - and once it passes, the Secretary of State puts it on the books.

