

## **Kentucky General Assembly - Legislative Summary as of 3/24/21**

*HB 55 - (Prevailing Wage)* - amends various sections of the Kentucky Revised Statutes applying prevailing wage standards on public projects.

*HB 127 - (Utility Rates)* - gives the PSC, on its own motion, the power to examine the adequacy of the utility system rates and charges. PSC may order a full rate case review. Only applies to entities that are subject to PSC jurisdiction.

*HB 159 and SB 109 - (Water Fluoridation Program)* - allows a local government through its legislative body to void the implementation of a water fluoridation program by a public water system over which it has jurisdiction.

*HB 207 - (Utility Service)* - a city, county, urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or special district shall not adopt or enforce any ordinance, policy, resolution, code, or other form of executive or legislative action that has the purpose or effect of prohibiting, discriminating against, restricting, limiting, or impairing consumers' ability to use the utility services that are described in KRS 278.010(3)(a), (b), or (c) and that are provided by a utility that is regulated by the Public Service Commission under KRS Chapter 278 or is otherwise incorporated under KRS Chapter 279. **House passed, Senate substituted language and passed the bill, House concurred with the Senate version. Delivered to the Governor on 3/15/21.**

*HB 238 - (City Utility Membership)* - amends KRS 96.530 to allow any city to appoint a city utility commission consisting of either three (3) or five (5) commissioners. Present law requires cities with a population greater than 20,000 to have five (5) commissioners. Also allows for one (1) non-resident of the city if a three commissioner board or two (2) non-residents of the city if a five commissioner board. **Reported favorably from the Local Government Committee to House, amended on House floor, given 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in House. Floor amendment states that county appointees shall be: (a) resident of the County in which the utility is located; (b) possesses qualifications and expertise that benefits the city utility; and (c) not employed by, not in any fiduciary or agency capacity with the utility or does not possess ownership interest in or is a supplier or competitor of the utility. Both House and Senate passed the amended bill. Delivered to and signed by Governor.**

*HB 272 - (Water Districts and Associations)* - provides for late payment charges by water districts and associations and prohibits PSC from modifying, rejecting or suspending late payments once established in a tariff. **Amended with a Substitute Bill that expands the provisions to include executive orders, administrative regulations or other guidance are not effective as to termination of service or the assessment of penalties and late fees. Reported favorably from Local Government Committee and given 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the House. Substitute Bill adopted by both the House and the Senate, sent to Governor. Bill was vetoed by the Governor on 3/23/21. Subject to review and veto being overridden.**

*HB 302 - (Water and Wastewater)* - limits the ability of sanitation districts to require forced hook-up to sewer system if the owner of property has an operable sanitary /septic system.

*HB 303 - (Underground Facility Protection)* - provides rules and protections for underground facilities and service lines. **Adopted by both the House and the Senate. Delivered to and signed by the Governor.**

*HB 343 - (Broadband)* - provides for broadband development in rural areas, and established a broadband deployment fund. In Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

*HB 465 - (Acquisition of Water and Sewer Utilities)* - sets forth that acquisition prices for water and wastewater utilities to be based on full value of facility rather than net original cost, provides support and encouragement, as may be determined by PSC, of consolidation of water and wastewater utilities. **Bill adopted by the House and sent to Senate. Has received two readings in the Senate and is still being considered.**

*HB 520 - (Open Records)* - amends Open Records Act to protect personal identification information from public disclosure.