

## **General Public Policy and Legislation Tips**

### **Provided by the KCA Advocacy Committee**

Legislation development and activity are on-going in Washington D.C. and in every state all the way down to the local level.

A Democracy requires that the VOICE of the PEOPLE be heard.

Legislators are elected by US!

The Governor is elected by US!

The President is elected by US!

Sometimes it is difficult to remember that all are elected to serve us!

### **Why ADVOCACY? Why ME?**

Frankfort will happen –

Whether you pay any attention or not

What happens there does affect you!

Choose to influence the system!

The KY General Assembly meets every year, beginning in January

Even-number years – 60 day Session (Biennial budget is passed)

Odd-numbered years, the session is 30 days long

### **Making Kentucky's Laws**

A piece of legislation – a bill – can only become law if it is passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and is signed by the Governor, or not vetoed by him/her.

Only a member of the General Assembly can introduce legislation in the session.

Bills can vary in length from only a single line to hundreds of pages.

### **Drafting of The Bill**

Drafted by Legislative Research Commission (LRC), only at the request of a legislator

Confidential Process, only the sponsoring legislator can disclose it

While being drafted, before introduced, it is given a Bill Request (BR) number; once introduced, the bill is referred to by its House of Senate number.

### **Introduction of The Bill**

All bills are introduced by delivering them to the House or Senate Clerk

House – “HB\_\_”      Senate – “SB\_\_”

A Bill will keep the same number all the way through the process – whether it is in the House or in the Senate.

Once introduced, it is given a number and sent to the Committee on Committees.

### **Committee on Committees**

The Committee on Committees exists in each chamber and is dominated by the majority party (currently R in both House and Senate). They decide which Committee will hear the bill and vote on it.

Committee meetings are open to the public, with a set Committee schedule for the session.

Additional committee meetings may be called to move a bill quickly through the process.

After the bill is heard in Committee, it is voted on and then reported out as favorable (passing) or unfavorable. If the vote in Committee is unanimous, the Committee may recommend that the bill go to the Consent Calendar.

### **Committee Consideration**

It is critical to educate all of the Committee members about the bill BEFORE the hearing to encourage its passage, to change (amend) it or to defeat it.

YOUR VOICE can be heard by telling legislators how you feel about the bill, by testifying on the bill, or by attending the hearing.

(Be more visible by wearing a button or carrying a sign about a bill)

### **HOW will YOUR VOICE be heard?**

- Register to Vote
- Find out who YOUR legislators are (LRC website great source)
  - Contact your legislators and identify yourself as a **constituent**
- Call the Message Line - 1-800-372-7181
- Stay informed & connected
  - [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov)
  - [www.Advocate/Action.net](http://www.Advocate/Action.net)
  - KCA email Alerts to members

Remember: Your VOICE is magnified when networking with others.

**“Never forget that a small group of thoughtful people can change the world. Indeed, that’s all that ever has.”**                      **-Margaret Mead**