

# Kentucky Academy of Science Legislative Report 2026

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# 2026 Legislative Session At-A-Glance

Total Bills/Resolutions: 1743

House Total:

Bills: 939

Resolutions: 141

Senate Total:

Bills: 358

Resolutions: 305

Total KAS ranked bills: 406 (23.29%)

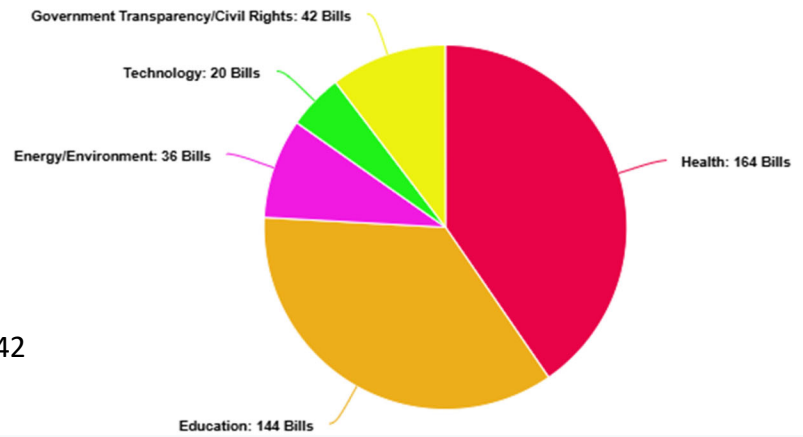
Health: 164

Education: 144

Energy/Environment: 36

Technology: 20

Government Transparency/Civil Rights: 42



Total KAS tracked bills: 110 (27.09%)

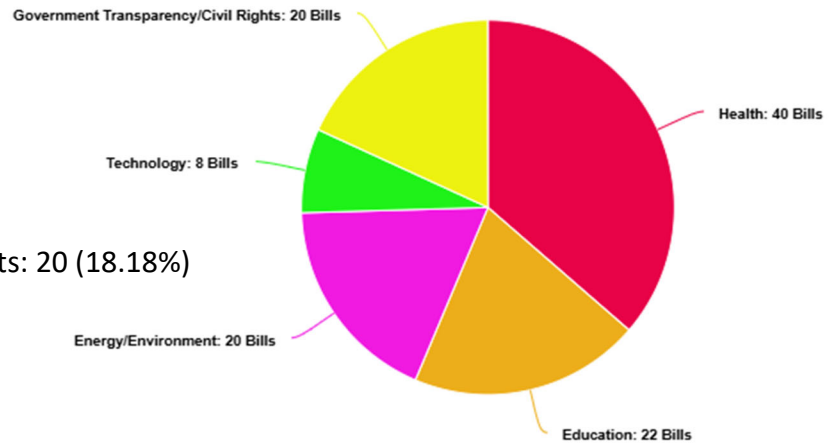
Health: 40 (36.36%)

Education: 22 (20%)

Energy/Environment: 20 (18.18%)

Technology: 8 (7.27%)

Government Transparency/Civil Rights: 20 (18.18%)



Total Tracked Bills That Became Law: 15

## Health

- KAS tracked 40 bills related to health this year
- 8 bills passed the first chamber
- 6 bills became law
- 1 bill became law without the governor's signature
- 1 bill became law by overriding the governor's veto
- Main themes included:
  - Medicaid eligibility
  - Public health preparedness
  - Insurance/prior authorization
  - Reproductive healthcare
  - Public resources (water/soil)
- Passed bills:
  - HB2: Restrictions on Medicaid eligibility
    - Governor's veto overridden
  - HB111: Only a farmer can make decisions about their livestock
  - HB176: Limitations on prior authorization requirements from insurance companies
  - HB676: Kentucky statewide health data utility
    - Became law without governor's signature
  - SB137: Provisional licenses for doctors with licenses in other countries
  - SB155: Animal health emergency definition, quarantining powers

## Education

- KAS tracked 22 bills related to education this year

- 2 bills passed the first chamber
- 1 bill became law
- This bill became law by overriding the governor's signature
- Main themes included:
  - Civil rights/DEI/racism
  - Post-secondary tuition and funding
  - Research
  - Public Pre-K care
  
- Passed bills:
  - HB490: Allows for firing of tenured postsecondary staff/faculty for legitimate financial reasons
    - Governor's veto overridden

## Energy/Environment

- KAS tracked 22 bills related to energy and the environment this year
- 7 bills passed the first chamber

- 6 bills became law
- 1 bill became law without the governor's signature
- 1 bill became law by overriding the governor's veto
- Main themes included:
  - Geoengineering
  - Alternate energy (Nuclear/Solar)
  - Utility costs from data centers
  - Proper disposal of various materials and waste
  - Pesticides
  
- Bills that became law:
  - HB677: Carbon sequestration facilities
    - Became law without governor's signature
  - SB29: Excusing fees and requirements of solid waste disposal facilities under certain conditions
  - SB49: Requires and encourages proper disposal of batteries
  - SB57: Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program - puts taxpayers on the hook for application & permitting
  - SB199: EPA-approved labeling sufficient on pesticides/fungicides/rodenticide for duty to warn
    - Governor's veto overridden
  - SB222: Remove environmental covenants from sites that no longer require them

## Technology

- KAS tracked 8 bills related to technology this year
- 2 bills passed the first chamber
- 1 bill became law

- Main themes included:
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Autonomous vehicles
  - Privacy Rights
  - Data Centers
  
- Bills that became law:
  - HB366: child porn laws apply to computer-generated child porn

## Government Transparency and Civil Rights

- KAS tracked 20 bills related to government transparency and civil rights this year
- 1 bill passed the first chamber
- 1 bill became law

- Main themes included:
  - Gerrymandering
  - Pre-filing of legislative bills
  - Protection of children
  - Voting rights
  - Protections against bigotry and hate crimes
  
- Bills that became law
  - HB139: Authorizes voter purges & imposes other voting restrictions
    - Governor's veto overridden

## Analysis and Future Planning

- KAS ranked 120 more bills than in 2025
- KAS tracked 4 more bills than in 2025
- KAS interacted with 10 legislators to advocate for our interests this year

- We offered our science policy training again this year, though participation was limited after the first 2 sessions
- 3 of us attended the Hill Day in Frankfort, with no new participants from the science policy training
  
- In 2027, we expect to see the return of bills that did not pass on these topics:
  - PFAS
  - Geoengineering
  - Reproductive Healthcare
  - LGBTQ and minority rights
  - Vaccinations
  - Alternative Energy