

General News

Review

Continued from Page 10

The KDE is also tasked with annual programming and funding recommendations for the center. The bill mandates that the KDE must select the center through a competitive proposal process by July 1, 2024, for a five-year contract. The measure advanced in the Senate with unanimous consent.

SB 192 allows an investor-owned electric utility to apply for financing through securitization for extraordinary costs and costs associated with the retirement of electric generation assets. The proposal outlines the application process and the handling of proceedings by the Public Service Commission and requires their decisions on securitization to be based on fairness, justice, reasonableness, and the public interest of utility customers. Furthermore, it establishes a formula-based mechanism for reconciling over- or under-collection of the securitization surcharge on customer bills. SB 192 was given passage by the Senate unanimously.

SB 247 gives students the option to remain in the same school when changing their residence within the same school district. The goal of SB 247 is to ensure that students have stability in their education when moving within the same school district, and minimize the potential disruption to their academic progress. I voted yes because the bill would provide students and families' greater flexibility and support during times of transition. It passed the Senate unanimously.

HB 146 proposes changes to the unemployment insurance system by requiring the Office of Unemployment Insurance to inform claimants approved for benefits of additional benefits, training opportunities, and financial aid resources available to them. The bill also creates a comprehensive list of conditions that the secretary must consider when determining whether work is suitable for a claimant. Furthermore, it

seeks to increase the minimum state average unemployment rate from 4.5% to 6.5% and the minimum weeks of benefits available from 12 to 16 weeks. Under HB 146, claimants with a defined return-to-work date or recall within 16 weeks of filing their initial or reopened claim would be removed from the classification system. The bill brings us in tow with federal law and passed off the Senate floor unanimously.

All Senate bills passed this week now go to the House for further consideration, where they may be subject to amendments before returning to the Senate for a final vote. House bills passed without Senate amendments now go to the Governor to be signed into law.

With only six days remaining, I suspect next week to go late into the evenings as members race against the clock to have their bills heard and passed. The final days of the legislative session can be intense, with lawmakers striving to prioritize their agendas and legislative priorities addressed before adjourning. It is an exciting and pivotal time for the Kentucky General Assembly as we work to deliberate and pass meaningful legislation that benefits all citizens of the commonwealth.

For more information on the 2023 session, visit the legislative record online at www.legislature.ky.gov. There, you can track bills, watch live and archived coverage of committee meetings, search legislator contact information, learn about the legislative process, and view informational materials.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. To share feedback on an issue, feel free to email me anytime at Robin.Webb@LRC.KY.GOV or call the General Assembly Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay by dialing 711.

Senator Webb represents District 18, which includes Boyd, Carter, Greenup, and Lewis Counties.

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NOTICE OF COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

On December 29, 2022 Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. tendered an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission Case No. 2022-00049. Columbia proposes to adopt a five-year pilot effective July 1, 2023 for a voluntary program whereby eligible residential and commercial customers may opt-in to a volumetric rate, the collections of which are used to offset the carbon emissions generated by customer usage. The rider will be called the "Green Path" Rider. The complete text of the proposed tariff is shown below. Only customers that sign up for this voluntary program will be impacted by the proposed rider rates. There is no impact on the existing rates of any customer.

Columbia's application and any related documents that Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. has filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission may be viewed on the Commission's website: <http://psc.ky.gov/case/view/Rings/2022-00049>. The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Columbia, but the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice.

Any person may submit a timely written request to intervene to the Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request and including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a request to intervene within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Commission may take final action on the application. Any comments regarding this application may be submitted through the Commission's Web site at <http://psc.ky.gov> or by mail to P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

GREEN PATH RIDER

APPLICABILITY
Applicable to all existing residential safe service customers and commercial safe service customers throughout the entire service territory of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, See Sheet No. 8 for a list of communities.

PURPOSE
Columbia proposes to adopt a five year pilot for a voluntary program whereby eligible customers may opt-in to a volumetric rate, the collections of which are used to offset the carbon emissions generated by customer usage. The rider will be called the "Green Path" Rider.

AVAILABILITY
Available to any customer which receives service under the GS Rate Schedule and meets the following requirements:
(1) Customer agrees to enroll in the program with the Company for a minimum term of one month.
(2) Customer is current on their natural gas bill and does not have an outstanding balance.
(3) Customer selects either the Net Zero Option or the 50% Option by contacting Columbia's call center.

GREEN GAS PROGRAM RATES
Company shall file an annual report with the Commission which shall contain an updated Green Path Rider rate and shall be filed at least ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of each annual period. The Green Path Rider will follow the rider surcharge schedule as set forth below:

Green Path Rider 50% Option	1,783 per Mcf
Green Path Rider Net Zero Option	3,766 per Mcf

HB 56

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

- Defines "regional community services program" and establishes services areas for regional community services programs and to establish the conditions under which a regional community services program may provide services outside of its service area.

✓ **PASSES HOUSE HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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Senate Republicans take aim at Beshear in passing a bill

By Liam Niemeyer
Kentucky Lantern

Republicans in the Kentucky Senate, in passing a bill Wednesday to reorganize the board for Kentucky's public television broadcaster, also used the opportunity to tee up criticism against the state's Democratic governor.

Senate Bill 104, sponsored by Sen. Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, would disband the current board for Kentucky Educational Television (KET) and require future gubernatorial appointments to the nine-person board be confirmed by the Republican-controlled state Senate.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Damon Thayer said he believed the KET board was already "politicized," echoing concerns made by Meredith when the bill passed out of a Senate committee about Beshear's past appointments to the board.

"Reporting at KET needs to remain fair and impartial with no threat of interference from members of the administration," Thayer said. "It's time to blow up that board and start over."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LRC

"It's time to blow up that board and start over," said Senate Floor Leader Damon Thayer about KET.

Thayer pointed to how Beshear appointed his own communications director, Crystal

Staley, to the board last summer as evidence of political influence on KET. Thayer also

said the wife of Rocky Adkins, a senior advisor to Beshear and former House minority

floor leader, sat on the board. Democrats in the legislature questioned the need for such legislation, with Sen. Reginald Thomas, D-Lexington, saying both Republicans and Democrats have served on the KET board in recent years.

"The truth of the matter is that there's nothing polarizing about what KET has done now," Thomas said. "It's not broke. It doesn't need fixing."

The bill would require the partisan makeup of the board to reflect the voter registration of the state; Republicans currently have a slight plurality in registered voters. As of now, the members of the KET board do not have to declare their political party.

The legislation would also implement demographic requirements for the board, including that the board reflect the minority makeup of the state's population and for there to be an equal representation of the "two sexes."

The bill passed 30-6 along party lines.

A spokesperson for Beshear's office previously called the bill an effort "aimed at controlling KET."

2023 Beef Expo sales reach \$780K

Special to the News-Graphic

FRANKFORT — The 2023 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo finished with more than \$780,000 in total sales in the 37th edition of the event at the Kentucky Exposition Center during the first weekend of March.

Total sales in 2023 were \$781,410 a decrease of \$147,590 compared to last year's sales, but closer in line to 2021 sales which reached a little more than \$770,000. In addition to total sales being down, the



PHOTO COURTESY B. TODD BRIGHT, KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles, center, met with Kentucky Farm Bureau's executive team and breed representatives during the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo last week. The group makes up the Beef Expo Board. Each of the breed representatives received a check for premiums and awards.

average sale also decreased slightly by \$98 to \$2,427 per lot, with 324 lots auctioned this year, nearly 50 less than 2022.

"Cattle is one of Kentucky's top livestock and the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo

is a place to showcase the fact that this state is still the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Ryan Quarles said. "Cattle numbers are down this year, but that's a trend we're seeing

nationwide. Tough weather events and high input costs combined to create a necessary culling of some cattle. But, we're an agricultural state and the resiliency of our farmers will see them bounce back. This show is putting that resiliency and toughness center stage."

Angus cattle brought an average of \$3,232 per lot to lead all breeds. The sale topper was an \$8,000 Hereford Female from Matheny Herefords Farm out of Mays Lick, Ky. The Beef Expo welcomed 15 states and eight breeds this year.

In the junior show, 378 cattle from 14 states passed through the show ring, including 190 from Kentucky. The judging contest attracted 115 participants.

The 2023 Beef Expo's main sponsors were Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

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Deadline is Friday by 4:00 p.m. for the following week's Friday publication.

(Example: If submitted by 4:00 on Friday, May 1, announcement will run in Friday, May 8, paper.)



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Public Notice

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Columbia's application and any related documents that Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. has filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission may be viewed on the Commission's website: <http://psc.ky.gov/case/viewfilings/2022-00049>. The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Columbia, but the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice.

Any person may submit a timely written request to intervene to the Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request and including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a request to intervene within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Commission may take final action on the application. Any comments regarding this application may be submitted through the Commission's Web site at <http://psc.ky.gov> or by mail to P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

GREEN PATH RIDER

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PURPOSE

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- (3) Customer selects either the Net Zero Option or the 50% Option by contracting Columbia's call center.

GREEN GAS PROGRAM RATES

Company shall file an annual report with the Commission which shall contain an updated Green Path Rider rate and shall be filed at least ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of each annual period. The Green Path Rider will follow the rider surcharge schedule as set forth below:

Green Path Rider 50% Option	1.7883 per Mcf
Green Path Rider Net Zero Option	3.5766 per Mcf

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