

2016 General Assembly

Top Family Law Bills

Through March 3 Filing Deadline

This table shows selected family law and related bills filed in the 2016 General Assembly. It includes measures that could affect low-income people and the practice of poverty law, plus bills that figure prominently in this year's legislative debates. The list is organized by topics, as follows:

How to use: To jump to a topic, click the links above. To see the Legislative Research Commission summary of a bill and check its status, click the bill number. To see the text of the bill and amendments, click the links in the summary. For a complete list of bills, view the legislature's own website: www.lrc.ky.gov.

This chart was compiled by Kentucky Equal Justice Center. For more information, or to share comments on a bill, contact Rich Seckel at richseckel@kyequaljustice.org.

Topic	Bill #	Sponsor	Summary
Civil Rights	HB 14	Wuchner	Exempt persons, officials, and institutions with religious objections to same-sex marriages from any requirement to solemnize them
Civil Rights	HB 31	Hale	Move marriage licensing and recording duties from county clerks to state registrar of vital statistics; more re exemption from solemnizing same-sex marriage
Civil Rights	HB 155	Marzian	Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in labor and employment practices, places of public accommodation; more
Civil Rights	HB 156	Marzian	Constitutional amendment: repeal Section 233A of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to marriage; submit to voters
Civil Rights	HB 211	Meredith	Create two equally valid marriage license forms, available to all applicants at their discretion, which list the parties as husband and wife or as spouses
Civil Rights	HB 571	Fischer	Constitutional amendment: define marriage as only a matrimony between 1 man and 1 women
Civil Rights	SB 5	West	Marriage license: remove requirement that license be signed by issuing county or deputy clerk; provide that the form allow for name and title of issuing official
Civil Rights	SB 176	McGarvey	Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in labor and employment practices, places of public accommodation; more

Civil Rights	SB 180	Robinson	Prohibit public agency from infringing on or restricting exercise of protected rights by protected activity provider, including right of conscience
Corrections	HB 40	Owens	Expungement: expand scope of motion to include felonies referred to a grand jury where no indictment ensues; allow for certain Class D felonies; more
Corrections	HB 575	Sinnette	Sex offender registration: prohibit offender registrant 18 years of age or older from having the same residence as a minor; exception; more
Corrections	SB 294	Westerfield	Expand expungement and sealing of juvenile records except for records related to violent offender or sex offender status
Criminal	HB 109	Jenkins	Create mechanism for charging a person with commission of offense against vulnerable victim in a continuous course of conduct
Criminal	HB 141	Denham	Create the new crimes of strangulation in the first degree as a Class C felony, and strangulation in the second degree as a Class D felony
Criminal	HB 162	Koenig	Include electronic communications within the definition of harassing communications
Criminal	HB 229	Overly	Grant the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction in human trafficking investigations and prosecutions
Criminal	HB 484	Denham	Create crime of strangulation as Class A misdemeanor unless aggravating circumstances are present, in which case it is a Class D felony
Criminal	SB 60	Westerfield	Create a mechanism for charging person with commission of an offense against vulnerable victim in a continuous course of conduct
Criminal	SB 63	Harper Angel	Require law enforcement agencies to have approved policies on disposition of sexual assault evidence collection kits; set processing timelines
Criminal	SB 143	McGarvey	Grant the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction in human trafficking investigations and prosecutions
Education	SB 29	Jones	Permit age-appropriate education programs on recognition of child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect and how to report
Employment	HB 18	Jenkins	Make it an unlawful practice for employers to fail to accommodate an employee affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition; details
Employment	HB 150	Howard	UI: allow good cause to leave a job for move to follow a military spouse relocated more than 100 miles from job

Employment	HB 617	Marzian	Require employers to provide earned paid sick leave to employees after 90 days of employment; set forth when and how paid sick time can be used
Employment	HB 627	Kay	Require employers of 50 or more workers to provide six weeks of paid leave for maternity leave; allow an employee to waive the paid maternity leave; details
Family	HB 47	King	Require CHFS to notify school in which a child in its custody is enrolled of persons authorized to contact the child or remove the child from school grounds
Family	HB 59	Burch	Address protection: require Secretary of State or designee to operate program; clarify that a sworn statement may be used to prove abuse or neglect
Family	HB 96	Burch	Require that counsel appointed for child or adult for temporary removal hearing must have been trained in domestic violence issues
Family	HB 129	Crimm	Expand grounds for TPR to include attempted or actual infliction of death or serious physical injury to child, parent, stepparent, guardian; details
Family	HB 140	Meade	Adoption: establish putative father registry; redefine time when consent to adoption becomes final; require party requesting paternity test to pay for test; more
Family	HB 377	Jenkins	Increase marriage license fee by \$20; earmark funds for spouse abuse shelters, rape crisis shelters, and children's advocacy centers
Family	HB 385	Combs	Create presumption of joint custody in temporary custody orders; grant visitation to grandparents if in child's best interest; more
Family	HB 388	Greer	CPS unannounced visits: require where reported child abuse, neglect or human trafficking occurred when an investigation is required; details
Family	HB 389	Kerr	Grant visitation to grandparents if it is in the child's best interest based on listed factors; details
Family	HB 417	Kerr	Allow expungement of dismissed emergency protective orders
Family	HB 420	Miller	Allow a parent to establish a power of attorney for temporarily delegating parental authority to another person; details
Family	HB 475	Smart	Permit parent or legal guardian to request background check of child abuse and neglect registry records when employing a child care provider
Family	HB 509	Bechler	Provide that child removed from parents shall have access to permanent home as quickly as possible; require placement or TPR and adoption after 15 mos.

Family	HB 572	Fischer	Define and establish the legal parameters of the new civil institution of matrimony (preamble declares freedom from Supreme Court opinions); details
Family	SB 40	Adams	Request Supreme Court to establish pilot project to permit participating courts to make specified juvenile proceedings presumptively open to the public
Family	SB 99	Westerfield	Adoption: establish putative father registry; redefine time when consent to adoption becomes final; require party requesting paternity test to pay for test; more
Family	SB 153	Westerfield	Establish new amounts in the child support guidelines table and delete the old amounts
Family	SB 174	Adams	Adopt federal "reasonable and prudent parent" standard; require child care facility to designate on-site official trained to apply standard; more
Family	SB 215	J. Carroll	Allow adult adopted person to apply for and receive a copy of original unaltered birth certificate
Family	SB 216	McGarvey	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act update: amended to create single marriage license form with choices "bride," "groom" or "spouse"
Family	SB 238	Westerfield	Remove requirement of ten days' notice when requesting a credit report for purposes of evaluating child support
Family	SB 282	McGarvey	Require 12-hour hold prior to release on bail for domestic or dating violence and sexual assault perpetrators if assessment indicates a risk to victim
Health	HB 94	Burch	Court-ordered outpatient mental health treatment: require court to appoint a case management team from community mental health center; more
Health	HB 100	Hoover	Require health plans that cover autism spectrum disorder treatment to provide a liaison to the insured
Housing	HB 41	Jenkins	Allow residential tenants who hold a DVO or IPO to terminate a lease with at least 30 days' notice; allow landlord to recover from abuser; more