

# LEGISLATIVE



# REPORT

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Late last week, we received word to you that a rumor about a bottle bill was not true. Thankfully, we were able to confirm this with the various agencies who were supposed to be promoting it. While the present threat is apparently gone, we will continue to be watchful. Sorry about getting you concerned, but we felt it was better to be on top of a story while we were checking it out. Thanks for all your calls and for the speed with which you responded.

These are other measure we will be watching as well:

**HB 208:** filed by Rep. Stan Lee, this bill would require all state agencies who issue business licenses or regulatory controls to suspend a business's ability to do business in Kentucky for up to six months for each employee who is found to be an illegal immigrant. This bill is especially onerous to Kentucky employers and ignores now the requirements employers must face as they require employees to file a form I-9 with identification upon employment. We will be watching this.

**HB 257:** sponsored by Rep. Harry Moberly and would institute a statewide utility tax of 3% with funds to be used for local education. This would repeal local utility taxes.

**HB 233:** Rep. Arnold Simpson is reintroducing this measure. It calls for re-labeling plastic bottles and probably will not go anywhere. The problem is in the number (7) on bottles. We have dealt with this before and will keep you posted. The

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Natural Resources Cabinet has opposed any changes in the past and we assume they will again.

**SB 55:** introduced by Sen. Ernesto Scorsone and would make it illegal to discriminate in the workplace on the basis of “sexual orientation”.

**HB 282:** This bill is one that was introduced in the last session and will be dealt with again. It does away with exclusive remedy protections of workers compensation, yet it would require employers to pay for workers compensation insurance and still be liable for punitive lawsuits. This is not a good bill.

Presently there are almost 400 bills filed with more to come. This is a long legislative session and will be contentious. Spending will have to be curtailed as part of a total work budget. Casino gaming will be up for major debate and the state employee’s pension/health benefit plans must be dealt with. All of these are difficult topics.