

New state laws go into effect today

FRANKFORT -- Most new laws approved during this year's regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly go into effect on Wednesday, July 15.

That means voters will be asked to show a photo ID at the polls, veterinarians will be allowed to make a report to authorities if they find an animal under their care has been abused, and holders of state-issued ID cards will be added to the list of potential jurors.

While COVID-19 concerns caused lawmakers to gavel into session for only 53 of the 60 days allowed under the Kentucky Constitution, 285 Senate bills and 647 House bills were introduced for a total of 932. Of those, 49 Senate bills and 75 House bills became law for a total of 124. That's in addition to 462 resolutions that were introduced in both chambers, four of which carry the weight of law. That means 13.3 percent of all bills introduced became law.

The Kentucky Constitu-

tion specifies that new laws take effect 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature, which was April 15, unless they have special effective dates, are general appropriation measures, or include emergency clauses that make them effective immediately upon becoming law.

While some major measures have already taken effect -- such as the state budget and COVID-19 relief -- the majority of bills don't go on the books until July 15. They include measures on the following topics:

Alcohol: House Bill 415 will allow distillers, wineries and breweries to ship directly to consumers, in and out of Kentucky, once certain regulations are in place. The bill imposes shipping limits of 10 liters of distilled spirits, 10 cases of wine and 10 cases of malt beverages per month. Packages of alcohol will have to be clearly labeled and be signed for by someone 21 or older. HB 415 will also prohibit shipping to dry ter-

ritories, communities where local laws prohibit alcohol sales.

Animal abuse: Senate Bill 21 will allow veterinarians to make a report to authorities if they find that an animal under their care has been abused. Veterinarians are currently prohibited by law from reporting abuse of animals under their care unless they have the permission of the animal's owner or are under a court order.

Eating disorders: Senate Bill 82 will establish the Kentucky Eating Disorder Council. The group will oversee the development and implementation of eating disorder awareness, education, prevention and research programs.

Elections: Senate Bill 2, dubbed the voter photo ID bill, will require voters to present photographic identification at the polls, starting with November's general election. If a voter does not have a photo ID, they will be able to show another form of ID and affirm, under the penalty of

perjury, that they are qualified to vote. The bill allows a voter they know even if that person has no valid ID. People who request mail-in absentee ballots must also provide a copy of a photo ID, or must complete an affirmation that they are qualified to vote. Another provision of SB 2 will provide a free state-issued ID card for individuals who are at least 18 and do not have a valid driver's license.

Human rights: House Bill 2 will require a national anti-human trafficking hotline number to be advertised in airports, truck stops, train stations and bus stations. Posters with the hotline number are currently required in rest areas. The bill also closes a loophole in the state sex offender registry by adding specific human trafficking offenses to the definition of a sex crime.

Infrastructure protection: House Bill 44 will strengthen security for critical infrastructure across Kentucky by specifying

that above-ground natural gas and petroleum pipelines in addition to certain cable television facilities aren't suitable areas for drone flights. The legislation also defines tampering with the assets as felony criminal mischief.

Jurors: Senate Bill 132 will add people with state-issued personal identification cards to the pool of potential jurors in the county where they live. Currently, the pool draws from driver's license lists, tax rolls and voter registration lists.

Lt. Governor: House Bill 336 will let gubernatorial candidates select their running mate for lieutenant governor before the second Tuesday in August instead of during the spring primary campaign.

Mental health: House Bill 153 will establish the Kentucky Mental Health First Aid Training Program. The plan is aimed at training professionals and members of the public to identify and assist people with mental health or substance abuse

problems. The program would also promote access to trainers certified in mental health first aid training.

Senate Bill 122 will make a change to Tim's Law of 2017, a much-heralded law that has rarely been used by the courts. The law allowed judges to order assisted outpatient treatment for people who had been involuntarily hospitalized at least twice in the past 12 months. SB 122 extends the period to 24 months.

Sex offenders: House Bill 204 will prohibit sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a publicly leased playground. Sex offenders must already follow these standards for publicly owned parks.

Students' wellbeing: Senate Bill 42 states that, starting on August 1, student IDs for middle school, high school and college students must list contacts for national crisis hotlines specializing in domestic violence, sexual assault and suicide prevention.

Irvine council gets good audit report

Auditor Sammy Lee, CPA, presented his audit of Irvine's finances to the council on Monday.

That audit includes one for Irvine Municipal Utilities (IMU) done by an independent auditor, but Lee gave the opinion the city was not getting the money they were owed by IMU. IMU collects garbage fees for the city.

Later in the meeting, Mayor James Gross said it would require some software to reconcile the IMU funds to see what the city is owed.

City Clerk Robin Powell said that an IMU employee had told her that when someone is behind on their utility bills, that late and reconnect fees are taken from the amount paid. Irvine gets what little is left for their garbage bills.

The council asked

that someone from IMU be present at the next council meeting to address the complaint.

Lee said the city has \$130,000 more in cash than the previous year.

He mentioned a large potential liability to the council which they do not yet owe. It is for employees' retirement if the state could not continue to pay it.

Lee said the city had balanced its budget, but there are budgets within the main budget which did not balance for the year. They were the street, police, and fire departments.

He recommended the budget be amended annually to balance those budgets.

Mayor James Gross announced the city was getting a new packer truck at state bid price. It is a 2020 Peterbilt

truck.

The council approved borrowing money for the garbage truck at Citizens Guaranty Bank on a five year term.

The city had just spent money getting their old truck repaired.

The council decided to sell it and use the money to pay down on the bank loan.

Police Chief John Sturniolo explained a situation of abandoned houses to the council. He said people are living in or squatting in the abandoned houses and trailers.

He added they have no utilities or pay no rent.

"They don't belong there," he stated. "It's not one or two spots. It's all over."

Some of them put their garbage at the curb, which is picked up by city employees.

Sturniolo also mentioned a new drug on the street, Isotonitazene. It is a synthetic opioid with greater potency than heroin or morphine, but is similar to fentanyl.

The chief said the police department is enforcing the speed limit on Broadway. They are now issuing tickets to speeders. It is a 25 mph zone.

Actions on two ordinances were tabled at Monday's meeting because the city attorney was unable to attend. The ordinances will address garbage and allowing fowls in the city. Updating of city ordinances was also postponed.

Mayor Gross announced that he will be using discretionary funds to repair storm drains. He has contacted contractors, but only one responded.

Ravenna Council

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Mayor Tipton said that at one time that was the way that large items were picked up, only on set days of the week.

Horn asked if a salary had been discussed and Tipton replied that the current ordinance stated \$9 per hour, but Long had put on his application that he would like to get \$10 per hour. The council agreed to come up with some guidelines and discuss the pay rate for the part time job and hold a special meeting to amend the current ordinance before anything became official.

Flinchum suggested that all of the city vehicles have trackers put on them and that signed gas receipts be provided for those vehicles.

IPD arrests woman for trafficking in oxycodone

Another search warrant by the Irvine Police Department has resulted in another arrest of a suspected trafficker in illegal drugs.

On July 6, IPD executed a search warrant at 155 Coral Avenue in reference to the sale of marijuana and illegal drugs.

A citation written by Officer Jason Conrad says the policemen located Hope Renee Sparks, 32, outside her residence. She reportedly told them she had oxycodone, which she did not have a prescription for.

The citation adds that Sparks' boyfriend stated that his brother, Thomas Norton, had given or sold Sparks the oxycodone the night before.

Officer Conrad said that seven oxycodone pills were located in Sparks' bedroom. The officers reported they found a prescription bottle belonging to Norton which

contained one hydrocodone.

Conrad added the officers located a second pill bottle belonging to Steve Norton which had four pills in it.

A third green pill bottle, containing two pills, was found but had no name on the bottle, according to Conrad.

The citation states that IPD confiscated \$1,043.00 from Sparks' purse.

It adds that the boyfriend told police that when he and Sparks are out of oxycodone, they pick them up on the street from whom-ever has them.

Sparks was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree and first offense.

Assisting with the execution of the search warrant were Officer James Marshall and Police Chief John Sturniolo.

Police activity report

Irvine Police Chief John Sturniolo served a Powell County warrant on **Amanda Spencer**, 40, of No. Plum Street, Irvine on July 7.

Devonda N. Hardy, 54, of Mockingbird Lane, Irvine was charged July 8 with 4th degree assault by Deputy Brad Smith.

The deputy had re-

ceived a call there was a domestic in progress at Hardy's residence. A male reportedly told the deputy that Hady had pointed a gun at him and bit him.

The officer stated the man was bleeding on his left arm.

Deputies Josh King and Brad Smith responded to a domestic complaint on

Stacy Lane on July 5.

A woman had called 911 and said that **Timothy Dwight Riddell**, 35, of Stacy Lane had come into her residence. She said he pulled her hair, pushed her, and hit her head.

Deputy King said the female had minor bruises and small scratches on her arms, neck, and head.

The deputies located Riddell at a neighbor's house. They said they found a small foil wrapper containing an orange colored powder.

Riddell was charged with fourth degree assault (domestic violence) minor injury and possession of a controlled substance, second degree.

New Drivers

Monday, June 22

Tanner Seales, Jordan Riley, Seth Masters, Brayden Noland, Nancy Kate Stidham, Kylie Hug, Jacob Broughten, Jonathan Short, Stephen Riddell, and Kaleb Haling.

Shelby Henry and Trenton Mullins (motorcycle permits).

Monday, July 6

Candace Pearson, Kas-

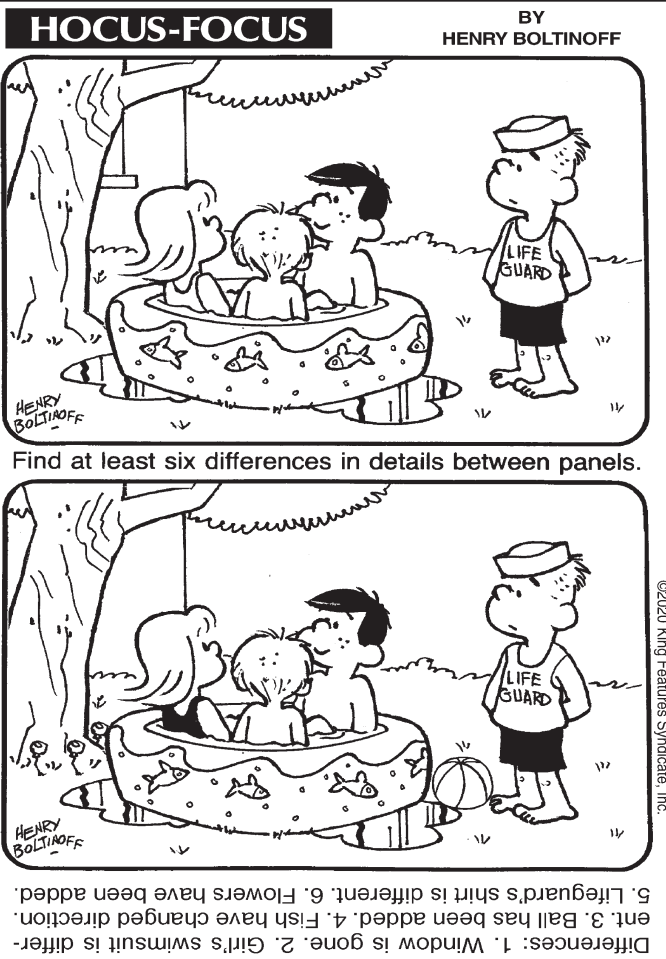
sidy Clowers, Samantha Puckett, Mason Willis, Aidan Sparks, and Neesa West.

Roger Dawes, James Knopp, and Logan Stewart, (motorcycle permits).

Monday, July 13

Aidan Baber and Trenton McKinney

Charles Frazier and Adam Puckett (motorcycle permits).



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