

UPDATED Kentucky General Assembly 2021 Accessibility

January 6, 2021 (updates are highlighted)

Below is a summary of how we expect the session to operate in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

GENERAL ACCESS: General Public access to the Capitol Annex and to the Capitol Building will not be allowed. We understand that you will be allowed to enter either building if you have an appointment with an official/policy-maker, but access will be limited to the appointment time and you will be expected to leave the building after the appointment. Your name will have to be given to security at the front door of either building to gain access. We assume that this will have to be done by the official/policy-maker with whom you have the appointment, or by their staff person.

SCHEDULED ANNEX MEETINGS: Meetings will be limited to 3 persons and will take place in Annex offices. When you arrive at the main visitor entrance of the Annex, contact the legislative assistant or LRC staff who will verify your appointment time and may meet you there to escort you to the meeting. If you do not have a mask or face covering, one will be provided to you.

ANNEX EVENTS: There will be no scheduled group events allowed in the cafeteria or elsewhere.

ROTUNDA EVENTS: If you have a date/time reserved for use of the Rotunda during the session, you will probably receive an email from Historic Properties stating that you may use the Rotunda on your reserved date/time, but with a limit of 10 persons in the Rotunda.

HOUSE/SENATE CHAMBERS & GALLERIES: We understand that House members will be able to vote on legislation from their Annex office or in the chamber. We have not heard how discussion or debate typically done on the House floor will take place. Senators will meet in person in the Senate chamber and will conduct their business there, as usual. Both House and Senate galleries will be closed to the public.

MASKS: You will be required to wear a mask covering your nose and mouth the entire time you are in the Capitol Annex or in the Capitol Building. There may be exceptions for young children and for persons with disabilities. If you have a condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, check with the official/policy-maker to arrange accommodations.

SESSION CALENDAR: The [session calendar](#) has been approved by the Legislative Research Commission. It reflects the “typical” short-session calendar of session dates. However, we have heard that significant legislation may be acted on during Part I of the session, which would necessitate their meeting on Saturday, January 9th (as it requires five days to pass a bill through both chambers and on to the Governor’s desk) or they may extend Part I into the following week of January (11th – 15th).

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR: The [committee meeting calendar](#) looks similar to the schedule in previous legislative sessions. Meeting rooms may be changed, as the House will have all of its committee meetings in Rooms 149, 154, 169 and 171, while the Senate will have all of its committee meetings in Rooms 125, 129 and 131.

We had heard from several Committee Chairs **and have now confirmed** that committee meetings will be limited to **one hour** each, in order to accommodate cleaning of the rooms between meetings.

COMMITTEE AGENDAS: We understand that the committee agenda will be available 48 hours prior to the committee meeting. **A rule change made by both the Senate and the House will allow bills to be placed on the agenda with only 24 hours’ notice.** Use [Bill Watch](#) to track bills and get updates.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: [Senate](#) and [House](#) Committee Membership has been confirmed.

REMOTE ACCESS TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS: We understand that all committee meeting rooms will be equipped to broadcast committee meetings, testimony, etc. Committee meeting coverage will be provided by both [KET](#) and [LRC](#) livestreams.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- House members may participate in – and vote in – committee meetings either in person or remotely from their Annex offices. Senators will participate in committee meetings in person.
- If you have been **invited to testify** during a committee hearing, your name will be given to leadership and you will receive an email with permission for access to the building. We assume there will be an option to testify remotely, as was done during the Interim session.
- **Requests to testify** during a committee meeting should be made as follows:
 - Email a request to testify to the Committee Staff Administrator, Bill Sponsor(s), and Committee Chair as soon as you see the bill posted to committee. (Use [Bill Watch](#) to track the status of bills and receive updates.)
 - Use a clear subject line: ""Request to Testify at *COMMITTEE* on *DATE*"
 - Request confirmation that your request was received.
- **Submit written or recorded testimony** if you prefer not to testify live during a committee meeting or if your request to testify is not granted. With short committee meeting times, this will likely be more often necessary.
 - Email a request to testify to the Committee Staff Administrator, Bill Sponsor(s), and Committee Chair as soon as you see the bill posted to committee. (Use [Bill Watch](#) to track the status of bills and receive updates.)
 - Use a clear subject line: "Written/Recorded Testimony for *COMMITTEE* on *DATE*"
 - Request confirmation that your testimony was received and added to the public record.

PUBLIC BILL ROOM: A decision has not yet been made about access to the Public Bill Room, if you are used to going there to pick up copies of bills or of the *Legislative Record*. If you have a regular subscription of materials in the Public Bill Room, you are asked to email James Baggett (james.baggett@LRC.KY.GOV) to discuss with him what you want done with your subscription.

ACCESS TO LEGISLATORS: Communications with legislators will largely be done remotely.

- You are encouraged to use legislators' LRC email addresses and to leave messages for them by calling the MESSAGE LINE: 1-800-372-7181. (See the [LRC memo](#) for details)
- You can also call their legislative office at 502-564-8100 and speak with their receptionist to leave a message or try to catch your legislator by phone.
- If you are reaching out to your Representative or to your Senator for the first time, we suggest that you send them an email with this Subject: I am Your Constituent! Be sure to include your home address and a phone number so they can get in touch with you.
- Newly-elected legislators (there are 28 of them – 22 in the House and 6 in the Senate) should now have LRC email addresses. You can find your legislators [here](#).
- Contact Kate Talley if you would like to distribute materials to legislators: Kate.Talley@lrc.ky.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: We will continue to update you with further information or clarification as it becomes available. If you have other information to share, please contact us!

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