



2008 Scorecard Vote Explanation  
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**KEY:**

**Bill No.** – First listed sponsor  
Chamber VoteID (Club recommended vote)  
Weight

**HB 18** – D. Owens

House #57 (Y)

10 Primary runoffs are expensive to the taxpayer and have proven necessary in all gubernatorial elections since the provision was put in place.

Senate 2/19 SFA1 (Y)

3 SFA1 authorizes the Secretary of State and the State Board of Elections to enact the regional, rotating presidential primary. This plan would give Kentucky's voters more consistent attention in presidential politics.

Senate 2/19 SFA3 (Y)

7 The current filing deadline comes before a freshman legislator has even voted on her or his first budget. The budget is arguably the bulk of the responsibility placed on our elected representatives. It is right that citizens and potential candidates should know more about the decisions the current representative has made in office.

Senate 2/19 Passage (Y)

10

**HB 44** – T. Burch

House #44, Senate 4/2 (Y)

10 One of the many, many issues that prevent health care from functioning as a market-based system is the lack of information. Information about price and quality are fundamental requirements for a functioning market. Creating this sort of transparency in the market is one of the important steps to reforming the system.

**HB 105** – J.DeCesare

House (Cosp.)

+5 While much information is available to the public, it is not very accessible. Putting what our government spends online will help citizens be better informed and help all citizens watch for wasteful spending.

**HB 148** – D. Keene

House #189 (N)

10 Most legislators in Kentucky will claim they realize that an abundance of health insurance mandates keep insurers out of Kentucky, reducing the competition that is necessary to create an efficient market that will keep health costs low. Yet powerful lobbies continue to encourage further health mandates, increasing the cost for all Kentuckians. Kentuckians need health choices, not health mandates.



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**HB 164** – D. Pasley

House (No Cosp.)

- 10 The so-called “stream saver” is essentially a “you can’t move dirt” bill that singles out mining for a practice that is also common in road construction and home building. Cosponsoring this bill is indicating opposition to an industry that is not only important to many of Kentucky’s more impoverished areas, but also Kentucky’s biggest attraction to new investment: the low cost of electricity in the commonwealth.

**HB 190 & HB 221** – M. Henley & L. Napier

House (Cosp.)

- +5 HB 190 and HB 221 are the same bill. Taxpayers should not encourage destructive addictions by propping up those who do not seek help.

**HB 262** – J. Wayne

House #311 (N)

- 10 This bill creates new taxes and increases others estimated at \$148 million a year, for the purpose of allowing spending grow faster than the economy.

Senate 3/27

- (n/s) Senate amendment creates tax rebate to active duty military, creates tax incentives for filmmaking in Kentucky.

**HB 382** – M. Marzian

House #284 (N)

- 5 Wage discrimination is already illegal. Adding a vaguely defined idea of “comparable worth” does not create greater protection, it only creates more opportunity to litigate over what is and isn’t a job of “comparable worth”.

House #283

- (n/s) HFA1 does not significantly impact the legislation.

**HB 403** – J. Jenkins

House (No cosp.)

- 10 Would unionize state employees, directing taxpayer money to support union political activity, not to mention adding a new, unaccountable source of leverage in state government.



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**HB 406** – H. Moberly

House #315 (N)

10 The Executive Branch Budget as originally considered in the House was not only the most indebted budget in the history of the commonwealth, it relied on the \$148 million in tax increases contained in HB 262 to balance.

Senate 3/24

(n/s) While the Senate bill is an improvement, restraining spending and eliminating most tax increases, it is still the most indebted in Kentucky's history.

House #532, Senate 4/2

(n/s) While it is tempting to grade this vote against the many members who opposed the limited spending approach, the debt levels, combined with the spend-down of the Budget Reserve Trust Fund, makes the 'Yea' vote troubling as well.

**HB 407** – H. Moberly

House #318, Senate 3/24 (N)

10 Not evaluating the spending, which increases at even higher rates, the General Assembly increased its appropriations from the General Fund at a rate of 5% or better each year, well above historic inflation rates.

**HB 410** – L. Combs

House #157

(n/s) Not scored

Senate 4/2, House #533 (N)

3 HB 410 is the first bill passed to amend the budget to add projects and debt to the original budget.

**HB 514** – R. Nelson

House #200

(n/s) Not scored

Senate 4/15, House #568 (N)

3 HB 514 is the second bill passed to amend the budget to add projects and debt to the original budget.

**HB 608** – R. Webb

House #338 (N)

5 Travelers' checks are not "unclaimed property" but property of the bank that sold them until they are claimed. While many may point to alignment with other states, this is a government taking of property.

Senate 4/15 and House #569

(n/s) Bill language changed to specify the projects funded in HB 410 and HB 514.



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**HB 611** – R. Webb

House # 249

(n/s) Not scored

Senate 4/2, House #557 (N)

- 10 While the bill may be harmless because it seems so unlikely that a business would ever relocate to such a "deal", the bill allows the levying of an additional occupational "wage assessment" of 2% on newly employed individuals in "development areas". While the new tax will be credited against existing taxes in many cases, the bill does envision situations where there are no taxes to offset. What new business would choose to locate in a "development area" where the reward is a 2% higher tax on its employees?

**HB 635** – R. Nelson

House #363 (N)

- 8 HB 635 extends the ability to levy a restaurant tax to some larger cities in Appalachia.

**HB 654** – G. Stumbo

House #328 (N)

- 10 The bill creates additional penalties for employers who "misclassify" employees. The rules of classification are not uniform from county to county or site to site. Employers are already required to make amends when mistakes are found. Creating additional civil penalties for getting a ridiculously complex system wrong is unfair.

**HB 689** – D. Pasley

House #330 (N)

- 5 Creates a new state bureaucracy with the taxing authority to levy tolls and issue bonds for transportation projects. Current tolling authorities exist in the commonwealth, could be used for this purpose and are not retired by this legislation. Also there is no requirement for use of existing Kentucky taxes (gas taxes) before tolls are used.

**HB 704** – H. Moberly

House #337

(n/s) Not scored

Senate 4/15, House #567 (N)

- 10 Collects objectionable bills HB 608 and HB 734



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**HB 734** – H. Moberly

House #362 (N)

10 A few years ago, the “growth nickel” and “second nickel” property tax for school facilities was sunset in accordance with its original legislation. Since then, it has been kept alive budget to budget. This bill codifies language in previous budgets regarding the “growth nickel”, allowing growing school districts and those around Fort Knox that will be affected by BRAC to continue to impose the levy. However, where the “second nickel” had been subject to voter recall, that provision is no longer included.

Senate 3/27, House #506 (N)

5 The Senate, at least, included provisions that limited the tax to places it is already imposed and areas affected by BRAC.

**HB 758** – T. Thompson

House #364, Senate 4/2 (Y)

5 HB 758 improves opportunity for self-insured workers compensation funds, providing another option for workers compensation coverage.

**SB 5** – D. Thayer

Senate 1/16 (Y)

10 Primary runoffs are expensive to the taxpayer and have proven necessary in all gubernatorial elections since the provision was put in place.

**SB 14** – D. Thayer

Senate 2/26 (Y)

10 The office of the Treasurer has little responsibility outside of printing checks and sitting on a few boards. It serves no role in checks or balances on the system that would support an argument for it continuing to be an elected office, serves no function that is exclusive to the office, is a waste of taxpayer dollars and should be eliminated.

**SB 16** – D. Seum

Senate 2/7 and 4/15, House #544 (Y)

10 Commonsense bill says government classified employees can not work on political ballot initiatives while at work.

House #543 (N)

10 Procedural vote in an attempt to scuttle the legislation

**SB 64** – D. Kelly

Senate 1/23 and 4/15, House #541 (Y)

7 Provides for “alternative certification” of math and science teachers, which will help recruit instructors who have diverse experience and backgrounds in these subjects important to Kentucky’s future development.



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**SB 69** – E. Harris

Senate 2/21 and 4/2, House #516 (Y)

7 Reduces the fees for generating and handling hazardous waste.

**SB 100** – G. Tapp

Senate 2/20, House #468 (Y)

5 Creates the idea of “functional equivalency” in contracting allowing for more flexible, efficient construction.

**SB 120** – T. Buford

Senate 3/12, House #519 (N)

5 The nanny-state grows as the state requires people to purchase certified equipment if they are driving any child under seven years of age.

Senate Points for Bills Killed:

5 Because HB 148, HB262 HB 382 HB 654 and HB 689 were anti-growth bills that passed the House but never received consideration in the Senate, the Senate as a whole is credited with 5 points, one for each good instance of inaction.

*(Notes: The Senate completely replaced the original language of HB 262. HB 635 and HB 608 were not stopped but incorporated into other legislation.)*

Notes on Scoring:

- Co-sponsorship bonuses and penalties are awarded as additional points and are not part of the base score.
- A House vote of ‘Abstained’ and a Senate vote of ‘Pass’ are recorded as not voting because the legislator fails to take a position on the legislation.
- Missed votes (including ‘Abstained’ and ‘Pass’) are not considered in the evaluation. Those votes are not counted in the numerator or denominator of the evaluation.
- Brandon Smith resigned from the House and was elected to the Senate. He did not record enough votes in the House to receive a House score.
- Scott Alexander was elected to the House to replace Smith, but did not record enough votes in the House to receive a score.