



Talking Points: House Bill 80 (2025) “An Act Relating to the Pre-session Filing of Bills”

[House Bill 80 \(Rep. Rachel Rorax\) \(Support\)](#)

Why you should care about this bill: Over many successive legislative sessions, the procedures of the General Assembly have become less and less transparent and more and more restrictive in allowing citizens to understand the content of potential laws being debated that will directly impact them.

In 2022, lawmakers abandoned the process of “prefiling” legislation. The prefiling process is where lawmakers would file and post draft legislation on the Legislative Research Commission website.

“Prefiling” serves an important purpose. By allowing the public to review “draft” legislation, it provides a window of time for the public to identify any unintended consequences beyond the focus on the bill. It also allows stakeholders a window of time to either align in support or prepare their opposition in a timely manner.

- In years past, Kentuckians could review dozens of draft bills ahead of a legislative session. Legislative committees that meet during the interim between sessions could “draft and approve bills for prefiling for the next regular session,” [says the LRC website](#), thus allowing “bills to be introduced at the beginning of the session and standing committees to become active immediately.”
- By previewing language, it not only allowed for transparency to the public, it also allowed for potential stakeholders to provide important input on proposed legislation.
- This input was important for identifying “unintended consequences” of legislation
- Nearly 3/4ths of legislative chambers have a prefile process.
- The result of this during the 2025 General Assembly was that hundreds of bills were filed in the first four days (Part I) of the session that never had any public scrutiny.
- At the time the process was repealed in 2022, it was reported that House Speaker David Osborne had stated there would be a new “working bill” website established, however that has not yet happened.