



WASHINGTON, DC UPDATE: MARCH 20, 2023

1. GREAT NEWS! KENTUCKY PASSES IMPORTANT TAX POLICY REVISION

In a big victory for the industry, last week the Kentucky General Assembly overwhelmingly passed [HB 360](#) and sent the bill to Governor Andy Beshear to sign into law.

- **The big picture:** The bill includes language that exempts business event organizers from charging sales tax to their exhibitors.
- **Why it matters:** This bill would bring Kentucky tax policy in line with that of other states, which will allow it to remain competitive going forward as a top destination for exhibitions, conferences, trade shows, and other face-to-face business events.

What's next: Governor Andy Beshear has 10 days to sign the bill into law or veto it. If it is vetoed, the Kentucky General Assembly will almost certainly vote to override during its March 29-30 session.

- ECA will update the community with the latest developments from Frankfort as they happen.

2. CHINA VISA WAIT TIMES CONTINUE TO FLUXUATE WILDLY

Visa appointment wait times in China continue to vary widely at U.S. embassies and consulates.

- **Where it stands:** As of March 16, visitor visa appointment wait times were as follows:

Beijing	5 days (-66 days)
Guangzhou	188 days (+98 days)
Shanghai	42 days (-4 days)
Shenyang	15 days (no change)

- **Given the ongoing wait time uncertainty,** Chinese exhibitors and attendees planning to attend events in the U.S. over the next 12 months should apply for their visas now!

ECA continues its advocacy on Capitol Hill in support of lowering visitor visa appointment wait times in key markets including Brazil, Mexico, and India.

- ECA expects visa issues to be on the agenda when Secretary of State Antony Blinken testifies before the House Foreign Affairs Committee this coming Thursday.

3. ECA NEWS AND NOTES

- On March 22, ECA will provide an advocacy update as part of the [SISO CEO Summit](#) taking place in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- On March 30, ECA will be participating in Global Meetings Industry Day events hosted by [Meeting Professionals International](#) and the [PCMA Capital Chapter](#).
- *MeetingMentor Magazine* [profiled](#) ECA's advocacy efforts and plans going forward in its new Spring 2023 issue.
- ECA's Tommy Goodwin was recognized as a [Leading Association Lobbyist](#) at the 2023 Salute to Association Excellence awards.