



February 24, 2023

Legislative Report No. 5

2023 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the sixteenth legislative day of the 2023 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There has been a total of 398 senate and 670 house bills and resolutions filed.

Some bills of interest:

[HB 1: B. Reed - AN ACT relating to income taxation.](#)

This bill would reduce the individual income tax to 4.5% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, and to 4% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2024. This bill passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor.

2023 KFB State Priority Issue:

"Kentucky's tax code should be reformed based on sound economic principles to create a more competitive business climate."

[HB 4: J. Branscum – AN ACT relating to merchant electric generating facilities and making an appropriation therefor.](#)

This bill would require solar development companies to establish a decommissioning plan in an application for construction of a merchant electric generating facility. It would also require a decommissioning bond or similar security to complete the decommissioning plan. This bill would require Energy and Environment Cabinet oversight and that the bond be reviewed at least every five years. This bill would also clarify that an ordinance, permit, or license issued by a local government shall have primacy over all requirements. For more

information on HB 4 please [click here](#). This bill passed the House 99-0 and now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

2023 KFB State Priority Issues:

"Support a decommissioning bond on all commercial solar projects. These bonds should be reviewed at least every three years."

"Support oversight of ownership and control for energy infrastructure."

SB 54: J. Carpenter – AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships.

This bill would define "proprietary school" and "qualified proprietary school program" and allow use of KEES funds for enrollment in a qualified proprietary school program. This bill passed the Senate 33-0 and now heads to the House for their consideration.

HB 85: W. Lawrence – AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships.

The bill would define "proprietary school" and "qualified proprietary school program" and allow use of KEES funds for enrollment in a qualified proprietary school program. This bill passed the House Education Committee but has been recommitted to the Appropriation and Revenue Committee.

2023 KFB State Priority Issue:

"Support the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) Program to allow eligible students to use funds at proprietary schools."

HB 450: J. Blanton – AN ACT relating to the establishment of a grant program to promote investments in Kentucky businesses, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

This bill would establish the Kentucky Rural Jobs Act of 2023, which would allow the Cabinet for Economic Development to begin accepting applications from entities seeking approval as a growth fund. This bill would allow no more than \$50 million of grants to be awarded as state matching capital for investments in growth businesses and establish the Rural Jobs Development Fund. It would also appropriate \$50 million in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Rural Jobs Development Fund.

2023 KFB State Priority Issue:

"Support efforts that will retain and attract new business and industry to rural areas of Kentucky."

SB 46: J. Howell – AN ACT relating to the reorganization of the Office of State Veterinarian.

This bill would update the Office of State Veterinarian's Division of Animal Health to the Division of Regulatory Field Services by changing the Division of Producer Services to the Division of Animal Health Programs, and would establish the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response. This bill has passed the Senate 32-1 and now heads to the House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend the KDA Office of the State Veterinarian have adequate amount of funding for trained subject matter experts for prompt disease response."

SR69: R.Stivers - A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and **HR 60: A. Bowling – A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.**

These resolutions commend Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and encourages the establishment of a trade office in Taiwan. These resolutions also expresses support for the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade. These resolutions were adopted in their respective Chambers.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend the Governor's office engage in a multitude of collaborative efforts with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Kentucky Farm Bureau on international trade."

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the week, you may reach your representative and senator in Frankfort by calling 502.564.8100.

If you do not desire to talk to your state legislator immediately or you just want to leave a message, you may dial toll-free 800.372.7181. An answering service will take your message for your representative or senator. The legislative calendar information line is 800.633.9650, the bill status line is 866.840.2835, and the Governor's office number is 502.564.2611.

If you desire to e-mail your representative or senator, [click here](#) for a list of e-mail addresses for members of the Kentucky General Assembly. Find your legislator and click on his or her name to access their e-mail address.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2023 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, extension 7417, and Drew Graham, extension 5121. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Katie Weatherholt at 502.493.7669 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

KEEP ALL LEGISLATIVE REPORTS FOR FUTURE USE

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Reports on file because, on occasion, we may refer to a previous report as a source of more details regarding an issue.

FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST

March 15 & 16.....Concurrence Only
March 17-28.....Veto Period
March 30.....General Assembly, Sine Die

**The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on
KFB's website at kyfb.com and the KFB app.**