



ACTION REQUEST

February 7, 2013

LEGISLATIVE REPORT NO. 3 – 2013 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2013 General Assembly reconvened on Tuesday, February 5. As of yesterday there have been a total of 328 House bills and resolutions and 183 Senate bills and resolutions filed. One of the major issues facing the General Assembly this session is pension reform. Yesterday the Senate State and Local Government Committee passed [SB 2](#) and the full Senate may take up this bill as early as today.

Last night Governor Beshear gave his State of the Commonwealth Address and presented his priorities for not only this regular session, but for the rest of the year, which could indicate a special legislative session later this year. Governor Beshear talked about the need to address the pension issue, tax reform, tweak [HB 1](#) that was passed last session (the pill mill bill), the graduation bill which would increase the Commonwealth's drop-out age from 16 to 18, and "improving the health of our people" by beginning to look seriously at a statewide smoking ban.

Below are a few specific bills we are following:

[HB 190: S. Westrom, J. Adams, D. Watkins – AN ACT prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment.](#)

This bill would prohibit indoor smoking in businesses, places of employment, and other listed public places but would exempt private residences, unless used for child care or adult day care. The bill would permit smoking in designated non-enclosed areas and require posting of "no smoking" signs at specified locations and would also permit local governments to adopt stricter regulations by ordinance. This bill passed the House Health and Welfare Committee today and now heads to the full House for consideration.

Farm Bureau Policy: "We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to prohibit tobacco use in their private business. We are adamantly opposed to any level of government or agency mandating that businesses prohibit tobacco use."

Action Request: Please contact your member of the House of Representatives and ask them to **OPPOSE HB 190.**

[HB 207: W. Stone, D. Graham, J. Richards, C. Rollins II, J. Short – AN ACT relating to reorganization.](#)

This bill will remove the Office of Career and Technical Education and the Kentucky Technical Education Personnel Board from the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and to place the Kentucky Technical Education Personnel Board under the Department of Education; It will also establish the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee and its membership and will permit a local board of education to petition the commissioner of education to assume management and control of a state-operated secondary vocational education and technology

center and clarify issues relating to transfer of employees. It will also permit a local board of education to relinquish management and control of a vocational education center to the Department of Education and clarify issues relating to the transfer of employees and authorize the department to implement a comprehensive plan of secondary career and technical education programs in consultation with the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee and clarify procedures for merging Office of Career and Technical Education components and employees within the department; clarify benefit protections of employees. This bill confirms Executive Order 2012-737 issued by Governor Beshear last August.

Farm Bureau Priority Issue: "Ensure that career and technical education remains a strong and viable program in Kentucky."

HB 60: F. Steele, S. Santoro – AN ACT relating to hunting coyotes.

This bill would allow hunters to take coyotes without bag limitation year round; allow hunters to hunt coyotes at night using shotguns that are 10-gauge or smaller and bait or electronic calls to attract the coyotes. This bill was posted in the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

Farm Bureau Policy: "We recommend that the state establish procedures for controlling wildlife pests such as beaver, deer, turkey, coyote, raccoon, etc., which are proving to be destructive in certain areas of the state."

Action Request: Please contact your member of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and ask them to **SUPPORT HB 60**.

* Please note there will be a Special Election held on **Tuesday, February 12, 2013** to fill the vacant 52nd House District seat. This district includes McCreary, Pulaski and Wayne counties.

Kentucky Farm Bureau, along with other Kentucky commodity organizations, will be celebrating the week of February 17–23 as Food Check-Out Week recognizing Kentucky agriculture. **Wednesday, February 20, 2013 has been designated as Food Check-Out Day** and both the House and Senate will pass a resolution honoring Kentucky farmers. In addition, Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky commodity organizations will provide each member of the General Assembly with a basket of Kentucky-grown commodities.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

Those who are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2013 session are: Jeff Harper, extension 5104; Bryan Alvey, extension 7218; Tony Sholar, extension 5121; Beth Wisman, extension 5105; and David S. Beck, extension 5101. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.352.4280 at the Frankfort headquarters or call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions. If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Sara Stivers at 502.495.5121 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

You can reach your senator and representative by calling 502.564.8100 or 800.372.7181 to leave a message, or send a fax to 502.564.6543. The legislative calendar information line is 800.633.9650, and the bill status line is 866.840.2835. Governor Beshear's office number is 502.564.2611.

