



February 6, 2014

Legislative Report No. 6

2014 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the twenty-second legislative day of the 2014 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. To date there have been a total of 251 Senate bills and resolutions and 450 House bills and resolutions introduced. With this session being one-third complete the pace of bills moving through committee should accelerate.

We continue to meet and discuss our budget priority issues with members of the General Assembly. We are stressing the importance of maintaining the funding for the Breathitt Veterinary Center. We are also, trying to secure additional money for the Agricultural Development Fund to ensure the county accounts do not take such a significant reduction.

On Tuesday, Governor Beshear presented his "Kentucky Competes" tax proposal. Below are some of the highlights of his proposal:

- Provides a sales tax exemption for equine-related agriculture expenditures, including hay, feed, feed additives, watering systems, equine grooming supplies, straw, seed and fertilizer applied to pastures.
- Provides a sales tax exemption on pharmaceuticals for food animals.
- Increases the tax rate on cigarettes to \$1.00 per pack and increase the tax rate on other tobacco products (OTP) commensurate to the cigarette tax increase, and tax e-cigarettes at 20% of value.
- Lowers the top individual income tax rate from 6% to 5.9% and reduce the number of rate brackets.
- Lowers the top corporate income tax rate from 6% percent to 5.9%.
- Eliminates selected negligible state property tax rates for tangible personal property including livestock and farm machinery.

- Broadens the sales tax to include selected services.
- Reduces the retirement income exclusion for taxpayers with a federal adjusted gross income over \$80,000 and phase it out for those with adjusted gross income over \$100,000.

Governor Beshear's plan does not propose a freeze of the state's real property tax rate or attempt to remove the current sales and use tax exemption for agriculture.

To view Governor Beshear's entire plan please [click here](#).

We are very close to finalizing the language for a bill that will help reduce the wildlife population to alleviate the continued crop and livestock losses. We anticipate a bill being introduced next week.

Below are a few specific bills we are following:

[SB 44: P. Hornback, D. Parrett, D. Givens - AN ACT relating to motor vehicle weight tolerance.](#)

This bill would provide a weight tolerance of 10% for commercial vehicles that are engaged in the transportation of agricultural products. This bill has passed the Senate and was received in the House on February 5. The bill will be assigned to the House Transportation Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest products."

Action Request:

If your Representative is a member of the House Transportation Committee please contact them and ask them to SUPPORT SB 44.

For a list of committee members please [click here](#).

[HB 173: S. Westrom, J. Adams, J. Crenshaw, D. Graham, J. Greer, J. Jenkins, M. Marzian, D. Owens, 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 and would exempt private residences, unless used for child care or adult day care. It would also permit local governments to adopt stricter regulations by ordinance and provide for enforcement by all peace officers and designated health department and local government employees. This bill passed the House Health and Welfare Committee today and now heads to the full House for their consideration.

KFB 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 Representative and ask them to OPPOSE HB 173.

Kentucky Farm Bureau, along with other Kentucky commodity organizations, will be celebrating the week of February 16–22 as Food Check-Out Week recognizing Kentucky agriculture. **Wednesday, February 19, 2014 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.

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

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2014 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, 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.

The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on KFB's website at kyfb.com and the [KFB app](#).