



March 3, 2017

## **Legislative Report No. 6**

### ***2017 Kentucky General Assembly***

Today marks the twenty-third legislative day of this thirty day session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The General Assembly is scheduled to meet March 6-8 and March 14 and 15 before adjourning for the ten day veto period. They will then reconvene on March 29 and 30 for the final two days of the session.

The next meeting of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission will be on March 17, 2017. At this meeting they will establish the number of black bear takes for the 2017 hunting season. As previously mentioned Kentucky Farm Bureau sent a letter to the Commission requesting that the black bear female takes be maintained at twenty for the 2017 season, rather than being reduced to seventeen.

The Senate convened at 9 a.m. and the House is set to convene at 11:00 a.m. today.

#### **Some bills of interest which we are following:**

##### **[SB 83: T. Buford - AN ACT relating to fish and wildlife.](#)**

This bill was amended in committee and now would allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to undertake measures if deer and elk pose a significant risk to agriculture or to human safety from automobile accidents and identify permissive measures for the department to implement including special hunts and increasing the doe harvest. This bill passed the Senate 37-1 and now heads for the House for their consideration.

#### **2017 State Priority Issue:**

*"Seek effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life."*

**SB 139: R. Webb - AN ACT relating to livestock.**

This bill would amend various KRS's to include equine in the definition of livestock. This bill would not amend any KRS pertaining to sales and use tax. This bill passed the Senate 38-0 and now heads to the House for their consideration.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We recommend recognizing equine as livestock and the horse industry as an agricultural commodity to remove the disadvantage that currently exists in relation to other livestock."*

**SB 38: C. Embry Jr. - AN ACT relating to timber theft.**

This bill would specify that a person, regardless of state of mind or whether the person believes to be authorized or not, is liable for three times the stumpage value of the timber and three times the cost of any damages to property when he or she takes the timber of another without legal right or color of title. This bill passed the full Senate 35-0. This bill has also passed the House Agriculture Committee and now heads to the House for their consideration.

House Floor Amendment 2 to SB 38 was filed to exempt residential property owners and farmland owners maintaining their fence rows who mistakenly remove the timber of an adjoining property owner from the requirement to pay treble damages and make them only liable for the reasonable value of the timber, the actual damages caused to the property, and legal costs incurred.

**HB 200: D. Osborne - AN ACT relating to orders of restitution and forfeiture following a criminal conviction of cruelty to animals in the second degree.**

This bill would amend KRS 525.130, relating to cruelty to animals in the second degree, to allow a court to order an offender to pay restitution for the upkeep of a horse involved in the offense and terminate the offender's interest in the horse involved in the offense. This bill has passed the House Agriculture committee and now heads to the full House.

**SB 249: J. Carpenter - AN ACT relating to the Energy and Environment Cabinet.**

This bill would remove the Environmental Quality Commission and the Kentucky Mining Board from under the Energy and Environment Cabinet. This bill also changes the requirements to qualify for the Director of the Division of Conservation by removing the graduate of a recognized agricultural college and the minimum five year requirement in professional agricultural activities. It also deletes the requirement of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission "approval" of the director's compensation and amends it to the word "advice". This bill has passed the Senate on a vote of 36-1 and has been assigned to the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

**HCR 48: W. Thomas, L. Bechler, M. Dossett, T. Herald, J. Petrie, M. Prunty**

This resolution would urge the United States Food and Drug Administration to withdraw its proposed standard for NNN levels on ingredients and constituents in smokeless tobacco products. This resolution passed the House on a vote of 69-13 and has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Please note none of the above bills reflect any actions taken by the General Assembly today.

**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.

**For the 2017 regular session calendar [click here](#).**

**For a complete list of committee assignments [click here](#).**

**YOUR LOBBYISTS**

Those who are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2017 session are: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Bryan Alvey, extension 7218; Tony Sholar, extension 5121; 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](http://kyfb.com) and the KFB app.**