



February 9, 2018

Legislative Report No. 7

2018 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marked the twenty-seventh legislative day of the 2018 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Next week the 2018 session will reach the half-way point.

The House of Representatives continues their work on the State Budget ([HB 200](#)) for fiscal years 2018-2020. The goal of the House of Representatives is to pass their version of the budget by the end of February.

In addition to advocating for our funding priorities (Agricultural Development Fund, Conservation Cost-Share and Kentucky Department of Agriculture), Kentucky Farm Bureau has been discussing the importance of restoring the cuts made to the direct aid for local conservation districts, both of Kentucky's disease diagnostic laboratories, Kentucky Mesonet, and the University of Kentucky Regulatory Services.

[HB 153: R. Heath, D. Bentley, M. Castlen, M. Dossett, J. Gooch Jr., D. Hale, M. Hart, K. Imes, S. Miles, R. Mills, J. Petrie, P. Pratt, M. Prunty, R. Rothenburger, B. Rowland, D. Schamore, J. Sims Jr, W. Stone, W. Thomas, J. Tipton, T. Turner - AN ACT relating to overweight vehicles.](#)

This bill would amend KRS 189.222 to allow for a ten percent weight variance for vehicles transporting feed for livestock or poultry. This bill passed the Senate on Wednesday with [Senate Floor Amendment #2](#). This floor amendment deletes the original provisions of HB 153 and would establish an annual permit for vehicles, engaged exclusively in the transportation of feed for livestock or poultry to a farm or facility housing livestock or poultry, in loads up to 96,000 pounds and set the fee for a permit at \$150. HB 153 as amended passed the full Senate on a vote of 32-5. The bill now goes back to the House for their consideration.

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."

[HB 10: K. Imes, S. Wells, C. Morgan, K. Upchurch - AN ACT proposing to amend Section 29 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to administrative regulations.](#)

This bill would propose to amend Section 29 of the Constitution of Kentucky to permit the General Assembly or an agency or committee it creates to review, approve, or disapprove any administrative regulation of the executive branch during or between regular sessions of the General Assembly. This bill passed the House on a vote of 68-22 on Thursday and now heads to the Senate.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend that the state legislature provide specific guidelines and restraints on the agencies that are to administer the laws and are given the power to adopt rules and regulations."

REMINDER:

This year we will again combine our **Legislative Drive-In Day** with our annual **Food Check-Out Day** activities on **March 7, 2018**. This will allow those of you visiting with your legislator(s) the opportunity to present them with a basket of Kentucky grown agricultural products to celebrate the safest most affordable food in the world.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, located at 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky.

We encourage you to contact your senator and representative in advance to let them know you will be in Frankfort that day and to set up a meeting with them to discuss issues affecting agriculture and to present them with a Food Check-Out Day basket.

Special Elections:

The candidates for the two special elections to fill the vacancies in state house district's 49 and 89 have been named.

The candidates for House District 49 which includes Bullitt County are:

- Democrat Linda Belcher and Republican Rebecca Johnson

The candidates for House District 89 which includes Jackson, parts of Laurel, and Madison Counties are:

- Republican Robert Goforth and Democrat Kelly Smith

The special election for the **49th District** will be held **February 20**, and the special election for the **89th District** will be held on **February 27**.

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.

[Click here](#) to view the **2018 Standing Committee Schedule**.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of leadership and standing committees.

[Click here](#) to view the updated **2018 Regular Session Calendar**.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2018 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; 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.

FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST

February 16.....Last Day for Bill Request
February 19..... President's Day Holiday
February 27..... Last Day for New House Bills
March 1.....Last Day for New Senate Bills
March 7.....KFB Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day
March 27 & March 28..... Concurrence Only
March 29 - April 9..... Veto Period
April 13.....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.**