



ACTION REQUEST

January 16, 2013

LEGISLATIVE REPORT NO. 2 – 2013 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On Friday, January 11, the 2013 General Assembly completed their organizational session and adjourned until February 5, 2013. During the first four days of the session, both the House and Senate elected their respective party leadership. Committee chairs and committee assignments were also finalized. A complete list of House and Senate leadership and individual committee assignments along with the contact information for each House and Senate member is enclosed for your reference. The General Assembly will reconvene on February 5, 2013 to continue this short session which ends March 26. **The three week recess of the General Assembly provides an excellent opportunity for you to discuss our 2013 Priority Issues as well as other legislation affecting Kentucky agriculture with your Senator and Representative.**

During the first week, House members introduced 165 bills and resolutions and Senate members introduced 78 bills and resolutions. Some of the issues expected to be addressed this session include: state pension reform, managed care, raising the high school dropout age from sixteen to eighteen and possibly state tax reform and legislative redistricting. If the General Assembly addresses tax reform this regular session, then it will take a three-fifths majority of both the House and Senate to pass.

Governor Beshear is scheduled to give his State of the Commonwealth address to a joint session of the General Assembly on Wednesday, February 6. Also, on February 20 we will be celebrating Food Check-Out Day at the Capitol.

Below a few specific bills of interest:

HB 44: HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD (ROLLINS, C) AN ACT relating to healthy food choices in school cafeterias.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 158 to encourage schools to use strategic placement of food in cafeterias to promote healthy food choices by students; name the act "The Smarter Lunchroom Act."
Current Status: 1/8/2013 - (H) Referred to Committee House Education.

Farm Bureau Policy: *"We encourage the utilization of Kentucky agriculture products by state and county agencies, state funded institutions, public schools and publicly funded projects whenever possible."*

Action Request: Please contact your member of the House Education Committee and ask them to **SUPPORT HB 44.**

State Bill Page: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13RS/HB44.htm>

HB 60: COYOTE HUNTING (STEELE, F) AN ACT relating to hunting coyotes.

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 150 to 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. **Current Status:** 1/11/2013 - (H) posted in committee House Natural Resources and Environment.

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**.

State Bill Page: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13RS/HB60.htm>

HB 122: VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT (MCKEE, T) AN ACT relating to vehicle weight limits.

Amend KRS 189.221 and 189.222 to exempt vehicles from citations issued for gross weight limits when traveling on non-interstate highways, between the loading point and the nearest scale in the direction of the operator's destination; amend KRS 189.230 to conform. ***Current Status:*** 1/11/2013 - (H) Referred to Committee House Transportation.

Farm Bureau Policy: “We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to transport their products to market and to move their equipment by the most economically feasible method.”

Action Request: Please contact your member of the House Transportation Committee and ask them to **SUPPORT HB 122**.

State Bill Page: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13RS/HB122.htm>

SB 22: SCRAP METAL (WEBB, R) AN ACT relating to scrap metal recycling.

Amend KRS 433.900 to include construction, industrial, lawn and landscape, and farm equipment to the definition of restricted metals; amend KRS 433.902 to prohibit a secondary metals recycler from conducting business without a certificate of registration issued by the Office of Occupations & Professions. ***Current Status:*** 1/10/2013 - (S) Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary.

Farm Bureau Policy: “We support recyclers to record the name, address, and obtain a copy of a photo ID of individuals who bring in farm machinery to discourage the recycling of stolen equipment.”

Action Request: Please contact your member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and ask them to **SUPPORT SB 22**.

State Bill Page: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13RS/SB22.htm>

SB 30: TAXES (STEIN, K) AN ACT proposing to amend the Constitution of Kentucky relating to the taxing authority of local governments.

Propose to amend Section 181 of the Kentucky Constitution to allow the Commonwealth to share state revenues with local governments; propose to create a new section of the Kentucky Constitution to require the General Assembly to enact laws to allow cities and counties or any combination of cities or counties to impose a sales and use tax and to establish parameters for the imposition of a sales and use tax by cities and counties; provide for ballot language; submit to voters. ***Current Status:*** 1/10/2013 - (S) Referred to Committee Senate State and Local Government.

Farm Bureau Policy: “We believe that a broad-base sales and use tax is the fairest plan for financing government, while maintaining current agricultural exemptions for all taxing jurisdictions.”

State Bill Page: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13RS/SB30.htm>

A new addition to our legislative program this year is that all Legislative Action Requests will now be available through the recently launched Kentucky Farm Bureau App. The action alert feature of this

app allows you to retrieve action requests and immediately contact your members of the General Assembly from your mobile device. Download the free app today from the iTunes App Store.

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

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.

Note: The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues will also be included on KFB's app and KFB's website at kyfb.com

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