



March 14, 2014

## Legislative Report No. 11 2014 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the 46th legislative day, so there are only 14 days remaining in the 2014 regular session. Yesterday the House passed their version of the state budget ([HB 235](#)) by a vote of 53-46. To view the vote [click here](#). Some of the highlights of the House version of the state budget are:

- \$32.4 million for construction of a new Breathitt Veterinary Center.
- Environmental Stewardship Program will receive \$6 million in FY15, and \$0 in FY16.
- \$950,000 in each fiscal year for the Division of Conservation to provide direct aid to local conservation districts.
- The county portion of the Agricultural Development Fund will receive \$17.4 million in FY15 and \$9.2 million in FY16.
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture budget is \$16.8 million in FY15 and \$17.1 million in FY16 in general fund appropriations.
- The provision that would allow PVA's to charge a fee to special taxing districts for use of the PVA assessment in levying their property taxes was removed in the House version of the budget.

The budget bill will now head to the Senate.

### **Action Request:**

**Please contact your Senator and ask them to maintain funding for the Breathitt Veterinary Center, Environmental Stewardship Program and the Agricultural Development Fund.**

On Wednesday, the House passed ([HB 445](#)), which is commonly referred to as the revenue bill, by a vote of 53-44. To view the vote [click here](#). The most contentious provision of this bill was increasing the minimum average wholesale price of motor fuels at \$2.878 per gallon, which will reinstate the 1.5 cent gas tax that was lost in December 2013 as a result of the wholesale price of gas dropping. This provision is estimated to generate \$46.5 million in FY15 and \$60.8 million in FY16 to the road fund. This bill also includes an extension of the one dollar waste tire fee until June 2016.

**Below are a few specific bills we are following:**

**[HB 448: T. McKee, T. Turner, M. Denham, J. Kay, M. Meredith, R. Quarles, B. Rowland, S. Rudy, J. Short, R. Smart, W. Stone – AN ACT relating to destruction of crops on farms by wildlife.](#)**

This bill would allow landowners, their spouses, dependent children, or their designees to kill or trap on their lands any wildlife causing damage to the lands or personal property without a tag or permit and allow disposal of the carcass on-site. This bill will also streamline the process of removing the carcass from the farm to have it processed. It will require inedible parts from wildlife not to be utilized for any purpose and allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to promulgate regulations establishing procedures for the designee appointment process. This bill passed the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee on a 25-0 vote and was placed on the House Consent Calendar. This bill passed the House on Monday and has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**KFB Priority Issue:**

*"Support effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses."*

**[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 was 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:**

Please call your Representative and ask them to **SUPPORT SB 44.**

**[SB 170: D. Parrett, P. Hornback – AN ACT relating to noxious weeds and invasive plants.](#)**

This bill would revise the list of noxious weeds and invasive plants to be eradicated from the state rights-of-way and provide that the Department of Highways shall promote awareness of the eradication program through the use of electronic media and the Cooperative Extension Service and allow the department to, by administrative regulation, add noxious weeds and invasive plants to or delete them from the list and establish factors the department may consider in making a determination regarding the addition or deletion of a plant and provide that the department shall review the regulation at least once every four years. This bill passed the Senate yesterday.

**[HB 434: R. Smart, T. McKee, M. King, Ji. Lee, S. Overly, B. Yonts – AN ACT relating to the eradication of noxious weeds and invasive plants.](#)**

This bill would revise the list of the noxious weeds to be cleared from state rights-of-way and urge continued university research on noxious weeds and invasive plants. This bill passed and was amended by the House Transportation Committee to mirror the provisions of SB 170. This bill passed the House yesterday.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We urge the highway department to spray for Johnson grass, nodding thistle and other noxious weeds before they go to seed in accordance with pesticide application guidelines."*

**SB 109: P. Hornback, D. Parrett – AN ACT relating to the sale of tobacco related products to minors and declaring an emergency.**

This bill would define "alternative nicotine product", "tobacco product", and "vapor product" and prohibit the sale to minors of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products and prohibit minors from purchasing tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products. This bill passed the Senate and has been assigned to the House Licensing and Occupations Committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We oppose the sale of e-cigarettes and e-cigarette products to minors."*

Thank you to those that attended our Legislative Drive-In and assisted with the implementation of KFB policy.

**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](http://kyfb.com) and the KFB app.***