



March 28, 2014

## **Legislative Report No. 12 2014 Kentucky General Assembly**

Today marks the 56th legislative day. Budget conferees from the House and Senate are working on coming up with an agreement on the differences they have on the state budget. It is unclear when negotiations will be complete, which could affect the legislative calendar for next week. As of now legislators are scheduled to convene on Monday, but that could change. Below is a comparison of the two budgets relative to our funding priorities:

- Both versions of the budget contain \$32.4 million for construction of a new Breathitt Veterinary Center.
- Both versions of the budget contain \$6 million in FY15 and \$0 in FY16 for the Environmental Stewardship Program.
- Both versions of the budget contain \$950,000 in each fiscal year for the Division of Conservation to provide direct aid to local conservation districts.
- The House version provides \$17.4 million in FY15 and \$9.2 million in FY16 for the county portion of the Agricultural Development Fund. The Senate version provides \$21.3 million in FY15 and \$10.5 million in FY16.
- The House version provides \$16.8 million in FY15 and \$17.1 million in FY16 in general fund appropriations for Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The Senate provides \$16.3 million in FY15 and \$16.7 million in FY16 in general fund dollars plus \$600,000 in each FY in tobacco dollars for the Farms to Food Banks program.
- Both versions removed 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.

Conferees also have to work out the differences on the road plan which will require them to come to a resolution on whether or not to freeze the state gas tax at the 12/31/2013 level, or allow the gas tax to lower as a result of the average wholesale price of gas dropping.

**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 will 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 has passed the House and Senate and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.

**KFB Priority Issue:**

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

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

This bill will 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 has passed the Senate and House and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.

**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.”*

**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.***