



January 9, 2014

Legislative Report No. 2

2014 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the third legislative day of this sixty day session. Various committee meetings are starting to take place with most of them having limited agendas. In the first three days of the session there have been a total of 97 Senate bills and resolutions and 289 House bills and resolutions introduced.

On Tuesday, Governor Beshear gave his State of the Commonwealth address to a joint session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Governor Beshear said he was going to offer the legislature a tax reform package to make Kentucky more economically competitive with other states and some of his plan will be based upon the Blue Ribbon Tax Commission report issued in 2012. In our conversations with the Governor's Office the plan would not recommend a freeze of the state real property tax rate or recommend removing agriculture's current sales and use tax exemption. On Tuesday, January 21 the Governor will present his two-year budget to the General Assembly and he has said that education funding will be his top priority. We have also been speaking with the Governor's Office relative to our funding priorities for this session.

We have been working with key members of the General Assembly about the wildlife issue we have. We are hopeful to have a bill draft in the coming weeks that would help alleviate some of the crop loss caused by various wildlife species.

There have been several bills introduced relating to eminent domain. We are closely monitoring these bills to ensure that current eminent domain laws are not weakened. In December, a group called Kentuckians United to Restrain Eminent Domain filed a lawsuit in Franklin County Circuit Court, asking for a ruling on whether the pipeline qualifies for eminent domain. It is unclear when the court may rule on this suit but most think it will be after the 2014 session adjourns.

The filing deadline for candidates seeking office for this year's election must file with the Secretary of State by January 28, 2014, except for those seeking office as an independent. The filing deadline for independent candidates is April 1, 2014.

Next week's report we will provide you with a comprehensive list of bills we are monitoring.

For a complete list of House and Senate leadership and individual committee assignments [click here](#).

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 and the [KFB app](#).