



January 31, 2014

Legislative Report No. 5

2014 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the eighteenth legislative day of the 2014 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. To date there have been a total of 212 Senate bills and resolutions and 386 House bills and resolutions introduced.

The filing deadline to be on the ballot for this year's election was on Tuesday, January 28 (excluding any independent candidates). There are 186 individuals that filed to run for the 100 state House of Representatives and 35 filed to run for 19 state Senate seats on this year's ballot. With so many people seeking elected office this year, it provides an excellent opportunity for county Farm Bureau's to conduct Measure-the-Candidate Forums.

This week we had a meeting with members of the General Assembly, representatives from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Association of Food Banks. We have a follow-up meeting scheduled for next week. We will be filing legislation that will support effective wildlife management in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses.

Since the United State Department of Agriculture does not report crop loss due to wildlife on a state level we need to hear from you. **If you have experienced wildlife damage on your farm please let us know.** Please send an email to Sara Stivers at sara.stivers@kyfb.com and describe what type of loss due to wildlife you have experienced and please also include your county.

Next week it is expected that Governor Beshear will unveil his tax reform package. In speaking with the Governor's office, it is our understanding the agricultural exemption from sales and use tax will be protected and there will not be an attempt to freeze the state real property tax rate.

Below are a few specific bills we are following:

[SB 44: P. Hornback, D. Parrett, D. Givens – AN ACT relating to motor vehicle weight tolerance.](#)

This bill would to provide a weight tolerance of 10% for commercial vehicles that are engaged in the transportation of agricultural products. This bill has passed the Senate Transportation Committee and is awaiting action on the Senate floor.

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 contact your Senator and ask them to SUPPORT SB 44.

[HB 173: S. Westrom, J. Adams, J. Crenshaw, D. Graham, J. Greer, J. Jenkins, M. Marzian, D. Owens, D. Watkins – AN ACT prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment.](#)

This bill would prohibit indoor smoking in businesses, places of employment, and other listed public places. It would exempt private residences, unless used for child care or adult day care and would permit smoking in designated non-enclosed areas. It would also require posting of "no smoking" signs at specified locations and permit local governments to adopt stricter regulations by ordinance. This bill has been posted in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to prohibit tobacco use in their private business."

Action Request:

If your Representative is a member of the House Health and Welfare Committee please contact them and ask them to OPPOSE HB 173.

For a list of committee members please [click here](#).

[SB 104: D. Thayer and HB 284: J. Carney, S. Rudy, R. Benvenuti III, K. Bratcher, R. Crimm, J. DeCesare, B. DeWeese, J. Fischer, R. Heath, J. Hoover, S. Lee, B. Linder, B. Montell, B. Rowland, J. Shell, D. St. Onge, T. Turner, B. Waide, A. Wuchner, J. York – AN ACT relating to reorganization.](#)

Both of these bills would remove the Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation from the Office of the Governor and attach them to the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes.

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.