



February 21, 2014

Legislative Report No. 8

2014 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the thirty-second legislative day of the 2014 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. To date there have been a total of 312 Senate bills and resolutions and 550 House bills and resolutions introduced. Today is the last day for bill requests. The last day to introduce a House bill is March 3 and the last day for new Senate bills is March 5.

The House continues their work on the state budget and we continue to stress our budget priority issues with members of the House. The House will probably pass their version of the budget around the middle of March.

We will have a bill introduced on Monday that will help reduce the wildlife population to alleviate the continued crop and livestock losses. Some of the highlights of the bill are:

- Establishes a process that will allow a landowner to have a designee to remove depredating wildlife. (Currently only the landowner and/or tenant have this ability)
- Enables landowners to dispose of the carcass on their farm without a tag or permit.
- Streamlines the process of removing the carcass from the farm to have it processed or have it donated to charity.
- Stipulates that inedible parts from wildlife destroyed for causing damage may not be used for any purpose.

We are also working with the Kentucky Food Banks Association in conjunction with our wildlife legislation and we believe this bill will make it easier and more feasible to donate protein to our food banks.

Also this week, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on [HB 31](#) dealing with eminent domain. After two hours of testimony the committee took no action on this bill. It is anticipated that [HB 31](#) will again be discussed next week with a possible vote being taken.

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 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:

If your Representative is a member of the House Transportation Committee please contact them and ask them to **SUPPORT SB 44**.

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

[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 and would exempt private residences, unless used for child care or adult day care. It would also permit local governments to adopt stricter regulations by ordinance and provide for enforcement by all peace officers and designated health department and local government employees. This bill has passed the House Health and Welfare Committee and now heads to the full House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to prohibit tobacco use in their private business. We are adamantly opposed to any level of government or agency mandating that businesses prohibit tobacco use."

Action Request:

Please contact your Representative and ask them to oppose **HB 179**.

Wednesday, February 19, was designated as Food Check-Out Day. Kentucky Farm Bureau along with Kentucky Commodity organizations provided each member of the General Assembly and our Constitutional Officers with a basket full of Kentucky commodities. The House passed [HR 108](#) and the Senate passed [SR 123](#), honoring Kentucky farmers for providing the safest, most affordable food in the world.

REMINDER

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Legislative Drive-In will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in the auditorium at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, located at 200 Mero Street, in Frankfort beginning at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to bring a car load to visit your senators and representatives. Please call them in advance to schedule a visit at 502.564.8100. This is a great opportunity to show your legislators your appreciation for their votes as well as discussing issues affecting agriculture that are still pending this session.

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](#).