



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

January 30, 2026

## **Legislative Report No. 5** **2026 Kentucky General Assembly**

Today marked the seventeenth legislative day of the 2026 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There has been a total of 207 Senate and 573 House bills and resolutions introduced in the first seventeenth legislative days.

On Tuesday the House introduced their version of the budget ([HB 500](#)).

Below are the details of HB 500:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$35.4 million in FY27 and \$32.7 million in FY28. Of that, \$11.7 million in FY27 and \$10.8 million in FY28 was allocated to the county funds account;
- Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share program \$1,773,100 in FY27 and 1,638,600 in FY28;
- Division of Conservation to provide direct aid to local conservation districts \$886,500 in FY27 and 819,300 in FY28;
- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab \$3,872,800 in FY27 and 3,751,800 in FY28;
- Breathitt Veterinary Center \$3,872,800 in FY27 and 3,751,800 in FY28;
- Western Kentucky University for the Kentucky Mesonet program \$1,680,000 in FY27 and 1,627,500 in FY28;
- Adult Agriculture Education Program \$960,000 in FY27 and 930,000 in FY28;

- Veterinary Medicine Contract Spaces \$5,568,400 in FY27 and 5,394,400 in FY28 for 164 veterinary slots;
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture is allocated \$23.1 million of general fund dollars in FY27 and \$23.3 million in FY28;
  - Kentucky Rural Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Farm Safety program \$886,500 in FY27 and 819,300 in FY28;
  - Farms to Food Banks program \$886,500 in FY27 and \$819,300 in FY28;

### **2026 KFB Priority Issues:**

*"Maintain allocating 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture."*

*"Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program."*

*"Support an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture."*

### **KFB Policy:**

*"We support the national 988 suicide hotline for farmers and agricultural workers, and encourage Kentucky Farm Bureau to promote its availability."*

*"In an effort to address the shortage of large and food animal veterinary services in Kentucky, we support: maintaining funding for existing slots while seeking additional slots for Kentucky students at established veterinary schools."*

### **Some Bills of Interest:**

#### **[HB 417: D. Osborne – AN ACT relating to the Farmland Preservation Loan Program.](#)**

This bill would authorize the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) to establish, administer, and fund a Farmland Preservation Loan Program and enter into a loan participation agreement with a qualified participating lender to purchase interests in promissory notes to allow a borrower to purchase or improve an agricultural property located within the Commonwealth. The bill also authorizes the KAFC to promulgate administrative regulations to administer the Farmland Preservation Loan Program. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

**KFB Priority Policy:**

*"Support a low interest loan program administered through KOAP for active farmers to purchase farmland that will stay in production agriculture for a minimum of ten years."*

**HB 142: M. Pollock – AN ACT relating to depredating wildlife and declaring an emergency.**

This bill would require the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to issue a minimum of 5 deer destruction permits to any landowner, spouse, dependent child, or their designee whose lands or personal property have been damaged by wildlife and establish provisions for the renewal of deer destruction permits. The bill would also require the department to issue a deer permit for the taking of one additional antlered deer during a hunting season to any requesting individual if they have harvested and reported three antlerless deer in the same season. The bill also would allow any licensed or permitted person to take antlerless deer for a period of 10 days following the conclusion of a muzzle-loading gun season. The bill has an emergency clause meaning it would go into effect immediately upon its final passage. The bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We encourage the KDFWR to develop programs to increase the doe harvest."*

*"We support implementation of an additional state-wide modern firearm antlerless deer season."*

*"We support streamlining and expediting the nuisance wildlife permit program."*

**SB 5: J. Howell – AN ACT relating to Kentucky-grown agricultural product procurement.**

This bill would define "agricultural product" and "Kentucky-grown agricultural product" and allow a local school board or local school district participating in any of the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs to purchase Kentucky-grown agricultural products in accordance with federal law. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support the use of more United States, specifically Kentucky, red meat, poultry, fish, fruits and vegetables, as well as other farm products in school lunch programs, healthcare facilities, and state institutions."*

**SJR 23: S. Funke Frommeyer – A JOINT RESOLUTION declaring Kentucky a Food is Medicine state and directing state agencies to advance Food is Medicine initiatives.**

This resolution would declare Kentucky to be a Food is Medicine state and direct state agencies to advance Food is Medicine initiatives. This resolution was adopted by the Senate with a vote of 35-0.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support the use of more United States, specifically Kentucky, red meat, poultry, fish, fruits and vegetables, as well as other farm products in school lunch programs, healthcare facilities, and state institutions."*

**HB 132: S. Rudy – AN ACT relating to economic development.**

This bill would require the Cabinet for Economic Development (CED) to maintain and disseminate information relating to Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP) programs to enterprises interested in locating or operating within the Commonwealth. The bill would also require CED to promote KOAP programs and require CED to submit a monthly report to KOAP and the Legislative Research Commission. The bill would add the Executive Director of KOAP as an ex officio member of the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support the Cabinet for Economic Development (CED) and its efforts to include agriculture and natural resources in their long-range economic development plan."*

*"We support agricultural leadership in all areas of economic development to strengthen rural communities."*

**HB 258: J.T. Payne – AN ACT relating to the transportation of milk.**

This bill would allow vehicles with a gross weight of up to 90,000 pounds transporting fluid milk from a farm to the first market to operate on any state highway and allow for a 10% weight tolerance. This bill passed the House Agriculture Committee but was reassigned 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."*

*"We support 97,000 pound gross weight for six axles on state and federal highways."*

**HB 332: R. Raymer – AN ACT relating to the issuance of identity documents.**

This bill would require the Transportation Cabinet to expand driver licensing services by setting up a system between the Transportation Cabinet and one local official or local governmental entity in each county to issue operator's licenses and personal identification cards and require the Transportation Cabinet to identify a local official or local governmental entity in each county that will participate in the system by July 1, 2027. The bill would allow a local official or local governmental entity to charge a convenience fee for any document issued by a local official or local governmental entity and require the Transportation Cabinet to report the number of documents issued by local officials and local governmental entities and any effect on wait times at regional licensing offices. The bill would become effective on July 1, 2027. This bill has been assigned to the House Transportation Committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support additional resources for the KYTC to better serve rural counties in the issuance of driver's licensing."*

*"We support issuing driver's licenses in all Kentucky counties."*

**SB 7: A. Reed – AN ACT relating to the issuance of identity documents.**

This bill would require the Transportation Cabinet to expand issuance of renewal and duplicate operator's licenses and personal identification cards in any county in which a permanent regional licensing office is not located by establishing a system between the Transportation Cabinet and a local official to issue renewal and duplicate operator's licenses and personal identification cards for a \$25 convenience fee in addition to any other applicable fees. The bill would allow counties to enter into an interlocal agreement to share personnel and equipment for issuance and require the Transportation Cabinet to report to the Legislative Research Commission annually on the number of renewal and duplicate operator's licenses and personal identification cards issued under the Act and any effect on wait times at the permanent regional licensing offices. The bill would remove the four-year identity document option, making licenses good for an eight-year period. The bill would become effective July 1, 2027. This bill is in the House but has not yet been assigned to a House committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support additional resources for the KYTC to better serve rural counties in the issuance of driver's licensing."*

*"We support issuing driver's licenses in all Kentucky counties."*

**SB 51: M. Nemes – AN ACT proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.**

This bill proposes to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky to exempt homeowners who are 65 years of age or older from any increase in the valuation of their permanent residence that is assessed after the later of the year the homeowner turned 65 or the year the homeowner acquired the property. The bill would require the exemption to be in addition to the exemption provided in Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky and notwithstanding Sections 171, 172, and 174 of the Constitution of Kentucky. The bill would apply the exemption to increases in valuation that occur after the date the amendment is ratified by the voters, provides ballot language, and would submit to voters for ratification or rejection. This bill has been received in the House but not yet been assigned to a committee.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We recommend that the increase of homestead exemption reflect the same rate of increase as the property assessment increase."*

**SB 181: L. Tichenor – AN ACT relating to schools and declaring an emergency.**

This bill makes changes to legislation passed during the 2025 session to clarify acceptable communication between students, teachers, and educational volunteers. The bill clarifies the following including but not limited to: Parental consent, acceptable social media interaction, private communications if an emergency exist, and that disciplinary action "may" be taken rather than "shall" be taken if private communication occurs but did not violate provisions of this section. The bill has an emergency clause meaning it would go into effect immediately upon its final passage. This bill passed the Senate 33-0 and now heads to the House for their consideration.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support a review and clarification of KRS 160.145 in order to allow for the appropriate use of communication between school district employees or volunteers, and students for school sponsored activities."*

**HB 111: R. Bivens – AN ACT relating to on-farm animal health.**

This bill would allow the determination and implementation of an on-farm animal health care or animal health production practice to be made solely by a farmer and his or her veterinarian. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

**SB 45: R. Webb – AN ACT relating to agritourism.**

This bill would define agritourism activity and working animal and create a new section of KRS 247.800 to 247.810 to prohibit a city, town, county, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth from restricting a person from engaging in an agritourism activity. The bill would require that an agritourism activity comply with public health and safety requirements and any existing law enforceable by police powers of local government. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee.

**REMINDER:**

This year we will again combine our **Legislative Drive-In Day** with our annual **Food Check-Out Day** activities on **March 11, 2026**. This will allow those of you visiting with your legislator(s) the opportunity to present them with a basket of Kentucky grown agricultural products to celebrate the safest most affordable food in the world.

**The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, located at 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky.**

We encourage you to contact your senator and representative in advance to let them know you will be in Frankfort that day and to set up a meeting with them to discuss issues affecting agriculture and to present them with a Food Check-Out Day basket.

**WHAT CAN YOUR COUNTY DO TO PREPARE FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION?**

- (1) The month of January will be an excellent time to meet with your legislators and discuss priority issues. Then check each week's legislative reports to monitor progress and continue to communicate with your legislator as issues begin to move through the system.
- (2) Ask your county State Legislative Committee to develop a schedule of meetings to plan further action, as the need arises during the session. It is important that you maintain personal contact with your senator and representative as Farm Bureau's priority issues start to move through the legislative process. Several counties have weekly meeting times set up on Saturday mornings with their legislators.
- (3) Stay informed.... Know about the issues and Farm Bureau's position. It takes everyone's commitment for Farm Bureau to be successful!

## **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.

If you desire to e-mail your representative or senator, [click here](#) for a list of e-mail addresses for members of the Kentucky General Assembly. Find your legislator and click on his or her name to access their e-mail address.

## **YOUR LOBBYISTS**

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2026 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, extension 37417 and Ericka King, extension 35220. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call 502.495.5000, extension 37268 and you will be put in touch with one of them.

## **KEEP ALL LEGISLATIVE REPORTS FOR FUTURE USE**

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Reports on file because, on occasion, we may refer to a previous report as a source of more details regarding an issue.

## **FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST**

February 16.....	President's Day Holiday
March 2.....	Last Day for New Senate Bills
March 4.....	Last Day for New House Bills
March 31-April 1 .....	Concurrence Only
April 2-13 .....	Veto Period
April 15 .....	General Assembly, Sine Die

**The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on  
KFB's website at [kyfb.com](http://kyfb.com) and the KFB app.**