



January 19, 2024

Legislative Report No. 4 2024 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marked the thirteenth legislative day of the 2024 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There has been more than 200 senate and 350 house bills and resolutions introduced in the first thirteen legislative days.

On Tuesday the House introduced their version of the budget ([HB 6](#)).

Below are the details of HB 6:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$38.9 million in FY25 and \$39.9 million in FY26. Of that, \$12.9 million in FY25 and \$13.2 million in FY26 was allocated to the county funds account;
- Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share program \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year;
- Division of Conservation to provide direct aid to local conservation districts \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year;
- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab \$4,034,200 in each fiscal year;
- Breathitt Veterinary Center \$4,034,200 in each fiscal year;
- \$1,750,000 to Western Kentucky University for the Kentucky Mesonet;
- Adult Agriculture Education Program \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year;
- Veterinary Medicine Contract Spaces \$5,659,000 in each fiscal year for 164 veterinary slots;

- Kentucky Department of Agriculture is allocated \$20.49 million of general fund dollars in FY25 and \$21.4 million in FY26;
 - Kentucky Rural Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Farm Safety program \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year;
 - Farms to Food Banks program \$850,000 in FY25 and \$1,000,000 in FY26;
 - County Fair Grants program \$455,000 in each fiscal year;
 - KDA Division of Emergency Preparedness \$153,900 in the current budget year (FY24) and \$443,900 in each fiscal year for the next biennium;
 - KDA Division of Regulatory Field Services, \$553,700 in FY25 and \$987,100 in FY26.

2024 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."

"We recommend the KDA Office of the State Veterinarian have adequate amount of funding for the Division of Emergency Management for trained subject matter experts for prompt disease response."

"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 1: J. Petrie – AN ACT relating to government agencies, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.](#)

This bill will appropriate General Fund moneys from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund Account in fiscal years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 to the following: Kentucky Infrastructure Authority for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure grants; Department for Local Government to provide matching funds under the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation Program; Kentucky Public Pensions Authority to be applied to the unfunded liability of the State Police Retirement Systems and the Kentucky Employees Retirement System Nonhazardous pension funds; Teachers' Retirement System to be applied to the unfunded actuarially accrued liability; Cabinet for Economic Development to support the KEDFA loan pool and development projects; Department of Kentucky State Police for lab equipment; **Transportation Cabinet to improve public riverports**, to implement the Short Line Infrastructure Preservation and Industrial Access and Safety Improvement pilot projects, and support grants to each General Aviation airport.

- \$3,500,000 in FY24 and \$15,000,000 in FY25 to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to improve public river ports within Kentucky.

2024 KFB Priority Issue:

"Support increased funding for Kentucky riverports to upgrade their agricultural infrastructure."

[HB 217: D. Hale - AN ACT relating to hunting and fishing licenses and declaring an emergency.](#)

This bill will remove the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres of land in order to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands. The bill passed the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee and now awaits final action by the full House.

[SB 5: G. Williams – AN ACT relating to hunting and fishing licenses and declaring an emergency.](#)

This bill will remove the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres of land in order to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands. The bill passed the Senate [36-0](#) and now heads to the House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We oppose a minimum acreage standard below which landowners must obtain a hunting or fishing license for lawful activities on their own property."

SB 16: J. Schickel – AN ACT relating to agricultural operation interference.

This bill will prohibit the operation of unmanned aircraft, video or audio recording devices, or photography equipment on or above a concentrated animal feeding operation or commercial food manufacturing or processing facility without written consent of the owner or authorized representative of the facility and establish a Class B misdemeanor for violations. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support legislation that would require written permission or a warrant to access real and private property by state agencies, including unmanned surveillance."

SB 107: J. Higdon – AN ACT relating to transportation and making an appropriation therefor.

This bill will direct \$30 of the registration fee for vehicles in excess of 44,000 pounds to the county clerk of the county in which the truck is registered and set registration fees for vehicles in excess of 44,000 pounds. This bill will prohibit the operation of a truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer in the far left lane of any roadway that has been divided into three or more clearly marked lanes for travel. This bill will also require towing companies to submit their rate schedules to the nearest Department of Kentucky State Police (KSP) post in addition to making them available to the public upon request, and direct the KSP to remove companies that do not comply with these requirements from the KSP wrecker log for a period of six months for the first violation and one year for any subsequent violation. This bill will provide a weight limit allowance of 400 pounds for any vehicle with an auxiliary power unit. This bill will also increase the limit that subscription fire departments may charge for accident response from \$500 to \$1,000. This bill will remove certain fees from statute, but require the Transportation Cabinet to promulgate administrative regulations to set fees for overweight and over-dimensional permits. This bill will direct the state portion of vehicle property taxes on electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles to the road fund. Lastly, this bill will require the KSP to include information about the organ donor program in educational materials for driver training. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support creation of a fair and equitable use-based tax for electric vehicles, proceeds for which shall be used for the Kentucky road fund."

Committee Changes:

Members on some of the legislative committees have changed. [Click here](#) to view the list of committees and their membership.

Notable committee change:

- Josh Bray, Vice Chair – House Appropriations and Revenue Committee
- Adam Bowling, Vice Chair – House Appropriations and Revenue Committee

REMINDER:

This year we will again combine our **Legislative Drive-In Day** with our annual **Food Check-Out Day** activities on **February 7, 2024**. 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.

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 2024 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, extension 37417; Ericka King, extension 35220; and Drew Graham, extension 35121. 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 Katie Weatherholt at 502.493.7669 and she will put you 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 7..... KFB Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day
- February 19..... President's Day Holiday
- February 26..... Last Day for New House Bills
- February 28..... Last Day for New Senate Bills
- March 27 & 28 Concurrence Only
- March 29 - April 9 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 and the KFB app.