



February 9, 2024

Legislative Report No. 7 2024 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marked the twenty-eighth legislative day of the 2024 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There has been 328 senate and 577 house bills and resolutions introduced in the first twenty-eight legislative days.

Kentucky Farm Bureau would like to thank everyone that attended our Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day activities on Wednesday. We had a great crowd in attendance, and it was good to see the halls of Frankfort filled with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state.

Some Bills of Interest:

[HB 6](#), the state budget, passed the House last week and has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

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 \$21.5 million of general fund dollars in FY25 and \$22.4 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;
- Broadband Equity, Access and Development (BEAD) Program is allocated \$217,234,500 in FY25 and \$868,938,200 in FY26 in federal funds.

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."

"Support funding for the broadband deployment fund."

"Support efforts and incentives to improve and provide all telecommunications in rural Kentucky."

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."

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.

This bill passed the House last week and has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

2024 KFB Priority Issue:

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

HB 418: M. Pollock – AN ACT relating to agricultural districts.

This bill will decrease the minimum number of acres to qualify as an agricultural district from 250 acres to 50 acres and add cities that are within one mile of the agricultural district to the list of entities to be notified of the proposal, approval, and withdrawal of property from, an agricultural district. The bill will also allow a district board of supervisors to consider possible dissolution of an agricultural district if an owner's withdrawal of property results in the remaining land no longer qualifying as agricultural land. This bill passed the House

Agriculture Committee and now heads to the full House for their consideration.

2024 KFB Priority Issue:

"Support lowering the acreage requirement for establishing an agricultural district."

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 has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

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 is in the House awaiting action.

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."

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 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.