



March 10, 2017

Legislative Report No. 7

2017 Kentucky General Assembly

The Kentucky General Assembly convened for their twenty-sixth day on Wednesday. The remaining four days of this session are currently scheduled to be March 14, 15, 29 and 30. They are scheduled to adjourn on March 15 for the ten day veto period.

The Real ID bill, [HB 410](#) has received a lot of attention this session and is still pending before the General Assembly. If Kentucky doesn't take steps to comply with the Real ID standards, residents would need to show a form of ID other than their driver's licenses, such as a passport, to board domestic flights beginning in 2018. The House approved this bill on a vote of 77-19 on Tuesday, with a voluntary component that would allow those who do not wish to obtain a Real ID license to get a standard driver's license and a federally compliant "voluntary travel ID" that counts as a valid driver's license.

The voluntary license would cost \$48, and the standard one would cost \$43. Kentucky driver's licenses currently expire every four years and cost \$20, but both of these new types of identification would last eight years.

Some bills of interest which we are following:

[SB 83: T. Buford - AN ACT relating to fish and wildlife.](#)

This bill will allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to identify areas of the state that pose a significant risk to agriculture or to human safety from automobile accidents and identify permissive measures for the department to implement including special hunts and increasing the doe harvest. This bill passed the Senate 37-1 and the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee and now heads to the full House for their consideration.

2017 State Priority Issue:

"Seek effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life."

SB 139: R. Webb - AN ACT relating to livestock.

This bill would amend various KRS's to include equine in the definition of livestock. This bill would not amend any KRS pertaining to sales and use tax. This bill passed the Senate 38-0 and the House Agriculture Committee and was placed on the House Consent calendar.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend recognizing equine as livestock and the horse industry as an agricultural commodity to remove the disadvantage that currently exists in relation to other livestock."

SB 38: C. Embry Jr. - AN ACT relating to timber theft.

This bill would specify that a person, regardless of state of mind or whether the person believes to be authorized or not, is liable for three times the stumpage value of the timber and three times the cost of any damages to property when he or she takes the timber of another without legal right or color of title. This bill passed the full Senate 35-0.

House Floor Amendment 2 to SB 38 was filed to exempt residential property owners and farmland owners maintaining their fence rows who mistakenly remove the timber of an adjoining property owner from the requirement to pay treble damages and make them only liable for the reasonable value of the timber, the actual damages caused to the property, and legal costs incurred. This bill has also passed the House Agriculture Committee and passed the House with House Floor Amendment 2.

The Senate concurred with the House amendment and this bill will now head to the Governor for his signature.

HB 200: D. Osborne - AN ACT relating to orders of restitution and forfeiture following a criminal conviction of cruelty to animals in the second degree.

This bill would amend KRS 525.130, relating to cruelty to animals in the second degree, to allow a court to order an offender to pay restitution for the upkeep of a horse involved in the offense and terminate the offender's interest in the horse involved in the offense. This bill has passed the House 94-0 and has passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and was placed on the Senate Consent calendar.

SB 249: J. Carpenter - AN ACT relating to the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

This bill would remove the Environmental Quality Commission and the Kentucky Mining Board from under the Energy and Environment Cabinet. This bill also changes the requirements to qualify for the Director of the Division of Conservation by removing the graduate of a recognized agricultural college and the minimum five year requirement in professional agricultural activities. It also deletes the requirement of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission "approval" of the director's compensation and

amends it to the word "advice". This bill has passed the Senate on a vote of 36-1 and has passed the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee and now heads to the House for their consideration.

SB 50: D. Thayer, R. Alvarado, P. Hornback - AN ACT relating to the school calendar.

This bill would establish a school district calendar committee and determine its membership and allow local district control of inclusion of a variable student instructional year in a school calendar. It would also require notice to be given to the media for school board meetings regarding the school calendar and provide that districts adopting a school calendar with the first student attendance day no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 may use a variable student instructional year. This bill passed the Senate 33-1 and the House 77-18 and now heads to the Governor for his signature.

KFB Policy:

"We recognize that boards of education have the responsibility for developing the school calendar. We urge county Farm Bureau boards to work with local boards of education in developing the school calendar."

"We believe that since locally elected Boards of Education are accountable for the effectiveness of local schools, our schools should be operated within the general policy provisions and district goals adopted by local boards."

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.

For the 2017 regular session calendar [click here](#).

For a complete list of committee assignments [click here](#).

YOUR LOBBYISTS

Those who are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2017 session are: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Bryan Alvey, extension 7218; Tony Sholar, extension 5121; 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.