



March 22, 2018

Legislative Report No. 13

2018 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the fifty-fifth legislative day of the 2018 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The General Assembly will not convene tomorrow or Monday, March 26, and is scheduled to return for two days next week.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed their version of the State Budget ([HB 200](#)), on a vote of 26-11. Here are some highlights of the Senate budget bill:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$40.5 million in FY19 and \$38.3 million in FY20. Of these funds \$16.8 million in FY19 and \$15.8 million in FY20 are allocated to the county funds;
- Environmental Stewardship Program: \$2.5 million in FY19 and \$2.5 million in FY20;
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture: \$17.3 million in FY19 and \$17.6 million in FY20.

The Senate budget also provided funding for most of the other agricultural related programs:

- Breathitt Veterinary Center: \$3.2 million each fiscal year;
- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Division of Regulatory Services: \$3.9 million each fiscal year;
- Conservation Direct-Aid: \$907,300 each fiscal year;
- Kentucky Mesonet at Western Kentucky University: \$750,000 each fiscal year;
- Adult Agriculture at Kentucky Community and Technical College: \$1 million each fiscal year.

The Senate budget also contained language that establishes a working group to study the effects of both the establishment of a forgivable loan program for the students of the Veterinary Contract Spaces Program and the projected return of large animal veterinary graduates to practice in Kentucky. The working group would be composed of the following:

- (a) The President of the Council on Postsecondary Education or his representative;*
- (b) The Speaker of the House or his representative;*
- (c) The President of the Senate or his representative;*
- (d) The Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture or his representative;*
- (e) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy or his representative;*
- (f) A representative of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association;*
- (g) A representative of the Kentucky Farm Bureau; and*
- (h) A representative of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.*

The working group shall report to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue no later than December 1, 2018.

Also on Tuesday, the Senate passed their version of [HB 366](#) on a vote of 23-15. The Senate version does not increase the cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack, create a 25 cent per dose tax on opioids at the wholesale distributor level, or eliminate the \$10 individual income tax credit. This bill would increase the waste tire fee to \$2.00 and extend the date to July 1, 2020.

The State Budget Conference Committee will be meeting in the coming days to work out the differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget bill and HB 366. The conference committee is expected to have a final version of the budget ready to be voted on by the full House and Senate by the end of next week.

Below is a list on the members on the State Budget Conference Committee:

Rep. Steven Rudy, (Chair)
Rep. David Osborne
Rep. Jonathan Shell
Rep. David Meade
Rep. Kevin Bratcher
Rep. Bam Carney
Rep. James Tipton
Rep. Rocky Adkins
Rep. Wilson Stone
Rep. Dennis Keene

Sen. Chris McDaniel, (Chair)
Sen. Robert Stivers
Sen. Jimmy Higdon
Sen. Damon Thayer
Sen. Mike Wilson
Sen. Dan Seum
Sen. David Givens
Sen. Ray Jones
Sen. Dorsey Ridley
Sen. Dennis Parrett

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.

[Click here](#) to view the 2018 Standing Committee Schedule.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of leadership and standing committees.

[Click here](#) to view the updated 2018 Regular Session Calendar.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2018 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; 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.

FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST

March 27 & March 28..... Concurrence Only
March 29 - April 9.....Veto Period
April 13.....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.**