



March 6, 2020

Legislative Report No. 10

2020 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the forty-second legislative day of the 2020 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The bill filing deadlines have past and there was a total of 534 Senate and 772 House bills and resolutions filed this session.

Today the House of Representatives passed their version of the State Budget ([HB 352](#)) for fiscal years 2020-2022, on a vote of 86-10. The budget bill now heads to the Senate.

Below is a list of items contained in the House version of budget pertaining to our funding priorities:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$34.5 million in FY21 and \$34.9 million in FY22. Of these funds \$14.2 million in FY21 and \$14.4 million in FY22 are allocated to the county funds;
- Environmental Stewardship Program: \$2.4 million in FY21 and \$2.5 million in FY22;
- Conservation District Local Aid: \$907,300 in both FY21 and FY22;
- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture: \$16.6 million in FY21 and \$18.8 million in FY22.

Other agricultural related programs include:

- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: \$4,034,200 in each fiscal year;
- Breathitt Veterinary Center: \$3.2 million each fiscal year;

- Kentucky Mesonet at Western Kentucky University: \$750,000 each fiscal year;
- County Fair Grant Program: \$300,000 each fiscal year.

Some other bills of interest:

[HB 362: P. Pratt - AN ACT relating to broadband deployment.](#)

This bill would add definitions of "broadband", "broadband deployment fund", "broadband deployment project", "broadband deployment project area", "unserved area", and "underserved area". It would also clarify that the broadband deployment fund would be used to provide assistance to construct infrastructure for deployment of broadband service to underserved and unserved areas of the Commonwealth. This bill passed the House 82-11 and has been assigned to the Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee.

2020 KFB Priority Issues:

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

"Support broadband and high speed internet service being available for the benefit of all Kentuckians."

[SB 148: D. Givens - AN ACT relating to the registration of farmers for sales and use tax exemption purposes.](#)

This bill would require persons engaged in farming to obtain an agriculture exemption number to claim an exemption from sales and use tax. It would also require the Department of Revenue to develop a searchable database for sellers and retailers to verify the agriculture exemption number if the purchaser cannot produce documentation of the agriculture exemption number at the time of sale. This bill would become effective January 1, 2021. This bill passed the Senate 38-0 and has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support a card identification system for qualified farmers for sales and use tax exemptions."

[HB 420: K. King - AN ACT relating to food safety.](#)

This bill would direct the Department of Agriculture to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act. It would define terms, establish exemptions for covered produce and covered farms, and authorize a department representative to enter a covered farm or farm eligible for inspection. It would also authorize a department representative to issue a stop movement order for covered produce. This bill passed the House 93-2 and has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support KDA as the Commonwealth's primary agency for implementation of the produce safety rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act."

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 2020 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Kyle Kelly, extension 7417; and Drew Graham, extension 5121. 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 ACTION REQUESTS FOR FUTURE USE

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Action Requests 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

March 31 & April 1..... Concurrence Only
April 2 - April 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 and the KFB app.