



March 13, 2020

Legislative Report No. 11

2020 Kentucky General Assembly

Yesterday marked the forty-sixth legislative day of the 2020 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly and legislative leaders announced that session will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17 in light of efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

With only fourteen legislative days left, there are several key issues yet to be finalized which include the state budget and the road plan. The Senate continues to work on their version of the state budget and we are conveying the importance of our funding priorities and other programs important to Kentucky agriculture.

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 yesterday passed the Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee. The bill now heads to the full Senate for their consideration.

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. We expect this bill to be heard in committee next week.

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

KFB Policy:

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

SB 5: R. Alvarado - AN ACT relating to special purpose governmental entities.

This bill would require proposed increases in ad valorem taxes and certain fees and the levy of new ad valorem taxes or fees by special purpose governmental entities to be submitted to the legislative body of the county or city in which the special purpose governmental entity is located for review. This bill passed the Senate State and Local Government Committee and included the provision that would allow the legislative body of the county or city, the option to lower a proposed rate. This bill passed the Senate 28-10 and passed the House Local Government Committee with an amendment to allow the legislative body the option to lower the proposed tax rate if it exceeds the compensating rate. The bill now heads to the full House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend that only elected officials have the authority to increase or create new taxes. In addition, we strongly urge all entities with the ability to increase taxes to be accountable for the expenditures of tax dollars to the citizens."

"We support allowing fiscal courts the flexibility to lower a tax rate submitted by a special taxing district."

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.

***THE FOLLOWING DATES MAY CHANGE ONCE THE 2020 REGULAR SESSION CALENDAR IS UPDATED.**

***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.**