



February 14, 2020

Legislative Report No. 7

2020 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the twenty-eighth legislative day of the 2020 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There have been a total of 335 Senate and 515 House bills and resolutions filed. The last day for new bill requests is February 21. The last day to file new House bills is March 2 and the last day to file new Senate bills is March 3. The General Assembly will not meet on Monday, February 17, in observance of President's Day.

The House is continuing their work on the State Budget ([HB 352](#)) for fiscal years 2020-2022 and budget review sub-committees are continuing to meet and discuss various sections of the state budget.

Some 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 has been assigned to the House Small Business and Information Technology 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."

HB 32: J. Miller - AN ACT relating to the taxation of tobacco products.

This bill would increase the tax rate on snuff from .19 cents to .38 cents per one and ½ ounces. It would also double the tax on chewing tobacco and increase the wholesale tax rate on other tobacco products from 15 percent to 25 percent. This bill would also include vapor products as tobacco products. This bill passed the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee and now heads to the House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We support the concept of inspection, labeling, regulation and taxation of vapor products."

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 has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

KFB Policy:

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

SB 117: D. Givens - AN ACT relating to sales and use tax.

This bill would exempt drugs and over-the-counter drugs that are purchased by a farmer and used in the treatment of certain farm animals. It would apply to sales made after August 1, 2020, but before August 1, 2024. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend that all farm production items and services including veterinary medicine and vaccines, electricity, sawdust and wood shavings, all livestock and poultry bedding, LP gas, and natural gas be exempt from sales and use tax."

SB 94: P. Hornback - AN ACT relating to motor fuel.

This bill would increase the allowable amount of ethanol in motor fuel from the current ten percent to fifteen percent. This bill passed the Senate 37-0, passed the House 86-0, and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.

KFB Policy:

"We support updating all state statutes and regulations to comply with federal guidelines relative to motor fuel use when approved by federal statute and/or regulation."

Special Elections:

On February 25, there will be two special elections to fill the vacancies in House Districts 67 and 99. House District 67 includes part of Campbell County and House District 99 includes Elliot, Lewis, and Rowan Counties.

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

February 17.....President's Day Holiday
February 21..... Last Day for Bill Requests
March 2..... Last Day for New House Bills
March 3..... Last Day for New Senate Bills
March 31 & April 1..... Concurrence Only
April 2 - April 13..... Veto Period
April 15..... General Assembly, Sine Die