



February 21, 2020

Legislative Report No. 8

2020 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the thirty-second legislative day of the 2020 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There have been a total of 378 Senate and 569 House bills and resolutions filed. Today is the last day for new bill requests. The last day to file new House bills is March 2 and the last day to file new Senate bills is March 3.

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. Kentucky Farm Bureau continues to meet with members of the General Assembly to discuss our funding priorities.

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. We have been meeting with the electric cooperatives and tele-com providers to come up with final language for the broadband deployment fund. We expect this bill to be heard in committee next week.

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 184: P. Hornback - AN ACT relating to grain.

This bill would allow the State Board of Agriculture to request either a review engagement report or an audit and written report issued by an independent certified accountant rather than mandating an annual audited financial statement from the licensee. Applicants for a license as a grain warehouse operator or grain dealer would be required to submit a financial statement issued by an independent certified public accountant; however, a grain dealer license applicant whose total annual purchases did not exceed fifty thousand (50,000) bushels in each of the last three (3) years would be exempt from this requirement. This bill was assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

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 has been assigned to the House 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."

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. 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."

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

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| 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 |

**The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on
KFB's website at kyfb.com and the KFB app.**