



February 28, 2020

## **Legislative Report No. 9**

### **2020 Kentucky General Assembly**

Today marks the thirty-seventh legislative day of the 2020 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There have been a total of 441 Senate and 659 House bills and resolutions filed. 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. It is expected the House will vote on their version of the budget next week. 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 passed the House Small Business and Information Technology Committee yesterday and now heads to the full House 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 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 passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and now heads to the full Senate for their consideration.

**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 Agriculture Committee and now heads to the full House 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 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 Appropriations and Revenue Committee and now heads to the full Senate for their consideration.

**KFB Policy:**

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

## **HB 214: J. Tipton - AN ACT relating to the Veterinary Contract Spaces Program and making an appropriation therefor.**

This bill would establish the Veterinary Contract Spaces Program and require the Kentucky Higher Education Authority to purchase enrollment spaces annually for Kentucky students at participating veterinary schools. This bill passed the House 91-0 and the Senate 36-0. This bill was amended in the Senate and now heads back to the House for their consideration of the Senate amendment.

### **KFB Policy:**

*"We support additional funding to ensure that any veterinarian student vacancies offered by our affiliated colleges of veterinary medicine are filled with Kentucky students."*

## **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 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