



March 5, 2021

## **Legislative Report No. 7**

### **2021 Kentucky General Assembly**

Today marked the twenty-fourth legislative day of the 2021 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The legislature is scheduled to return to Frankfort on March 11.

The free conference committee on the state budget is scheduled to meet early next week to finalize a one-year budget.

#### **Some bills of interest:**

##### **HB 320: B. Reed - AN ACT relating to the provision of broadband services, and making an appropriation therefor.**

This bill would appropriate \$250 million to the broadband deployment fund ([House Floor Amendment 1](#)). It would also create a new section of KRS Chapter 278 to allow a distribution cooperative to facilitate the operation of an affiliate engaged exclusively in the provision of broadband service to unserved or underserved households and business ([House Committee Substitute 1](#)). This bill passed the House [91-4](#). Today, this bill was assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

#### **KFB State Priority Issues:**

*"Support funding for the broadband deployment fund."*

*"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 3: P. Hornback – AN ACT relating to reorganization and declaring an emergency.**

This bill would remove the Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation from the Office of the Governor and place it in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. This bill passed the House [72-23](#) with [House Floor Amendment 1](#). The Senate voted [29-5](#) to concur on the House Amendment. The bill now heads to Governor Beshear for his consideration.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support administration of Ag Development Funds be moved to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and those funds be protected for use for programs that directly impact farm income."*

**SB 93: J. Howell - AN ACT relating to the State Board of Agriculture.**

This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture to appoint members of the State Board of Agriculture. This bill passed the Senate [29-6](#) with [Senate Floor Amendment 1](#), which added an emergency clause to the bill. Today, this bill passed the House 71-21 and now heads to Governor Beshear for his consideration.

**HR 45: B. Reed and SR 103: J. Howell - A RESOLUTION recognizing the establishment of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Generation Bridge Program.**

This resolution would recognize the establishment of Kentucky Farm Bureau's Generation Bridge Program. On Tuesday, HR 45 passed the House. SR 103 is scheduled to be taken up by the Senate next week.

**HB 278: P. Flannery: AN ACT relating to Paycheck Protection Program loans and declaring an emergency.**

This bill would allow for the same tax treatment as for federal purposes related to forgiven covered loans, deductions, and tax attributes associated with Paycheck Protection loans. This bill passed the House [96-1](#). Today, this bill passed the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee and now heads to the full Senate for their consideration.

**HJR 60: A. Bowling - A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Department of Revenue and the University of Kentucky's Forestry and Natural Resources Department to recommend equitable property tax assessment procedures for well-managed forests.**

This joint resolution would direct the Department of Revenue and the University of Kentucky's Forestry and Natural Resources Department to submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission no later than December 1, 2021, detailing their recommendations for equitable property tax assessment procedures for well-managed forests.

**KFB Policy:**

*"We support forest that qualify for an agricultural deferment of property tax should be assessed using an assessment model that is appropriate for forest land."*

**HB 229: M. Koch - AN ACT relating to the protection of livestock.**

This bill would change the word "cattle" to "livestock" in the definition of property for the purpose of criminal damage to property offenses. This bill passed the House [93-0](#). On Tuesday, this bill passed the Senate Agriculture Committee. [Senate Floor Amendment 2](#) was filed to include poultry in the definition of property.

**HB 518: R. Heath - AN ACT relating to the State Fair Board, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.**

This bill would change the make up of the State Fair Board from eighteen to twenty-one, with fifteen voting members and six ex officio non-voting members. This bill would also establish corporate powers of the State Fair Board, procurement procedures, and hiring and management procedures. It also would authorize administrative regulations for operation, maintenance, or use of property. This bill passed the House [72-23](#) with [Committee Substitute 1](#) and [Committee Amendment 1](#). On Tuesday, this bill passed the Senate Agriculture Committee and now heads to the full Senate for their consideration. [Senate Floor Amendment 1](#) and Senate Floor Amendment 2 has been filed to this bill.

**KFB Policy:**

*"For efficiency and effectiveness, we support the Kentucky State Fair Board maintain its independence as a state agency as provided in KRS 247."*

**HB 556: D. Bentley - AN ACT relating to rural hospitals.**

This bill would appropriate General Fund moneys in the amount of \$20 million to the rural hospital operations and facilities revolving loan fund. This bill passed the House [96-0](#). Today, this bill was assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

**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 2021 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 REPORTS FOR FUTURE USE**

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Reports 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 15 & 16 .....Concurrence Only  
March 17-27 ..... Veto Period  
March 30.....General Assembly, Sine Die

**The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on  
KFB's website at [kyfb.com](http://kyfb.com) and the KFB app.**