



March 15, 2021

## **Legislative Report No. 8**

### **2021 Kentucky General Assembly**

Today marks the twenty-seventh legislative day of the 2021 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

It is expected that the General Assembly will pass the one-year State Budget ([HB 192](#)) either today or tomorrow. Below is a list of items contained in the State Budget pertaining to our funding priorities for FY22:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$34.9 million and of these funds \$14.4 million was allocated to the county funds;
- Environmental Stewardship Program: \$2.4 million;
- Conservation District Local Aid: \$907,300;
- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture: \$18.8 million.

#### **2021 KFB State Priority Issues:**

*"Maintain allocating 50% of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture."*

*"Support continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program."*

*"Support an efficient, well-administered and Adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture."*

Funding for other agricultural related programs include:

- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: \$4,034,200;
- Breathitt Veterinary Center: \$3.2 million;
- Kentucky Mesonet at Western Kentucky University: \$750,000;
- County Fair Grant Program: \$300,000.

**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 businesses ([House Committee Substitute 1](#)). This bill passed the House [91-4](#). This bill has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

**2021 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](#). Governor Beshear [vetoed](#) this bill and the Senate voted [24-5](#) and the House voted [72-21](#) to override this veto.

**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. 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.**

These resolutions would recognize the establishment of Kentucky Farm Bureau's Generation Bridge Program. HR 45 passed the House and SR 103 passed the Senate.

**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](#) and passed the Senate [33-0](#) with [Senate Committee Substitute 1](#). The House has concurred on the Senate Substitute and the bill now heads to Governor Beshear for his consideration.

**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](#). This bill passed the Senate [34-0](#) with [Senate Floor Amendment 2](#) and now heads back to the House for concurrence with the Senate amendment.

**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](#). This bill passed the Senate [32-2](#) with [Senate Floor Amendment 2](#). The House has concurred with the Senate Floor Amendment 2 and the bill now heads to Governor Beshear for his consideration.

**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](#). 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.**