



March 2, 2018

Legislative Report No. 10

2018 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marked the forty-first legislative day of the 2018 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The last day to file new House bills was February 27 and the last day to file new Senate bills was March 1. There was a total of 1,359 bills and resolutions filed this session.

On Thursday, the House of Representatives passed their version of the State Budget ([HB 200](#)), on a vote of 76-15. Here are some highlights of the House budget bill:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$25.9 million in FY19 and \$25.9 million in FY20. Of these funds \$11.9 million in FY19 and \$11.9 million in FY20 are allocated to the county funds;
- Environmental Stewardship Program: \$2.5 million in FY19 and \$2.5 million in FY20;
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture: \$17.7 million in FY19 and \$18 million in FY20.

Other agricultural related programs, which were not funded or that had their funding reduced, was restored in the House version:

- Breathitt Veterinary Center: \$3.2 million each fiscal year;
- UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Division of Regulatory Services: \$3.9 million each fiscal year;
- Conservation Direct-Aid: \$907,300 each fiscal year;
- Kentucky Mesonet at Western Kentucky University: \$750,000 each fiscal year;

- Local Agricultural Fair Aid Program in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture: \$300,00 each fiscal year;
- Adult Agriculture at Kentucky Community and Technical College: \$1 million each fiscal year.

Also on Thursday, the House passed [HB 366](#) on a vote of 68-25. This bill would increase the waste tire fee to \$2.00 and extend the date to July 1, 2020. It also increases the cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack, creates a 25 cent per dose tax on opioids at the wholesale distributor level, and eliminates the \$10 individual income tax credit. This bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

REMINDER:

This year we will again combine our **Legislative Drive-In Day** with our annual **Food Check-Out Day** activities on **March 7, 2018**. This will allow those of you visiting with your legislator(s) the opportunity to present them with a basket of Kentucky grown agricultural products to celebrate the safest most affordable food in the world.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, located at 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky.

We encourage you to contact your senator and representative in advance to let them know you will be in Frankfort that day and to set up a meeting with them to discuss issues affecting agriculture and to present them with a Food Check-Out Day basket.

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.

[Click here](#) to view the 2018 Standing Committee Schedule.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of leadership and standing committees.

[Click here](#) to view the updated 2018 Regular Session Calendar.

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2018 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Tony Sholar, extension 5121, and David S. Beck, extension 5101. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502.352.4280 at the Frankfort headquarters or call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Sara Stivers at 502.495.5121 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

FUTURE DATES OF INTEREST

March 7.....KFB Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day
March 27 & March 28..... Concurrence Only
March 29 - April 9..... Veto Period
April 13.....General Assembly, Sine Die