



January 12, 2018

Legislative Report No. 3

2018 Kentucky General Assembly

The Kentucky General Assembly did not convene today due to the forecast of hazardous travel conditions. They are scheduled to reconvene on Tuesday, January 16.

The General Assembly will not meet on Monday, January 15, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Next Tuesday evening, January 16, Governor Bevin will present his budget for fiscal years 2018-2020 to a joint session of the General Assembly. It is expected to be a very tight budget and budget cuts for most state agencies of 15-20% are possible.

The following are a few bills of interest we are monitoring:

[HB 153: R. Heath, D. Bentley, M. Castlen, M. Dossett, J. Gooch Jr., D. Hale, M. Hart, K. Imes, S. Miles, R. Mills, J. Petrie, P. Pratt, M. Prunty, R. Rothenburger, B. Rowland, D. Schamore, J. Sims Jr, W. Stone, W. Thomas, J. Tipton, T. Turner - AN ACT relating to overweight vehicles.](#)

This bill would amend KRS 189.222 to allow for a ten percent weight variance for vehicles transporting feed for livestock or poultry. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee and is scheduled to be heard in committee next Wednesday.

KFB Policy:

"We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest products."

Action Request:

If your Representative is a member of the House Agriculture Committee, please contact them and ask them to **SUPPORT HB 153**. [Click here](#) for a list of members of the House Agriculture Committee.

HB 133: Rep. Tipton - AN ACT relating to the transportation of agricultural commodities and supplies.

This bill would amend KRS 281.730 to define "agricultural commodity," "farm supply for agricultural purposes," and "planting and harvesting season". It would exempt drivers of vehicles transporting agricultural commodities and farm supplies for agricultural purposes within a 150 air-mile radius from a farm or distribution point during the planting and harvesting season from any provisions of 49 C.F.R. pt. 395, relating to hours of service of drivers. This bill will bring Kentucky's air-mile radius up to date with the federal 150 air-mile radius.

This bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday and was placed on the consent calendar in the House.

KFB Policy:

"We support legislation that clearly defines the right of farmers to transport their products to market and to move their equipment by the most economically feasible method."

HCR 7: B. Reed, M. Castlen, M. Hart, R. Heath, DJ Johnson, K. King, R. Rothenburger, B. Rowland, S. Rudy, J. Shell, W. Thomas, J. Tipton

This resolution urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to issue more migratory bird depredation permits and sub-permits to allow Kentucky farmers to legally take black vultures that are depredating their livestock. This bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday and now heads to the full House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We encourage a more readily available permit process for nuisance wildlife such as the American black vulture."

HB 45: Rep. Santoro, Rep. Sims Jr - AN ACT relating to electric and hybrid vehicle fees and making an appropriation therefor.

This bill would establish a base fee for hybrid vehicles, hybrid electric plug-in vehicles, and non-hybrid electric vehicles and require the fee to be adjusted with any increase or decrease in the gasoline tax. This fee would be collected at the time of motor vehicle registration and require that all fees collected transferred to the road fund. EFFECTIVE January 1, 2019. This bill has been assigned to the House Transportation Committee for consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We support revenue options that ensure adequate financing for transportation infrastructure maintenance which take into account increased construction costs, improved fuel efficiency, and electric vehicles which currently pay no fuel tax."

[HB 10: K. Imes, S. Wells, C. Morgan - AN ACT proposing to amend Section 29 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to administrative regulations.](#)

This bill would propose to amend Section 29 of the Constitution of Kentucky to permit the General Assembly or an agency or committee it creates to review, approve, or disapprove any administrative regulation of the executive branch during or between regular sessions of the General Assembly. This bill has passed the House Elections, Constitutions Amendments & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and now is waiting action by the full House.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend that the state legislature provide specific guidelines and restraints on the agencies that are to administer the laws and are given the power to adopt rules and regulations."

Special Elections:

The candidates for the two special elections to fill the vacancies in state house district's 49 and 89 have been named.

The candidates for House District 49 which includes Bullitt County are:

- Democrat Linda Belcher and Republican Rebecca Johnson

The candidates for House District 89 which includes Jackson, parts of Laurel, and Madison Counties are:

- Republican Robert Goforth and Democrat Kelly Smith

The special election for the **49th District** will be held **February 20**, and the special election for the **89th District** will be held on **February 27**.

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 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.

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

January 15..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 16.....Last Day for Bill Request
February 19..... President's Day Holiday
February 26..... Last Day for New House Bills
February 28.....Last Day for New Senate Bills
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

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