



January 19, 2018

## **Legislative Report No. 4**

### ***2018 Kentucky General Assembly***

Today marks the twelfth legislative day of the 2018 session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

On Tuesday, Governor Bevin presented his State Budget ([HB 200](#)) for fiscal years 2018-2020, to a joint session of the General Assembly.

Below is a list of items contained in the proposed budget pertaining to our funding priorities:

- Agricultural Development Funds: \$40.5 million in FY19 and \$38.3 million in FY20. Of these funds \$16.8 million in FY19 and \$15.8 million in FY20 are allocated to the county funds. Also an additional \$4 million for FY18 was also allocated to the county funds;
- Environmental Stewardship Program: \$2.5 million in FY 19 and \$2.5 million in FY 20;
- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture was budgeted \$17.7 million in FY19 and \$18 million in FY20;
- The Kentucky Division of Forestry was budgeted \$14 million in FY19 and \$14.2 million in FY20.

In this proposed budget there are 70 various programs that did not receive any General Fund dollars. Below are the agricultural related programs impacted:

- Conservation Districts Local Aid;
- Agriculture Public Service (Regulatory Services) at the University of Kentucky;
- Kentucky Mesonet at Western Kentucky University;

- County Fair Grants within the Department of Agriculture;
- Farmer's Market Senior Program within the Department of Agriculture;
- Adult Agriculture at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System;
- State Tree Nurseries.

**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 passed the full House today by a vote of 84-1.

**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."***

**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 full House today by a vote of 86-0.

**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 resolution passed the full House and now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

**KFB Policy:**

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

**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 **49<sup>th</sup> District** will be held **February 20**, and the special election for the **89<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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

### **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**

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](http://kyfb.com) and the KFB app.**