



February 8, 2019

Legislative Report No. 3 2019 Kentucky General Assembly

The Kentucky General Assembly returned to Frankfort Tuesday, February 5, to convene for Part II of the 2019 session. Today marks the eighth legislative day of this thirty-day session.

The KFB Executive Committee and staff met with legislative leaders in both the House and Senate to discuss two of our State Priority Issues, rural development and the expansion of rural broadband. In addition, we have been discussing the importance of rural broadband with telecommunication providers.

Some bills of interest:

Senate Bill 153 was introduced today. This legislation would modernize the Grain Insurance Fund. Under the proposed law, oversight of the fund would move from the Grain Insurance Board to the State Board of Agriculture. The new statute would also clarify that any participating grain producer in this state would be covered under the new law. This legislation would also increase the membership of the State Board of Agriculture from 14 to 18 members and would change the entities eligible to nomination individuals to the board.

2019 State Priority Issue:

"Support the modernization of the Grain Insurance Fund to adequately protect current and future Kentucky grain producers."

KFB Policy:

"We recommend that the State Board of Agriculture consist of commodity specific members and at least one member representing Farm Bureau."

H.B. 54: B. Reed – AN ACT relating to a youth crossbow deer hunting season.

This bill would establish a statewide youth crossbow deer-hunting season and allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to promulgate administrative regulations relating to the season. The bill has been assigned to the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee.

2019 State Priority Issue:

"Seek effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses, automobile accidents, human injuries, and loss of life."

H.B. 203: J. Blanton – AN ACT creating the Kentucky Rural and Opportunity Zone Jobs Act.

This bill would establish the growth fund tax credit. This bill would incentivize investment into a growth zone. Growth zones are defined as a rural county (counties with a population of less than 50,000), an underemployment zone or an opportunity zone. This bill has been assigned to the House Economic Development and Workforce Investment Committee.

2019 State Priority Issue:

"Support efforts that will retain and attract new business to rural areas of Kentucky."

H.B. 226: B. Reed - AN ACT relating to farmer-focused mental health services and making an appropriation therefor.

This bill would require the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy to create and administer a program related to farmer-focused mental health service and appropriate \$500,000 for the farmer-focused mental health service program beginning on July 1, 2020. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support a dedicated suicide hotline for farmers and agricultural workers."

S.B. 129: P. Hornback - AN ACT relating to underground facility protection.

This bill would require operators of underground facilities located in Kentucky to be members of the Kentucky Contact Center (811). This bill has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We favor legislation requiring all who construct underground lines in Kentucky to be a member of Kentucky 811."

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

Those who are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2019 session are: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Kyle Kelly, extension 7417; Mike Biagi, extension 7270; and Drew Graham, extension 5101. 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 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 15.....	Last Day for New Senate Bills
February 18.....	President's Day Holiday
February 19.....	Last Day for New House Bills
March 8 & 11.....	Legislative Holidays
March 12 & 13.....	Concurrence Only
March 14-25.....	Veto Period
March 26 & 27.....	Legislative Holiday
March 29	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.**