



March 27, 2020

## **Legislative Report No. 13**

### **2020 Kentucky General Assembly**

Thursday marked the fiftieth legislative day of the 2020 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The General Assembly adjourned last night and will not reconvene until next Wednesday, April 1. The Legislature plans to meet for only two more days this session, April 1 and April 15. The Capitol and the Annex remain closed to everyone but legislators, essential staff, LRC-credentialed media, and specifically-approved individuals.

The State Budget conference committee continues their work on the budget. As a result of COVID-19 and the economic slowdown, the committee decided to use the most pessimistic revenue projections provided to them by the Consensus Forecasting Group, which will result in the committee having to reduce the original budgeted amounts by \$115.7 million in year one and \$174.7 million in year two of the budget.

Yesterday, the General Assembly also passed [SB 150](#), a bill relating to the state of emergency in response to COVID-19. We were able to secure language in SB 150 that will suspend the requirement to obtain the Farmer-Related/Restricted CDL for the employees of farm retail outlets, farm retail suppliers, agri-chemical businesses, custom harvesters, and livestock feeders. The bill also:

- Expands coverage to the self-insured, self-employed, and those employees otherwise not covered by unemployment insurance who have suffered job loss due to COVID-19;
- Allows employees who have not been terminated or separated from employment, but have experienced a reduction in work hours of more than 10 percent but less than 60 percent with no reduction in hourly rate, or the equivalent thereto, to be eligible for unemployment benefits to compensate the employee for the temporary loss of income;

- Allows the Governor to delay the date in which contributions by employers shall be due and payable to the unemployment insurance fund. Such delay shall not result in the imposition of any penalties or interest against an employer;
- Protects small business owners forced to lay off workers by preventing an increase in the calculated unemployment rate;
- Requires the Department of Revenue to adhere to any declarations or changes in tax filing and payment requirements provided by the U.S. Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service, including an extension of time to file a return or report and an extension of time to pay any tax due with that return or report, without the imposition of penalty or interest;
- Provides that a tax district may suspend or otherwise extend the applicable deadline for the filing of returns for taxable net profits or taxable gross receipts of businesses within the tax district during the state of emergency.

### **Important Date Changes**

- Kentucky's Individual Income Tax Deadline moved to July 15, 2020 to mirror the Federal Income Tax Deadline;
- READ ID deadline extended to October 1, 2021;
- Kentucky's Primary Election Day moved to June 23, 2020.

### **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 2020 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 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.

**The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on KFB's website at [kyfb.com](http://kyfb.com) and the KFB app.**