



March 10, 2023

Legislative Report No. 7

2023 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the twenty-fourth legislative day of the 2023 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There has been a total of 470 senate and 679 house bills and resolutions filed. There are only six legislative days left in this session. The General Assembly is currently scheduled to meet March 13 – March 16, then recess for the ten-day veto period then reconvene for the final two days on March 29.

Some bills of interest:

[HB 4: J. Branscum – AN ACT relating to merchant electric generating facilities and making an appropriation therefor.](#)

This bill would require solar development companies to establish a decommissioning plan in an application for construction of a merchant electric generating facility. It would also require a decommissioning bond or similar security to complete the decommissioning plan. This bill would require Energy and Environment Cabinet oversight and that the bond be reviewed at least every five years. This bill would also clarify that an ordinance, permit, or license issued by a local government shall have primacy over all requirements. For more information on HB 4 please [click here](#). This bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

2023 KFB State Priority Issues:

"Support a decommissioning bond on all commercial solar projects. These bonds should be reviewed at least every three years."

"Support oversight of ownership and control for energy infrastructure."

Action Request

Please contact your State Senator and ask them to **support** [HB 4](#).

SB 54: J. Carpenter – AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships.

This bill would define "proprietary school" and "qualified proprietary school program" and allow use of KEES funds for enrollment in a qualified proprietary school program. Changes were made in the House Education Committee to also allow KEES to be used for a workforce solutions training program offered by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and approved by the authority or at an eligible college of art and design. The bill passed the House 93-0 with [House Committee Substitute 1](#) and now heads back to the Senate for their consideration of the House amendment.

2023 KFB State Priority Issue:

"Support the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) Program to allow eligible students to use funds at proprietary schools."

HB 450: J. Blanton – AN ACT relating to the establishment of a grant program to promote investments in Kentucky businesses, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

This bill would establish the Kentucky Rural Jobs Act of 2023, which would allow the Cabinet for Economic Development to begin accepting applications from entities seeking approval as a growth fund. This bill would allow no more than \$50 million of grants to be awarded as state matching capital for investments in growth businesses and establish the Rural Jobs Development Fund. It would also appropriate \$50 million in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Rural Jobs Development Fund.

2023 KFB State Priority Issue:

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

HB 360: J. Petire – AN ACT relating to revenue and declaring an emergency.

This bill would exempt property that is currently taxed at a rate of one-10th of one cent from property tax, which includes farm implements and farm machinery owned by or leased to a person actually engaged in farming and used in his or her farm operations. This bill would also amend various sales and use tax definitions to exclude marketing services from the taxable services, exclude security guards from the security system monitoring services, and exclude testing services required by the state, local, or federal government. This bill would also amend KRS 139.480 to exempt certain services for

print technology, currency and bullion, certain materials to build governmental water and sewer systems, and the sublet of certain rental of space. This bill would also allow a pass-through entity to pay the tax liability at the entity level on behalf of the individual partner, member, or shareholder and allow the individual partner, member, or shareholder a nonrefundable credit of 95 percent of the tax paid by the pass-through entity. This bill would also allow the receipts generated from the electric vehicle charging tax and the electric vehicle fee to be distributed to the rural road fund, counties, and cities through the normal distribution of road fund moneys. This bill passed the House 76-17 with [House Committee Substitute 1](#). This bill has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We oppose legislation that would require licensing of farm machinery and equipment and recommend that new farm equipment be exempt from inventory taxes."

"We oppose taxing farm equipment with property taxes."

"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."

SB 46: J. Howell – AN ACT relating to the reorganization of the Office of State Veterinarian.

This bill would update the Office of State Veterinarian's Division of Animal Health to the Division of Regulatory Field Services by changing the Division of Producer Services to the Division of Animal Health Programs, and would establish the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response. This bill passed the House Agriculture Committee and now heads to the full House for their consideration.

KFB Policy:

"We recommend the KDA Office of the State Veterinarian have adequate amount of funding for trained subject matter experts for prompt disease response."

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 2023 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, 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 REPORTS FOR FUTURE USE

We suggest that you keep a record of the Legislative Reports 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

March 15 & 16.....Concurrence Only
March 17-28.....Veto Period
March 30.....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.**