



March 1, 2024

Legislative Report No. 10 2024 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marked the forty-second legislative day of the 2024 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. There has been 578 senate and 967 house bills and resolutions introduced in the first forty-two legislative days.

Some Bills of Interest:

[HB 1](#) and [HB 6](#), the House budget bills, have not had action by the Senate, so they remain the same as in previous reports. Action by the Senate is expected in the coming weeks.

[HB 418: M. Pollock – AN ACT relating to agricultural districts.](#)

This bill will decrease the minimum number of acres to qualify as an agricultural district from 250 acres to 50 acres and add cities that are within one mile of the agricultural district to the list of entities to be notified of the proposal, approval, and withdrawal of property from, an agricultural district. The bill will also allow a district board of supervisors to consider possible dissolution of an agricultural district if an owner's withdrawal of property results in the remaining land no longer qualifying as agricultural land. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

2024 KFB Priority Issue:

"Support lowering the acreage requirement for establishing an agricultural district."

SB 356: J. Howell – AN ACT relating to riverports and making an appropriation therefor.

This bill will direct the state portion of property taxes on commercial watercraft to the riverport financial assistance trust fund, which provides matching funds to public riverports.

2024 KFB Priority Issue:

"Support increased funding for Kentucky riverports to upgrade their agricultural infrastructure."

HB 524: 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 will establish the Kentucky Rural Jobs Act of 2024. This bill will allow the Cabinet for Economic Development to begin accepting applications from entities seeking approval as a growth fund and will allow no more than \$50 million of grants to be awarded as state matching capital for investments in growth businesses. This bill will establish the Rural Jobs Development Fund and will appropriate \$50 million in fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Rural Jobs Development Fund. This bill has been assigned to the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

2024 KFB Priority Issue:

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

HB 553: M. Koch – AN ACT relating to the Kentucky rural veterinary student loan repayment program and making an appropriation therefor.

This bill will establish the Kentucky Rural Veterinary Medicine Student Loan Repayment Program for an eligible livestock practitioner who engages in veterinary medicine in an underserved rural area or veterinary shortage area for five consecutive years. This bill will authorize the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to promulgate administrative regulations and set forth program eligibility requirements. This bill will also authorize the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to award loan repayment benefits to applicants selected by the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Selection Committee, establish compliance requirements, and create the rural veterinary care trust fund. This bill has been assigned to the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

KFB Policy:

"In an effort to address the shortage of large and food animal veterinary services in Kentucky, we support: incentive programs for veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians and technologists to practice large and food animal veterinary medicine in rural Kentucky."

SB 5: G. Williams – AN ACT relating to hunting and fishing licenses and declaring an emergency.

This bill removes the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres of land in order to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their own farmlands. This bill passed the House [92-0](#) and has been signed into law by the Governor.

KFB Policy:

"We oppose a minimum acreage standard below which landowners must obtain a hunting or fishing license for lawful activities on their own property."

SB 16: J. Schickel – AN ACT relating to agricultural key infrastructure assets.

This bill will amend KRS 511.100, relating to trespass upon key infrastructure assets, to add commercial food manufacturing or processing facility, animal feeding operation, and concentrated animal feeding operation to the definition of "key infrastructure assets". This bill will penalize those who operate an unmanned aircraft system, video recording device, audio recording device, or photography equipment on or above the assets without consent and penalize those who record or distribute unauthorized images or material of a concentrated animal feeding operation, animal feeding operation, or commercial food manufacturing or processing facility. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support requiring the operator of the UAS to gain the written consent of the landowner and/or farm operator if the UAS will be surveying or gathering data above private property."

"We recommend anyone, group or organization that video tapes or records images on a farm with the intent of using them in an anti-farming or animal welfare campaign, without the permission of the land/farm owner, be charged with a criminal offense and subject to a reasonable fine and/or other punishment."

HB 400: R. Heath AND SB 189: J. Howell – AN ACT relating to veterinary medicine programs at comprehensive universities.

These identical bills will amend KRS 164.295 to permit Murray State University to offer doctor's degrees required for professional practice and licensure in veterinary medicine.

HB 575: R. Heath – AN ACT relating to the acquisition of agricultural land.

This bill will prohibit a nonresident alien, foreign business, foreign agent, trustee, or fiduciary associated with the government of any proscribed country referenced in 22 C.F.R. sec. 126.1 from the purchase, lease, or acquisition of agricultural land in Kentucky or participation in programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Development Board, and Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation. This bill will allow an existing foreign-owned business to purchase adjacent agricultural land to expand the operations of the business and will exempt foreign ownership or leasing of up to 350 acres for research purposes. This bill will establish the Kentucky Foreign Investment Review Board to review applications for appeal for those on the prohibited countries list wishing to purchase, lease, or acquire agricultural land, set forth requirements of the board to approve or deny an application for appeal, establish a process for an application for appeal, and authorize the board to promulgate administrative regulations. This bill will also allow an applicant who is denied an appeal to purchase agricultural land to appeal the final decision in Circuit Court. This bill will require a county clerk to record an affidavit on any deed that conveys agricultural land and report the affidavit recordings monthly to the Kentucky Foreign Investment Review Board, require the Kentucky Foreign Investment Review Board to report to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States each month. This bill will also set forth requirements to divest land that has been purchased, leased, or denied without approval of the Kentucky Foreign Investment Review Board, and direct the distribution of sale proceeds. This bill passed the House State Government Committee and is awaiting action by the full House.

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 2024 session: Kyle Kelly, Public Affairs Director, extension 37417; Ericka King, extension 35220; and Drew Graham, extension 35121. 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 27 & 28 Concurrence Only
March 29 - April 9 Veto Period
April 15..... 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.