

KENTUCKY RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION
Government Affairs Activity
2000 Summary

KRA recognizes the importance of being involved, as issues affecting our members are being debated and decided. Therefore, your association maintains an active presence in Frankfort. Our legislative team works closely with state lawmakers on legislation being considered by the General Assembly. KRA has initiated several bills to benefit our members but has been equally active in opposing those measures that would cause harm. The association also represents the industry in the regulatory arena. We monitor proposed regulatory changes and intervene with state agency officials on those issues directly affecting the foodservice industry.

Since its establishment, KRA has made government affairs activity a priority for the association. Legislators and executive branch officials recognize us as the voice of the restaurant community in Kentucky. Through our presence in Frankfort, KRA has been able to help shape public policy that affects our members. Below is a brief summary of some of the association's accomplishments on key issues.

2000: Packaging used by quick service restaurants came under attack during the debate on “bottle bill” legislation in the 2000 session. In addition to mandating that all beverage containers sold in the state be subject to a deposit, the 2000 bill called for a non-refundable advance disposal fee (ADF) on cups, wrappers and bags used by restaurants providing carryout service. KRA was part of a coalition of business groups vigorously opposing the measure and it was defeated in the House.

The association successfully led the fight against bills to repeal the tip credit and to increase the state minimum wage. Our legislative team was also instrumental in securing changes to a bill impacting the use of restaurant tax revenues in 4th and 5th class cities that are currently authorized to levy the local tax. The industry-initiated changes provide more accountability by requiring that the “tourism” tax proceeds (those derived from local restaurant and hotel taxes) be kept in a separate account and be subject to an annual audit.

Kentucky voters have an additional option concerning alcoholic beverage sales in their communities as a result of legislation championed by KRA during the 2000 session. The bill that was enacted permits an election in a city or county on the issue of allowing the limited sale of alcoholic beverages, by the drink, only in restaurants that seat at least 100 people and derive at least 70% of their revenues from the sale of food.

The association's involvement in budget negotiations during the 2000 session reduced the proposed increase in the inspection fees local health departments are permitted to charge by nearly \$1 million.