

CHAPTER 140**(HB 566)**

AN ACT relating to milk.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 260.664 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Subject to the availability of funds, the commission shall:
 - (a) Counsel with the Commissioner of Agriculture on matters pertaining to dairy production and the marketing and distribution of raw milk and Kentucky dairy products;
 - (b) Employ the appropriate experts, professionals, consultants, or others to assist members in carrying out duties of the commission;
 - (c) Undertake the research needed to determine how other states support their dairy farmers and dairy industry;
 - (d) Support investigations, studies, and scientific research to eliminate and alleviate specific problems affecting the dairy industry in the state;
 - (e) Participate in studies and investigations of problems particular to milk producers and milk processors in Kentucky;~~and~~
 - (f) Collect information to determine the actual cost of transporting milk used in Kentucky;
 - (g) *Coordinate with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to increase awareness at the consumer level of where dairy products are produced;*
 - (h) *Coordinate with the Cabinet for Economic Development to explore economic incentives that would help sustain Kentucky's dairy industry; and*
 - (i) *Recommend a program of minimum milk pricing protection for dairy farmers for consideration by the General Assembly, if the federal milk marketing order system is abolished.*
- (2) In addition to the responsibilities set out in subsection (1) of this section, the commission also shall:
 - (a) Subject to the availability of funds, create a plan to assist Kentucky dairy farmers that would be equitable to all parties in the state dairy industry. The plan should examine and offer recommendations to improve, streamline, and enhance all aspects of the dairy production and distribution system in Kentucky;
 - (b) Submit the proposed plan to the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Legislative Research Commission for their review;
 - (c) Publicize the plan in a way to allow individuals or entities the opportunity to offer comments;
 - (d) Promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the plan, once reviewed and approved by the Governor and the Commissioner of Agriculture, and finalized by the commission; and
 - (e) Monitor the progress of the plan and report on the progress annually to the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Legislative Research Commission.
- (3) The Kentucky Milk Commission established under KRS 260.662 shall have no authority to promulgate administrative regulations to establish pricing on milk or milk products.

Signed by Governor April 13, 2010.