



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update

May 26, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Kansas Legislative Session. This is the second year of the biennium, so bills and resolutions from the 2021 Session carry over to the 2022 Session. In addition, new bills may be introduced, continuing with the numbering from last session.

For a review of common legislative terms, please refer to the [Common Legislative Terms](#) list on KAC's website or bookmark this link: <https://www.kansascounties.org/legislative/common-legislative-terms/view>

Summaries of all legislation passed during the 2021 session or special session can be found at www.kslegresearch.org under the Publications tab by searching the 2021 Summary of Legislation and 2021 Legislative Highlights. There is a summary of the 2021 Special Session under the publications tab. You can also find helpful resources in the Legislative Briefing Book. Topics of interest covered in the 2020 Briefing Book include Elections and Ethics, Redistricting, State and Local Government, Taxation and Transportation, among others.

What Happened This Week

What Passed

- [HB 2136](#), which would amend law related to sales tax remittances, authorize Atchison County to submit a question to voters regarding a local sales tax, delay the implementation of a sales tax exclusion for delivery charges, and enact the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Act. Of note, the Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Act does not impact county funds, as the relief is provided by the state American Rescue Plan funds.
- [SB 19](#), the 988 Suicide Crisis hotline bill. The House passed this conference committee report in late April, however, the Senate did not take it up at that time. The Senate officially passed it this week, sending it to the governor for signature.
- [HB 2540](#), which made amendments to the Uniform Controlled Substances Act with respect to the definition of marijuana. These changes would exempt U.S. FDA approved drug products that contain an active ingredient derived from marijuana from that definition.
- [HB 2252](#), which prohibits the Governor, Secretary of State or other executive branch officers from entering into a consent decree or any other agreement with another party regarding the enforcement of election laws without specific approval by the legislature. Although the governor vetoed this, the legislature overrode that veto with votes of 27-10 and 84-37.
- [HB 2387](#), which makes changes to KEMA and also has provisions related to the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) contracts. The MCO contract provisions prevent the state and Governor from issuing a request for proposal for the current MCO contracts prior to January 31, 2023. The bill also includes language to amend KEMA by continuing the limits on the governor's authority during emergency declarations. The override of the governor's veto passed 84-38 and 27-10.

What Did Not Pass

- [SCR 1624](#), which would have amended the Kansas Constitution regarding mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect, failed to garner the necessary votes in the Senate to advance.
- [S Sub for HB 2380](#), which was the Treasurers bill that would have changed the vehicle registration fees. Despite bi-partisan support, this bill did not find a home.

These measures, along with anything else that did not pass, are now lost as the new biennium would begin with the 2023 legislature.

What's Coming Next

The Kansas Legislature has now adjourned Sine Die. With no other business to take up, the legislative session is effectively over. Because this is the second year of the biennium, everything that did not pass this year will have to start over from the beginning next year.

The Kansas House of Representatives will look very different next year, as well. Already, there have been 14 announced retirements, including House Speaker Ron Ryckman and House Speaker Pro-Tem Blaine Finch, the first and third ranking majority members in the House. This means House leadership will get a significant overhaul next year.

In addition, Republicans Lonnie Clark (chair of Veterans and Military committee), Ron Highland (chair of the Water committee), Steve Huebert (chair of the Education committee), Steven Johnson (chair of the Insurance and Pensions), Jim Kelly (chair of the Financial Institutions committee), and Rich Proehl (chair of the Transportation committee) are all retiring, meaning in addition to a new speaker and new speaker pro tem, there will also be several new chairs. Vice chairs Megan Lynn (Social Services Budget) and Marty Long (Commerce) are also retiring. David French and Jesse Burris are also leaving the chamber.

Democrats Tom Burroughs (ranking member on redistricting this year, as well as a former minority leader), Jim Gartner (ranking member on Tax), Annie Kuether (ranking member on Telecommunications and Utilities), and Kathy Wolfe-Moore (ranking member on Appropriations) also announced they would not seek re-election, meaning there will be a significant shakeup on the overall makeup of committees.

This, combined with redistricting, likely means there will be a couple dozen new faces in the House next year, potentially in districts in your area.

If you have not already done so, [SUBSCRIBE](#) to KAC legislative alerts to stay up to date on what is going on.

Additional Resources

For daily information on things happening in the Legislature, follow [@KansasCounties](#) and [@JayHallKS](#) on Twitter.

You can find information on the Kansas Legislature, such as daily calendars, audio links, and bill text at www.kslegislature.org.

You can watch or listen to committee proceedings at: www.sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/ or by following the Kansas Legislature on YouTube.

2022 Legislative deadlines can be found at:

http://kslegislature.org/li/documents/2022_calendar_deadline.pdf