



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update ***February 16, 2024***

Welcome to the 2024 Kansas Legislative Session. This is the second year of the biennium, so bills and resolutions from the 2023 Session **do** carry over to the 2024 Session. Bill numbers also carry over, meaning they pick up where they left off last year, rather than starting over at 1 (Senate) or 2001 (House). It also means that legislation that was “dead” last year has been revived and can be debated again this year during the legislative 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 2023 session can be found at www.kslegresearch.org under the Publications tab by searching the 2023 Summary of Legislation and 2023 Legislative Highlights.

What Happened This Week

First, we start with an update on the veto override on the [CCR for HB 2284](#). There are now rumors that the House is in fact struggling to keep its majority caucus intact for a veto override. As I mentioned before, part of the utility of doing overrides quickly is that it makes it easier to keep the coalition in place. The more time that passes, the more priorities can change or shift, making it more difficult to override a veto the longer you wait to take the vote.

[SB 373](#), the bill that would forbid use of public funds for lobbying either directly or indirectly, was heard on Monday in Senate Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 AM. From the tone of the questions, it does not appear that this bill has much momentum to advance out of committee.

[SB 384](#), which would allow EMS providers to have only one certified provider on stable transfers, was moved out of committee with amendments that are satisfactory to both LKM (who introduced the bill on behalf of one of their cities and KEMSA. The amendments essentially codify the waiver process that is currently in place.

[SB 332](#), which would fund the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and use that money to fund rebates to residential homeowners had a hearing on Tuesday. KAC is recommending that if the money is to be used for residential tax relief, it be in the form of credits rather than cutting checks, which would eat up much of the benefit of the LAVTR money.

[HB 2690](#) would eliminate the 911 Commission and replace it with the State 911 Board. There are similar provisions in [SB 487](#), which will be heard next week on the ability for counties to contract with other counties for the provision of public service answering point services. KAC is monitoring both of these bills.

Two bills of importance were heard in the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee this week. [SB 390](#), which would allow for conscientious refusal by individuals on vaccines, and [SB 391](#), which is the

Health Freedom Act, which changes the ability of the Secretary of KDHE and Public Health Officials to control the spread of disease. The committee may work these bills next week on short notice, or at the rail, as there seemed to be interest from the committee to act on these bills before Turnaround.

[SB 468](#) would forbid cities and counties that grant tax incentives or other tax increment financing from exceeding the revenue neutral rate. The Senate Tax committee seems interested in this bill, although it is unclear how much interest there is from the full Senate.

Senate Judiciary will hear [SB 381](#), which would allow counties that are not the largest county in the district to appoint their own county coroner on Wednesday at 10:30 AM.

[SB 367](#) would prohibit the use of federal funds for election purposes without legislative approval. It is unclear what the intent or reach of this legislation would be.

The House Judiciary Committee worked [HB 2599](#), which would limit the fees that a governmental entity could collect under the Kansas Open Records Act. There is general frustration from some on the committee with the Open Records process and the perception that fees are used as a deterrent.

What's Coming Next Week

Turnaround week is here. For most bills, if they do not clear their chamber of origin this week, they are dead since this is the second year of the biennium. While nothing is ever truly dead in the legislature, it does make things more difficult once Turnaround has passed.

Keep an eye on the veto override progress. A statement from the Senate Assessment and Taxation chair indicated that tax policy is on hold until the fate of HB 2284 has been decided.

There are still, however, some committee hearings next week on Monday and Tuesday that are of note.

In House Local Government, [HB 2704](#), which would limit the authority of cities and counties to regulate “no impact” home based businesses, will be heard on Monday at 9:00 AM. The biggest question surrounding this bill is what constitutes “no impact.” House Local Government will also hear [HB 2734](#) at that time, which would require that improvement districts expire after five years if improvements have not been carried out within that district. KAC is monitoring this bill.

House Judiciary will hear [HB 2754](#), which authorizes counties to utilize county home rule authority to exempt the county from conducting school sanitary inspections. That hearing will be Monday at 3:30 PM.

The Senate budget bill is [SB 495](#). It will begin its process on Monday in Senate Ways and Means at 10:30 AM.

[SB 457](#), which would prohibit public utilities from exercising eminent domain power to site solar facilities will be heard on Monday in Senate Utilities at 1:30 PM. There is some redundancy in this bill, as use of eminent domain in this way is already restricted.

KAC is also watching SB 487, which would allow for counties to contract for PSAP services. There are some questions about how funding would be distributed in the event of these contracts. This hearing will be on Tuesday in Senate Utilities. As mentioned above, HB 2690 contains similar provisions.

Finally, a brief reminder about meetings at the rail. These meetings are typically called with very short notice to pass bills out of committee so that they can be worked on the floor. This typically happens when a committee has not had the opportunity to work a bill in committee due to time constraints, but still wants the chance to have the bill considered on the floor.

Because of the nature of these hearings, there is very little warning before they happen and it can be a footrace to get to those meetings in time to hear what happens. KAC will be in the building to track this since there is an abundance of legislation that we are monitoring that has not moved out of committee, but could move out of committee either Monday or Tuesday in meetings, or at the rail when the House and Senate are working on the floor on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

Remember, anything can happen during an election year. Anything.

As always, the calendar can change, which is very possible as more bills have been introduced and are being assigned as they are drafted.

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 additional information on things happening in the Legislature, follow [@KansasCounties](#) and [@JayHallKS](#) on X (formerly 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.

2024 Legislative deadlines can be found at:

https://kslegislature.org/li/documents/2024_session_deadlines.pdf