



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update ***February 2, 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

The House Tax committee held a week’s worth of informational hearings on the different portions of SB 8, which was vetoed last year. The House committee did not have the opportunity to hear many of these provisions, so this gives them an opportunity to hear testimony on these provisions. KAC testified in opposition to the government competition portion of SB 8.

KAC also testified against the plastic bag (and other single use containers) ban bill. [HB 2446](#) was heard in Senate Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 AM on Tuesday. KAC opposed this bill because it potentially interferes with the county responsibilities of solid waste management. Additionally, KAC opposes this bill as an invasion of local control more broadly. The committee seems motivated to move this bill out of committee.

The hearing on [HB 2511](#), which would allow for candidates to include a party indicator next to their name even in non-partisan races, was cancelled. There is rumor that there were no proponents for this legislation.

The hearing on a bill to ban ranked choice voting ([SB 368](#)) in the Senate Federal and State Affairs committee on Thursday did happen, with multiple Kansas citizens on both sides of the issue. The Secretary of State’s office was officially neutral, though it was noted that currently none of the election equipment in Kansas is set up to conduct ranked choice voting.

In the House, hearings on banning false political advertising using generative artificial intelligence (AI) ([HB 2559](#)) and requiring signed statements of fair campaign practices ([HB 2576](#)) were held in House Elections. The AI issue is a big one, as generative AI can be used to make fake recordings or videos that appear real.

A bill that would require counties and cities to include a state form in all contracts ([HB 2537](#)) was heard on Wednesday in House Local Government. KAC and the League of Municipalities proposed

an amendment related to population and class of city on this bill. The committee may consider that amendment when they work the bill.

Senate Tax heard [SB 377](#), which deals with a multitude of tax provisions on Wednesday, but the bigger news is that the Senate did not attempt a veto override on [HB 2284](#), which the Governor vetoed last Friday afternoon. The current information is that the veto override will be attempted next week, so keep an eye on that to see how that might impact the other legislation.

What's Coming Next Week

We hope to see everyone this upcoming week at County Day at the Capitol. This is another great opportunity to interact with state leaders and let them know about the important work that is being done in your county.

The big thing to watch this week is the veto override. There is a lot riding on what happens to HB 2284. As a refresher, the bill appears to have enough votes to override in the House, where it passed with 81 votes initially. 84 votes are needed to override the veto, and indications are that the House has as many as 86 votes to override the veto. Where it gets tricky is the Senate. The bill passed with 25 votes, two short of the 27 necessary to override a veto. Four senators did not vote on the conference committee report when it was initially on the Senate floor – Holland, Doll, Haley and O'Shea. Senate Republicans need two of those four to vote to override, otherwise the veto is sustained. We could see an override attempt on Tuesday afternoon. The Senate generally takes the floor around 2:30.

[SB 346](#) will be heard in Senate Local Government on Tuesday, February 6 at 9:30 AM. This bill was supposed to have been heard this week, but was rescheduled. The bill deals with zoning amendments. KAC is working with zoning and planning officials to determine the right type of testimony on this bill.

Also on Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee will hear [HB 2599](#), which would limit the fees that a governmental entity could collect under the Kansas Open Records Act. KAC supports open government and transparency but has specific concerns about some of the limitations contained in this bill, which could pass costs on to other taxpayers. As a result, KAC will oppose the language in this bill.

The House Health and Human Services committee will hear [HB 2637](#), which deals with licensure for rural hospitals that have closed recently. For those in rural communities that have had a hospital close since 2015, this bill should be monitored.

[SB 349](#), which includes funding for passenger rail service (a KAC legislative priority) will be heard by the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday at 8:30 AM.

The Plastic bag ban bill is back. [HB 2446](#) will be heard in Senate Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 AM on Tuesday. KAC opposes this bill because it potentially interferes with the county responsibilities of solid waste management. Additionally, KAC opposes this bill as an invasion of local control more broadly.

The House Elections committee has two bills that should be noted for next Thursday, February 8. [HB 2571](#) would make advance mail ballots provisional until they are verified. [HB 2572](#) would require that any advance ballot be delivered personally and that the person making the delivery provide photo identification. Both bills will be heard Thursday in House Elections at 3:30 PM.

[HB 2537](#), the municipal contracts bill, is scheduled to have final action on Monday at 9:00 AM in the House Local Government committee.

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