



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update ***February 9, 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, a big thank you to all of the county officials that attended County Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 8. This event was a success because of all of the involvement of county officials from across the state. It was a great turnout and we hope to see you all again next year.

I told you last week that the big thing to watch was the veto override. If you have ever had the pleasure of watching a phone to see if it would ring, that’s what this was—nothing happened. There are rumors now that the House may be having trouble getting all of the members in favor in the chamber at the same time to override the veto, or may not have the votes at all. Regardless of which of those is true, time is now a factor. It is still unclear whether the Senate has enough votes to override, and if there are also questions on the House side now, that makes an override attempt even trickier.

While this bill doesn’t directly impact counties, it is important because it is such a large tax package. It has essentially sucked all of the air out of the building on other tax issues, with nothing of substance moving. It is likely it will stay that way until something happens with the HB 2284 Conference Committee Report. Watch this space.

[SB 346](#) was heard in Senate Local Government on Tuesday, February 6 at 9:30 AM. KAC opposed this bill as an invasion on local control, but also because this bill does not appear to solve the problems that many of the proponents highlighted. There may be some interest from the committee to do something with zoning, but more of the attention of the proponents seemed to focus on annexation and the three mile radius of cities than the issues actually covered in the bill, which would prevent counties and cities from initiating zoning changes.

Also on Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee heard [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 raised specific concerns about some of the limitations contained in this bill. KAC is working with the League of Municipalities to make the transparency provisions in this bill more workable.

The House Health and Human Services committee heard [HB 2637](#), which deals with licensure for rural hospitals that have closed recently. KAC is monitoring this bill.

[SB 349](#), which includes funding for passenger rail service (a KAC legislative priority) was heard by the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday. KAC supports passenger rail service in Kansas and is monitoring the progress of this bill.

The Plastic bag ban bill is back. [HB 2446](#) This bill advanced out of committee when the Senate Federal and State chair broke a committee tie to advance the bill to the floor favorably. It is unclear where this bill's fate lies, as bills that struggle to emerge from committee often struggle on the floor as well.

The House Elections committee had two bills of note this week. [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 were heard Thursday in House Elections.

[HB 2537](#), the municipal contracts bill, advanced out of the House Local Government committee with amendments recommended by KAC and the League of Municipalities. It is below the line in the House at this time.

What's Coming Next Week

Next week's calendar is in flux. There are rumors that a Chiefs championship could eliminate much of the Monday slate, as well as Wednesday when the parade is expected to take place. We likely won't know that until late Sunday night, or early on Monday, so watch KAC Legislative Updates for more information as we learn more.

[SB 373](#), the bill that would forbid use of public funds for lobbying either directly or indirectly, is scheduled for a hearing on Monday in Senate Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 AM.

[SB 384](#), which would allow EMS providers to have only one certified provider on stable transfers, will continue its hearing on Tuesday in Senate Local Government at 9:30 AM. There may be amendments to this bill prior to it being moved out of committee.

[SB 332](#), which would fund the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and use that money to fund rebates to residential homeowners. KAC will submit testimony on this bill. It will be heard in Senate Assessment and Taxation at 9:30 AM on Tuesday.

[HB 2690](#) will also be heard on Tuesday at 9:00 AM in the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications committee. This bill would eliminate the 911 Commission and replace it with the State 911 Board.

Two bills of importance are being heard in the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee this week. On Wednesday at 8:30 AM [SB 390](#), which would allow for conscientious refusal by individuals on vaccines. On Thursday at 8:30 AM the same committee will hear [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.

[SB 468](#) would forbid cities and counties that grant tax incentives or other tax increment financing from exceeding the revenue neutral rate. That bill will be heard in Senate Assessment and Taxation at 9:30 AM on Wednesday.

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.

Finally, [SB 367](#) will be heard in Senate Federal and State Affairs on Thursday at 10:30 AM. That bill would prohibit the use of federal funds for election purposes without legislative approval.

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