



## **Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update** **January 19, 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](http://www.kslegresearch.org) under the Publications tab by searching the 2023 Summary of Legislation and 2023 Legislative Highlights.

### **What Happened This Week**

As mentioned last week, the attention this week centered on the tax package. That package, which was placed in a [conference committee report for HB 2284](#), includes several items:

- Replacing the individual income tax brackets with a single rate of 5.25%
- Exempting social security income from the individual income tax
- Providing annual standard deduction increases with a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)
- Reducing the privilege tax rate paid by banks
- Providing an increase in the personal exemption amounts and including future COLA increases
- Accelerating the elimination of the state food sales tax to July 1, 2024
- Increasing the statewide property tax exemption for the school finance levy to \$100,000

Most of these items are similar to items in the Governor’s tax proposal. The major difference is the single income tax rate of 5.25%. The Senate passed this package on a [25-11 vote](#), with 4 senators not voting. The House passed the package on an [81-37 vote](#), with 7 representatives not voting. The Governor has already promised to veto any package containing the single income tax rate. A veto override would require 27 votes in the Senate and 84 votes in the House.

The Senate Assessment and Taxation committee began a hearing on [HB 2036](#), which would grant a property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans. The hearing was supposed to be on Tuesday (proponents) and Wednesday (opponents), but the Tuesday hearing was cancelled. As a result, the hearing did not begin until Wednesday, and was not complete when the committee time expired. It will be held over to next week.

A storyline to watch is an increase in the number of election bills that have been introduced. There have been more than a dozen election related bills introduced already this session. In a year with a

presidential election, large scale changes are always something to watch for, since implementation timelines can get tricky depending on when bills are actually passed. While election day may not be until August and November, preparations such as ballot printing a mailing for military personnel begin well before that, so changes can impact those timelines. KAC is monitoring these bills to determine which, if any, may advance. Watch this space for updates.

## **What's Coming Next Week**

Local Government Day is next Wednesday, January 24! We invite county officials to join us in Topeka to hear from state leaders about their plans and how that will impact counties.

KAC will present to the House Local Government committee on Monday at 9 AM. Our presentation will cover who KAC is as an organization, as well as the function of counties in Kansas. The Senate Local Government Committee will get a briefing on LAVTR on Thursday at 9:30 AM. While KAC is not scheduled to present at this time, this briefing could be helpful in getting this issue on the mind of other senators, which is critical in building support in that chamber.

The Senate Assessment and Taxation committee was not able to finish its hearing on HB 2036, which would grant a property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans. This hearing should wrap up next Wednesday.

[HB 2446](#) will be heard in the Senate Federal and State Affairs committee on Tuesday at 10:30 AM. This bill is widely known as the Ban on Plastic Bag Bans. While KAC takes no position on whether or not counties should enact these types of bans (that is a decision better left to you locally), because this is an invasion of local control, KAC opposes this legislation. More specifically on the issue of plastic bags and other single use items, because counties are responsible for solid waste management, KAC is wary of banning the regulation of what items may be utilized or disposed of in the county, which could impact solid waste and landfill management.

[SB 343](#), which prohibits county election officials from mailing out advance ballots unless requested by the voter, will be heard by the Senate Federal and State Affairs committee on Wednesday at 10:30 AM. As mentioned before, there are a number of election bills that KAC will be monitoring, and will be supporting election officials in their testimony.

The Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance committee will hear an update on KPERS on Thursday at 9:30 AM. While there will be no testimony here, this is a follow up to the information received by the joint committee during the interim session.

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](http://www.kslegislature.org).

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

2023 anticipated Legislative deadlines can be found at:  
[https://kslegislature.org/li/documents/2024\\_session\\_deadlines.pdf](https://kslegislature.org/li/documents/2024_session_deadlines.pdf)