



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update ***March 1, 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

This week was a short week, with the Legislature not returning from Turnaround until Wednesday, and having a pro forma day on Friday. With many committees not meeting on Wednesday, either, the only full day of activity was Thursday.

[HB 2806](#), which would place limit the fees that counties can charge to telecommunications providers and video service providers operating in the county right-of-way, had a hearing in the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications committee on Thursday. The committee did ask questions as to why the guidelines applied to cities and the ones proposed for counties are not the same. KAC submitted testimony on this bill and will monitor its progress.

That lends itself to a thin recap of the week that was. Many committees only met once, and many of the bills that KAC is watching did not receive any activity this week, so it is worthwhile to highlight some of the blessed bills that KAC is monitoring.

- [SB 390](#), which would allow for conscientious refusal by individuals on vaccines, was blessed, however, being sent to Senate Ways and Means. This bill had a hearing in Senate Public Health and is being pushed by some on the committee. It’s fate on the Senate floor, however, remains unclear.
- [SB 273](#), which would eliminate the three mile area around cities in which they can exercise zoning and planning, was also blessed via Ways and Means. This bill did not receive a hearing last year, but land use and zoning authority have been getting a lot of interest this session. It would not be surprising if this bill got some momentum.
- [HB 2704](#), which would limit the authority of cities and counties to regulate “no impact” home based businesses. This bill had a hearing on February 19, and will be worked next week (likely Wednesday).

- [HB 2381](#), which would require that all children in need of care be appointed an attorney rather than a guardian ad litem. KAC has been visiting with other stakeholders on this bill. It is currently not scheduled for any action, but may have a hearing later this session.
- [HB 2723](#), which would make appropriations in the Department of Aging and Disability Services budget for a program to aid cities in developing infrastructure for homeless shelters. I highlight this bill because, although it does not deal directly with counties, the issue of homelessness is having a large impact on Kansas counties. This bill is being heard on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:30 PM in the House Welfare committee.

In addition to these, the House has introduced a bill to do away with not only the local ad valorem tax reduction fund (LAVTR), but also the county-city revenue sharing (CCRS) and the special city-county highway fund (SCCHF). These three programs were designed to help local governments offset costs, but are now being proposed to be eliminated under [HB 2815](#). This bill has not been scheduled for a hearing at this time.

There is an amendment proposed for [SB 487](#), which deals with the ability for counties to contract with other counties for the provision of public service answering point (PSAP) services that would clarify that the government entity (since some PSAPs are run by cities) could contract with another entity and determine what they would pay that other government entity. [HB 2690](#) deals with much of the same subject matter and is progressing on the Senate side, with a hearing scheduled for next week.

What's Coming Next Week

Two bills that KAC is keeping an eye on are on the schedule for Monday. They are in different committees and approach the issue in different ways, but both deal with foreign adversaries.

[HB 2739](#) would require state managed funds to divest from investments with identified foreign adversaries. It will be heard on Monday in the House Financial Institutions and Pensions committee at 9 AM.

[HB 2766](#) would prohibit foreign principals from certain countries from holding an interest in certain real property in Kansas.

KAC is monitoring these bills.

[HB 2661](#), which would require that vacancies in county commissioner districts created by an increase in the number of commissioner districts be filled at the next general election, as well as providing for continuing to stagger the terms of commissioners, is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday in Senate Local Government at 9:30 AM. KAC is supporting this bill. It passed the House on a 120-0 vote. [HB 2587](#), which would allow the board of directors of a drainage district to go into executive sessions under the open meetings act (KOMA) will be heard during that same meeting.

As mentioned above, [HB 2723](#), which would make appropriations in the Department of Aging and Disability Services budget for a program to aid cities in developing infrastructure for homeless shelters has a hearing on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:30 PM in the House Welfare Reform committee.

[HB 2690](#) would eliminate the 911 Commission and replace it with the State 911 Board. The bill also allows counties to contract with other counties for 911 PSAP services. It has a hearing on Wednesday, March 6 at 1:30 PM in Senate Utilities.

The Sedgwick County nuisance abatement law needs to be renewed this year. [SB 362](#) would do just that. The bill passed the Senate by a 34-5 margin. It will have a hearing in House Local Government on Wednesday at 9:00 AM.

House Elections has scheduled informational hearings on [SB 368](#) (prohibiting ranked choice voting) and [SB 365](#) (requiring advance voting ballots be returned by 7 PM on election day). This typically is done while the committee is waiting on the bills to be formally referred to the committee. In this case, however, neither bill has advanced out of the Senate yet. This suggests that the House committee is anticipating receiving those bills at some point and is trying to get their work done so they do not waste time while those bills move on the Senate floor.

Some bills KAC is continuing to track include:

- [HB 2704](#), which would limit the authority of cities and counties to regulate “no impact” home based businesses. This bill could be worked in the House committee next week after being blessed prior to Turnaround;
- [HB 2734](#), which would require that improvement districts expire after five years if improvements have not been carried out within that district;
- [SB 373](#), the bill that would forbid use of public funds for lobbying either directly or indirectly;
- [SB 332](#), which would fund the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and use that money to fund rebates to residential homeowners;
- [SB 196](#), which would restore funding to the local ad valorem tax reduction fund according to the statutory formula;
- [SB 367](#) would prohibit the use of federal funds for election purposes without legislative approval;
- [SB 468](#) would forbid cities and counties that grant tax incentives or other tax increment financing from exceeding the revenue neutral rate;

In addition, tax bills are generally exempt because they are usually referred to or introduced in exempt committees. The 4% cap on valuation increases ([SCR 1611](#)) is likely to get a look from the House after Turnaround. There are also other tax proposals in the House that are rumored to be introduced after Turnaround now that the CCR for HB 2284 is officially dead.

There are rumors that the promised hearing on Medicaid Expansion after Turnaround could happen in the next week or two, though it does not appear on the scheduled at this time. KAC will continue to monitor this.

Several committees in both the House and Senate have not released their schedules for next week at the time of this writing. As a result, things could change or be added that KAC staff is not aware of at this time, but will work to keep you informed as soon as we find out about newly scheduled items.

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