Legislative Update February 14, 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Kansas Legislative Session. This is the second year of the biennium, so bills and resolutions from the 2019 Session carried over to the 2020 Session. As a result, the bill numbers will not start over at 1 and 2001, but will pick up where they left off last session. Additionally, bills that “died” in committee last year have been revived and are available for debate.

For a review of common legislative terms, please refer to the “Common Legislative Terms” list on the www.KansasCounties.org website in the “Services” Tab under “Legislative,” or bookmark http://www.kansascounties.org/services/legislative/common-legislative-terms.pdf/view

Summaries of all legislation passed during the 2019 session can be found at www.kslegresearch.org under the Publications tab by searching the 2019 Summary of Legislation and 2019 Legislative Highlights.

What Happened this Week

There were two major competing storylines this week in the Legislature. On one hand, you had the fallout from the failed Constitutional Amendment vote on Friday. On the other, you had the first major set of deadlines passing this week.

The fallout from the failed Constitutional Amendment is still difficult to determine. As of now, Medicaid Expansion has stalled in committee. Whether that is temporary or more long term is still up in the air. KAC will continue to monitor this situation, as it may affect other legislation as well if more bills stall.

With Turnaround Day now less than two weeks away, deadlines are starting to be a part of the story in the Statehouse. The deadline for introducing bills in non-exempt committees has now passed, so any ideas that are yet to be introduced will either have to go through an exempt committee (i.e., Tax committees, Ways and Means, Appropriations, Fed and State, etc.) or wait until next year.

In addition to those headlines, SB 294 was worked in committee on Thursday. This bill, as introduced, would require notice and hearings for any increase in tax revenue above the previous year. KAC opposed the bill as introduced for a number of reasons, including the burden on county clerks, the overwhelming notice requirements, and the impossibility of implementing the hearing requirements.
The bill was heavily amended on Thursday, with one amendment potentially removing the tax lid if the bill were to pass. Because some of the amendments were conceptual, KAC is awaiting final language prior to fully evaluating the bill.

Elsewhere, the broadband grant fund bill (HB 2618) was heard in House Utilities this week. This bill was part of the recommendations from the Broadband Task Force. KAC supported this bill, and will continue to monitor the progress of this legislation, as well as other recommendations from the task force.

**What’s Coming Next Week**

The deadlines are approaching, and that means hearings are stacking up, as committees attempt to hear and work bills ahead of Turnaround Day. That means that the list of bills up for hearing is lengthy this week, with lots of activity in multiple committees.

If you have questions on any hearings listed below, or do not see a bill that you are interested in, feel free to email or call KAC for more information. If you want to submit testimony on any of these bills, but cannot make it to Topeka, you can email your testimony to me for submission. Please send your testimony in PDF format. All testimony is due 24 hours prior to the hearing (for Monday hearings, testimony must be submitted on Friday).

**Monday, February 17:**

HB 2529, which would make amendments to the STAR bonds program, will be heard in the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee at 1:30 PM in room 112-N

**Tuesday, February 18:**

HB 2588, the FORWARD transportation program, will be heard in the House Appropriations committee at 9:00 AM in room 112-N

SB 265, which would require BOTA to serve notices by electronic means if requested by a party, will be heard in the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee at 9:30 in room 548-S

SB 262, which would change the time to request a full opinion from BOTA, will be heard in the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee at 9:30 in room 548-S

SB 297, which would require appraisal directives to require compliance with uniform standard of professional appraisal practice, will be heard in the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee at 9:30 in room 548-S
SB 375, the FORWARD transportation program, will be heard in the Senate Ways and Means committee at 10:30 AM in room 548-S

HB 2529, which would make amendments to the STAR bonds program, will be heard in the House Commerce Committee at 1:30 PM in room 112-N (continuation, if necessary)

HB 2505, which would allow for greater use of detention for juvenile offenders, will be heard in the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice committee at 1:30 PM in room 152-S

HB 2424, which would make changes to the investigations and open records laws relating to officer involved deaths, will be heard in the House Judiciary committee at 3:30 PM in room 346-S

HB 2576, which would require county treasurers to mail property tax bills by December 10 each year, will be heard in the House Tax committee at 3:30 PM in room 112-N

Wednesday, February 19:

HB 2522, which would establish the rural hospital innovation program, will be heard in the House Appropriations committee at 9:00 AM in room 112-N

HB 2600, which would require that all contracts for deed be filed with the Register of Deeds within 10 days of execution, will be heard in the House Local Government committee at 9:00 AM in room 218-N

SB 351, which would ensure that eligible voters whose names are not in the poll book, but are otherwise eligible, would have their votes counted, will be heard in the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government at 9:30 in room 142-S

SB 301, which would change annual property valuation to triennial, will be heard in the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee at 9:30 in room 548-S

SB 375, the FORWARD transportation program, will be heard in the Senate Ways and Means committee at 10:30 AM in room 548-S (continuation, if necessary)

HB 2440, which would allow for the election of county appraisers, will be heard in the House Tax committee at 3:30 in room 112-N

Thursday, February 20

SB 247, which would prohibit cities and counties from using photographic traffic signal enforcement systems, will be heard in the Senate Transportation committee at 8:30 AM in room 546-S
SB 309, which would place the burden of proof on county appraisers on appeal hearings in the district court, will be heard in the Senate Taxation and Assessment Committee at 9:30 AM in room 548-S.

SB 412, which would extend permanent advance voting status to any registered voter, subject to certain provisions, will be heard in the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government at 9:30 in room 142-S.

HB 2625, which would preempt cities and counties from prohibiting or regulating paper or plastic bags and other single use plastic items, will be heard in the House Commerce committee at 1:30 PM in room 112-N.

As with all legislative meetings, the schedule is fluid and subject to change on short notice. Additionally, please watch for email blasts from KAC for important hearings that have been added to the calendar, and please watch your individual affiliate and associate groups for discussion on bills that relate directly to your county office.

**Other Resources**

For daily information on things happening in the Legislature, follow @KansasCounties and @JayHallKS.

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).