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

The one thing you know about Turnaround week is that you never know about Turnaround week until after it happens. With that in mind, we will look at the week in reverse, starting with some of the bills that were “blessed” and survived Turnaround week even though they did not pass their chamber of origin.

The Forward transportation program was introduced in Appropriations and Ways and Means in the House and Senate, respectively. Because of that, those bills were already exempt and not subject to the normal deadlines. They will likely be worked in conjunction with the budget.

SB 351, which would allow county clerks to count more provisional ballots, was referred to Senate Ways and Means so that it could be studied a bit further. Once it is referred back to Local Government, Ethics and Elections, that committee will continue their work. Amendments to clarify that bill are likely.

HB 2461, which would prohibit counties from entering into contingent fee legal contracts without the permission of the Attorney General’s Office, was blessed. KAC is monitoring this bill, as there is great concern about the permission aspect of the bill and whether that could prevent counties from best protecting their interests in some cases. Amendments are also likely on this bill.

HB 2180, which would change the fees attributed to counties for motor vehicle titling to a flat fee of $9.50 was blessed. KAC is supporting this bill as a means of having
transparency in the fee structure at the county level, as well as allowing the fee to pay for the expenses associated with that work in the County Treasurers office, rather than having to draw from the county general funds to subsidize this. I do not know of any further changes coming for this bill.

HB 2529, which would renew the expiring STAR bonds economic development program, has been sent to an exempt committee. House and Senate committee leaders are still working on a compromise position that will allow the program to continue. The current uncertainty has endangered a couple of potential projects. The intent is to at least hammer out an extension to ensure that those projects move forward.

Several other bills in both chambers were blessed. If you have questions about any of those, or any specific bills, please contact KAC. Bills from non-exempt committees that were not blessed are now “dead.” Of course, although these bills are currently “dead”, these bills have not yet been buried. They could be “revived” at a later time.

SB 294, the notice and hearing bill that has been opposed by KAC, passed the Senate with three amendments. KAC supported two additional amendments – one allowing for a consumer price index adjustment for the budget amount, the other allowing to automatically add new growth into the budget amount – but both amendments were rejected. This bill will now move to the House, where KAC will continue to work. KAC has interest in some other amendments that may improve the bill. With the Senate having passed it, this bill is now eligible to go to Conference Committee, so we have to keep an eye on that.

Several appraisal related bills were also advanced by the Senate. They include:

- SB 262, which changes the time to request a full opinion from BOTA;
- SB 297, which requires appraisers to comply with uniform standards of professional appraisal practice;
- SB 264, which would restrict individuals fired as county appraisers from working in a different county in the future;
- SB 272, which would prohibit property valuation from increasing during the appeals process;
- SB 295, which would prohibit valuation increases as a result of “normal maintenance” (note: the term “normal maintenance” is not defined in the bill);
- SB 266, which requires appraisal courses to be approved by the Kansas Real Estate Appraisal Board (note: the real estate appraisal board does not currently offer a mass appraisal designation, which is what county appraisers do);
- SB 265, which requires BOTA to serve orders electronically if requested by the party;

In addition, SB 380, which would prevent counties from regulating the right of way on video service providers for the provision of wireless service, passed through the Senate. The restriction includes any notice or permit requirements for utilizing right of way, including street closures. While the industry says that they would still provide that notice, that language is not currently in the bill that passed. It moves on to the House, where we will work to get that language explicitly stated in the bill.

As stated at the beginning, there was a lot of activity this week. If you have questions about anything you see here (or something that you do not), please contact KAC for more information.

**What’s Coming Next Week**

Next week is a short week for the Legislature. With Turnaround, the legislature is off until next Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

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)

2020 Legislative deadlines can be found at [www.kslegislature.org/li/documents/2020_deadline_card.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/documents/2020_deadline_card.pdf)