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

Deadlines are quickly approaching in the Kansas Legislature. In fact, one important deadline has already passed. February 3 was the deadline for individual members to request bill drafts from the Revisor’s office. Monday, February 10 is the deadline for committees to request bill drafts. That means that the rapid pace of bill introductions is nearing its end. Next week, the deadlines for individual members and non-exempt committees to introduce bills will pass (February 12 and February 14, respectively).

The legislature had a strange week this week, with the entire legislature shutting down on Wednesday to celebrate the Super Bowl victory for the Kansas City Chiefs. That calendar change may end up being very important later on – with only so many days until Turnaround Day (the day by which non-exempt bills must pass their house of origin) on February 27, losing an entire day of committee work could see some bills simply run out of time, as calendars get crowded with lots of other work. Keep an eye on the hearing calendar, and on how ambitious the committee chairs in non-exempt committees are over the next week and a half, as it is likely that the final two or three days leading up to Turnaround Day will be spent heavily on the floor in both chambers.

As I write this update, the House is still on the floor voting on the Constitutional amendment. There is a call of the House that has been on for more than three hours now. It is unclear what will happen from here on that measure.

This week was another busy week in Senate Tax, with KAC appearing in opposition to two bills – SB 294 and SB 295. SB 295 would prohibit an increase in valuation based on
normal maintenance. While KAC supports and encourages property owners to maintain their property, the ambiguity surrounding what is “normal” maintenance and what is “improvements” is a concern.

SB 294 would require the amount of property tax collected by local units of government to remain flat year to year (with no allowance for growth or inflation) unless an additional notice was mailed to each property owner, and an additional hearing was held. While KAC is a proponent of government transparency, SB 294 does not provide any additional transparency to taxpayers. Instead, it will increase the costs of the budget process due to the mailing requirement to collect any additional revenue, combined with the fact that counties cannot capture any additional revenue from growth in the area despite needing to offer services (roads, EMS, law enforcement, etc.) to those areas.

KAC would like to thank all of the county officials that submitted testimony or spoke at the hearings this week, as well as all of the county officials that came to the hearing to show support for KAC and their fellow Kansans.

**What's Coming Next Week**

One of the consequences of missing a day in the middle of the week is trying to catch up the next week. That means committees will likely meet every day to make up for the lost time.

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 10:**

Debate and potential action in Senate Public Health and Welfare on SB 252 (Medicaid Expansion) at 9:30 AM in room 118-N.

Hearings on HB 2513 (marketplace facilitator sales tax and guest tax) and HB 2537 (remote sellers making $100,000 in gross receipts) in House Taxation at 3:30 PM in room 112-N.

**Tuesday, February 11:**

Debate and potential action in Senate Public Health and Welfare on SB 252 (Medicaid Expansion) at 9:30 AM in room 118-N.

Hearing on SB 242 (property tax abatement for agricultural property destroyed by natural disaster) in Senate Assessment and Taxation at 9:30 AM in room 548-S.
Hearing on SB 279 (humanitarian services organization property tax exemption) in Senate Assessment and Taxation at 9:30 AM in room 548-S.

Hearing on SB 338 (alternate budget procedure) in Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government at 9:30 AM in room 142-S

Wednesday, February 12:

Hearing on SB 361 (rights for public employees for withholding public employee organization and professional employee organization dues) in Senate Commerce at 8:30 AM in room 548-S.

Hearing on SB 310 (requiring voting systems to use individual voter-verified paper ballots) in Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government at 9:30 AM in room 142-S.

Hearing on HB 2520 (military surplus vehicles for road use) in House Transportation at 1:30 PM in room 582-N.

Thursday, February 13

Hearing on HB 2563 (raising minimum age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21) in House Federal and State Affairs at 9:00 AM in room 346-S.

Hearing on SB 362 (allowing cities and counties to regulate or ban fireworks) in Senate Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 AM in room 144-S.

Hearing on HB 2528 (allowing all vehicles more than 35 years old to qualify as antique vehicles) in House Transportation at 1:30 in room 582-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

2020 Legislative deadlines can be found at www.kslegislature.org/li/documents/2020_deadline_card.pdf