

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC Kansas

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825 S Kansas Ave, Suite 500 Topeka, KS 66612 Phone (785)357-1824 Fax(785)233-2206 e-mail scott@acecks.org

There were two major developments this week at the Capitol. The first was the convening of the Engineering Success for the Future task force.....that was the good news. The second was the introduction of HB 2372, which would basically repeal the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) on state projects and have design services selected on the basis of lowest responsible bidder.....that was the bad news.

Senate President Steve Morris, along with other legislative leaders, has created a task force to address the shortage of engineers. The committee includes the following members: Pete Brungardt, Chair, Terrie Huntington, Vice Chair, Milak Talia, Forrest Knox, John Grange, Marci Fransisco, Bob Marshall, Oletha Faust-Goudeau and Roger Reitz. The committee heard a presentation by Dr. Gary Alexander, Vice President of Academic Affairs for the Kansas Board of Regents. His comments brought the committee up to date on recent activities to increase the number of engineering graduates from our Regents institutions. (The Board of Regents has established a working group comprised of academia and the business community to begin exploring ideas.) He indicated that KU, KSU and WSU were all at capacity in their engineering schools. Additional classrooms, labs and faculty would be required to increase the number of graduates. All of the schools had a large number of students from outside the US. He urged the committee to look for ways to encourage young Kansans to look toward engineering as a career. He said we need to create interest and enthusiasm in our grade schools, high schools and community colleges about a career in engineering. The committee will meet again next Monday, March 16. It plans to have comments from the deans of KU, KSU and WSU.

The word on the street is that HB 2372, repealing QBS for state projects, was requested by Law Kingdon, a construction and design firm in Wichita. Nobody seems to be sure why such a request was made. The good news is that ACEC, along with AIA Kansas, have already begun letting legislative leaders and other groups know that this issue will elicit a nuclear response from the design committee if it's allowed to gain any traction. At this point, it doesn't sound like any action will be taken. The bill is not scheduled for hearing next week, and the session is rapidly winding to a close.

Speaking of bills that are not receiving any attention, we are pleased to share that HB 2348 (imposing sales tax on professional services) is still languishing in committee with no hearings scheduled. It's not over until the gavel falls, but it's looking like this bill is DOA.

HB 2014, which would (in addition to other things) allow the construction of the coal fired power plants in Holcomb, is currently in conference committee. There were thoughts that the bill might sail out of conference committee this week, but as of this writing on Friday morning that has not happened.

The session is rapidly nearing first adjournment, which is scheduled for April 4. Next week should be the last full week of committee hearings, with action shifting to the floors of each chamber. Stay tuned....

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 9 Legislative Educational Planning Committee	State educational institutions; relating to construction improvement projects	In House Education Budget	03/04/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Tuesday, 3/10/2009, 3:30 PM, Rm 531-N
SB 29 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	State Board of Technical Professions; relating to licensure	On General Orders in House	03/11/2009 - House Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Commerce and Labor
SB 36 Senate Commerce Committee	Cities and counties; relating to the Transportation Development District Act; special assessments	In Senate Commerce	01/21/2009 - Senate Scheduled Hearing: Wednesday, 1/28/2009, 8:30 AM, Rm 545-N
SB 52 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Cities and counties; relating to special benefit districts therein; relating to costs of improvements	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	01/22/2009 - Senate Referred to Federal and State Affairs
SB 64 Special Committee on Eminent Domain in Condemnation of Water Rights	Kansas Water Appropriation Act	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/27/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Tuesday, 3/3/2009, 3:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
SB 65 Special Committee on Eminent Domain in Condemnation of Water Rights	Eminent domain; relating to water rights	In Senate Natural Resources	01/23/2009 - Senate Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 1/29/2009, 8:30 AM, Rm 446-N
SB 78 Senate Commerce Committee	Transportation development districts	In House Taxation	03/04/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 3/12/2009, 9:00 AM, Rm 535-N
H Sub for SB 91 Senate Local Government Committee	Planning and zoning; dealing with vesting of development rights	On General Orders in House	03/11/2009 - House Committee Report: Substitute be passed by Commerce and Labor
SB 112 Senate Judiciary Committee	Kansas Act Against Discrimination; relating to disability	In Senate Judiciary	02/18/2009 - Senate Withdrawn from Ways and Means; rereferred to Judiciary

SB 119 Senate Commerce Committee	Enacting the Community Improvement District Act	In House Economic Development and Tourism	02/25/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Monday, 3/2/2009, 3:30 PM, Rm 711 DSOB
SB 142 Senate Transportation Committee	Transportation; relating to designation of certain highway segments as safety corridors by the Secretary of Transportation; establishing the traffic safety corridor fund	Killed in Senate	02/19/2009 - Senate Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be further amended; be passed as amended; Emergenced to Final Action: Not Passed; Yeas 18, Nays 22
SB 165 Senate Ways and Means Committee	State water plan fund; relating to increasing fees that contribute to the fund	In Senate Ways and Means	02/18/2009 - Senate Scheduled Hearing: Tuesday, 2/24/2009, 10:30 AM, Rm 545-N
SB 187 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Enacting the State Fire Marshal Commissioned Inspector Act	Pending enrollment and presentation to Governor	03/11/2009 - House Final Action: Passed; Yeas 118, Nays 3
SB 229 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Employment; relating to misclassification of employees	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	02/06/2009 - Senate Referred to Federal and State Affairs
SB 257 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Cities; relating to public improvements outside the city limits	On Final Action in Senate	03/11/2009 - Senate Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be passed as amended
SB 271 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Counties; relating to bidding requirements on certain contracts	In Senate Local Government	02/25/2009 - Senate Scheduled Hearing: Tuesday, 3/3/2009, 9:30 AM, Rm 446-N
SB 301 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Land surveys	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	03/05/2009 - Senate Referred to Federal and State Affairs
SB 302 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Transportation; relating to intermodal transportation projects, and providing for the financing thereof	In Senate Transportation	03/05/2009 - Senate Referred to Transportation; Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 3/12/2009, 8:30 AM, Rm 136-N
S Sub for Sub for HB 2014 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Energy; relating to conservation and electric generation, transmission and efficiency and air emissions	In Conference Committee	03/11/2009 - House Change of conferees; Knox to replace Moxley
HB 2015	Energy efficiency; relating to	In House Energy	01/15/2009 - House

House Energy and Utilities Committee	standards for certain owned or leased property, equipment or vehicles	and Utilities	Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 1/22/2009, 9:00 AM, Rm 783 Docking
HB 2016 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Utilities; relating to emissions	In House Energy and Utilities	01/15/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 1/22/2009, 9:00 AM, Rm 783 Docking
Sub for HB 2029 Special Committee on Eminent Domain in Condemnation of Water Rights	Cities; relating to annexation	On Final Action in House	03/11/2009 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report recommending substitute bill be adopted; be amended; substitute be passed as amended
HB 2030 Special Committee on Eminent Domain in Condemnation of Water Rights	Cities; relating to annexation	In House Local Government	01/28/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 2/5/2009, 3:30 PM, Rm 446-N
Sub for HB 2050 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Water; relating to certain fees and disbursement thereof; concerning certain water permits	In Senate Natural Resources	03/05/2009 - Senate Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 3/12/2009, 8:30 AM, Rm 446-N
HB 2065 Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations	Intensive Groundwater Control Areas	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/23/2009 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2083 House Local Government Committee	Historic preservation; pertaining to environs review	In House Local Government	02/24/2009 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; rereferred to Local Government
HB 2084 Vincent Wetta, D-80th	Cities; relating to annexation of territory	On General Orders in House	02/24/2009 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; referred to Committee of the Whole
HB 2178 House Appropriations Committee	Abolishing the Kansas Turnpike Authority; transferring powers, duties and functions to the Kansas Department of Transportation	In House Transportation	02/04/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 2/12/2009, 1:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
HB 2182 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Department of Health and Environment; requiring the Kansas Air Quality Act be consistent and uniform with the Federal Clean Air Act	In House Energy and Utilities	02/04/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 2/5/2009, 9:00 AM, Rm 783 DSOB

HB 2216 House Elections Committee	Contracts with state agencies	In House Elections	02/04/2009 - House Referred to Elections
HB 2222 House Government Efficiency and Fiscal Oversight Committee	State agencies; relating to the collection of licenses, fees, charges, taxes and exactions	In Senate Ways and Means	02/25/2009 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
HB 2238 House Commerce and Labor Committee	Construction contracts; relating to retention in public and private construction contracts	In House Commerce and Labor	03/11/2009 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; rereferred to Commerce and Labor
HB 2272 House Appropriations Committee	Intensive groundwater use control areas	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/06/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Wednesday, 2/11/2009, 3:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
HB 2273 House Government Efficiency and Fiscal Oversight Committee	State agencies; providing for the development and implementation of a zero-based budget process	In House General Government Budget	03/04/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Wednesday, 3/11/2009, 1:30 PM, Rm 531-N
HB 2277 House Appropriations Committee	Public works projects for state agencies; prescribing payment of minimum wages for work thereon and preferences for certain employees to work thereon	In House Commerce and Labor	02/06/2009 - House Referred to Commerce and Labor
HB 2281 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Employment; relating to misclassification of employees	In House Taxation	02/06/2009 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2282 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Water districts; relating to lands annexed by cities	In House Local Government	02/18/2009 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; rereferred to Local Government
HB 2283 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Rural water districts; relating to procedures for release of lands from a district	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/04/2009 - House Scheduled Hearing: Monday, 3/9/2009, 3:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
HB 2284 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Water; relating to rural water districts; concerning transfer of certain property funds and records of such districts	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/06/2009 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2294 House Appropriations Committee	Minimum wage and maximum hours law	In House Commerce and Labor	02/06/2009 - House Referred to Commerce and Labor

HB 2309 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Appropriation of water	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/09/2009 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2318 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Rural water districts	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/09/2009 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2326 House Taxation Committee	Transportation Development District Act; relating to creation of district; requirements	In House Taxation	02/12/2009 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2348 House Taxation Committee	Sales taxation; relating to the imposition of tax on rendering or furnishing of services; rate of tax	In House Taxation	02/18/2009 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2372 House Appropriations Committee	Contracts with state agencies for certain professional services; relating to competitive bidding procedures	In House Appropriations	03/10/2009 - House Referred to Appropriations