

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC Kansas

No. 2 – January 21, 2011

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Week 2 was fairly quiet at the Capitol. Committees are starting to meet, but those meetings are primarily to allow bill introductions, help new legislators become familiar with committee rules and functions, and to hear broad overviews from leaders of state agencies and specific industries.

There are a few bills we've added to the bulletin, but no action has been taken, and there have been no hearings on these items. HB 2026 is one of what will likely be several bills on immigration. The major battle on this issue is whether or not employers will be mandated to use an E-verify system when hiring employees, and what liability will attach to the employer for failure to comply. HB 2036 will bear watching. It has to do with interpretation of federal statutes, regulations, and national building or fire codes. If other states interpret such items in a less restrictive manner, Kansas must do the same unless it "conflicts with a Kansas statute, regulation, or local ordinance or resolution". This could be problematic. It is not scheduled for hearings at this time.

Stay tuned...

Join us for Engineer Day at the Statehouse on February 2nd

ACEC-Kansas and KSPE are jointly sponsoring an Engineers Day at the Statehouse of February 2nd to provide our members with an opportunity to hear from key policy makers and visit with their legislators about the many issues important to PEs in this critical legislative session.

Protecting the future stream of revenue for the State Highway Fund is just one of the major challenges confronting Kansas Professional Engineers. Others key issues include:

- Funding expansion of the state's engineering colleges
- Supporting the sales tax exemption for professional services
- Protection of our water resources
- Funding for university deferred maintenance
- Investments in other critical infrastructure
- Protection of PE licensees scope of practice

Our agenda for February 2nd

10 a.m. – briefing by Ron Gaches and Scott Heidner

10:30 a.m. to Noon – meeting with your individual legislators

(note: House goes into session at 11 a.m.)

Noon to 1:30 p.m. – Lunch at the Celtic Fox with special guests

Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller

Senate Majority Leader Jay Emler

House Majority Leader Arlen Siegfried

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – addition time to meet with your legislators
(note: Senate goes into session at 2:30 p.m.)

Please RSVP to Judy Swanson at 785-233-2121 in you are planning to join us on February 2nd. We're hoping to have more than 40 PEs participate in this event.

How to contact your legislators to set an appointment

We encourage all PEs participating in the February 2nd event to schedule a short meeting with their state representative and senator while you are in Topeka.

The Kansas Legislature's website has been completely redesigned, much to the chagrin of those of us who were comfortable with the old site. The new site can be reached at

<http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>

For information about your House member and their Statehouse phone number go to

<http://www.kslegislature.org/li/chamber/house/>

For information about your Senate member and their Statehouse phone number go to

<http://www.kslegislature.org/li/chamber/senate/>

Displaying records 1 through 4 of the 4 bills in your tracking list			
Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 3 Legislative Post Audit Committee	Concerning water; establishing the Kansas natural resources subcabinet	In Senate Ways and Means	01/11/2011 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
HB 2026 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Kansas immigration accountability act	In House Federal and State Affairs	01/19/2011 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HB 2036 Bill Otto, R-9th	Interpretation of federal statutes; regulations and national codes	In House Judiciary	01/20/2011 - House Referred to Judiciary
HCR 5005 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Establishing targets for energy development, consumption and costs	In House Energy and Utilities	01/21/2011 - House Referred to Energy and Utilities; Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 1/27/2011, 9:00 AM, Rm 785 DSOB