

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC Kansas

No. 3 – January 28, 2011

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Week 3 saw the Capitol come alive with substantive hearings and the introduction of bills that, if passed, would have measurable impact on ACEC member firms and the state. Freshman legislators are getting settled into committee routines, and the passive committee meetings full of staff introductions, confirmation hearings, and other vanilla topics are giving way to more substantive debate.

HB 2091 is a bill with massive implications that we knew was coming, and it was introduced this week. HB 2091 would repeal the one cent sales tax passed last year, including the 4/10 of a cent that is to go to the transportation plan in future years. It is not likely this bill will become law, as the more moderate Senate is not likely to support it and Governor Brownback has not made its passage part of his economic agenda. There is a hearing scheduled Tuesday afternoon in House Tax.

HB 2036 is scheduled for a hearing Thursday in House Judiciary. This bill would require Kansas to take the least restrictive view of federal legislation and regulations held by any state in the country. This bill has been introduced in prior years and never made much progress. The new makeup of the Kansas legislature could change that in 2011.

HB 2072 was introduced this week and would require subcontractors to register with a new government entity to establish lien rights. This appears to be an initiative by large contractors on the vertical side (dams, roads, highways, bridges, and parking lots are exempt from the bill), and pits big firms against small. The Kansas Contractors Association vigorously opposes the bill, as do subcontractors, while the Associated General Contractors of Kansas are supportive. The bill will be heard Tuesday afternoon in House Judiciary.

HB 2088 is a reintroduction of a bill from the 2010 session which would prohibit local units of government from adopting codes that require single family residential homes to have sprinkler systems. This bill was very contentious last year, with home builders on one side and cities, counties, and fire officials on the other. This year, however, the bill was published Tuesday, heard in House Commerce Wednesday, and was passed almost unanimously by that committee Thursday. The same conferees and arguments were brought forth again, but with dramatically different results. It will now head to the House floor for action.

Activity will continue to pick up in the coming week. Stay tuned....

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

ACEC Kansas and the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) are jointly sponsoring an **Engineers Day at the Statehouse** on Wednesday, February 2 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 2

10:00 a.m. – Briefing by Ron Gaches (KSPE) and Scott Heidner (ACEC Kansas)
825 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 500 Topeka, KS 66612

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. – Additional time to meet with your legislators
(Note: Senate goes into session at 2:30 p.m.)

Please RSVP to Judy Swanson at 785-357-1824 or email judy@acecks.org if you are planning to join us on February 2. A sandwich bar will be available at the Celtic Fox for lunch, at a price of \$15 per person (this will include the sandwich bar, a drink, tax and gratuities). Please RSVP so that we will have an accurate count for lunch.

We're hoping for a great turnout at this event! See you next Wednesday!

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/>

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	01/26/2011 - House Scheduled Hearing: Thursday, 2/3/2011, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2065 House Local Government Committee	Cities annexation; deannexation; changes	In House Local Government	01/25/2011 - House Referred to Local Government
HB 2072 House Judiciary Committee	Civil procedure, commercial property liens; state construction registry, notice of commencement and notice of furnishings	In House Judiciary	01/26/2011 - House Scheduled Hearing: Tuesday, 2/1/2011, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2084 House Local Government Committee	Consolidation of cities and counties by dual majority vote	In House Local Government	01/26/2011 - House Referred to Local Government
HB 2088 House Commerce and Economic Development Committee	Municipalities; sprinkler systems, residential housing; changes	In House Commerce and Economic Development	01/26/2011 - House Referred to Commerce and Economic Development; Scheduled Hearing: Wednesday, 1/26/2011, 1:30 PM, Rm 785 DSOB
HB 2091 Lance Kinzer, R-14th	Decreasing rate of sales and compensating use tax	In House Taxation	01/26/2011 - House Referred to Taxation; Scheduled Hearing: Monday, 1/31/2011, 3:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
HB 2096 House Vision 2020 Committee	Providing for a coordinated water data repository system; granting preservation easements; drinking water costs in water plan storage rates	In House Vision 2020 In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/27/2011 - House Referred separately to Vision 2020 and Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2109 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Creating the Kansas dam rehabilitation program	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/27/2011 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources

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
HR 6008 House Energy and Utilities Committee	Opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory train wreck	In House Energy and Utilities	01/27/2011 - House Referred to Energy and Utilities