

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC Kansas

No. 2 – January 25, 2013

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Week 2 at the Capitol produced more revelations and proposals as it continues to be busier than usual for this early point in the session. The Governor's budget plan continues to unfold. The legislature was caught off guard this week when it was revealed that the Governor's plan removes the tax deduction for property taxes paid on homes. This issue, along with the proposal to eliminate the mortgage interest deduction and the extension of the 6/10 cent sales tax, have slowed the momentum of the Governor's budget. There has been speculation from many that the legislature might not offer much resistance to the Governor this session, but it is starting to appear otherwise on budget issues. These are not minor differences in policy. If any of the above three revenue proposals isn't included in the budget, it immediately creates a substantial hole that must be filled with spending cuts or tax increases. This will only continue to get more interesting as the session progresses.

Another potentially "high impact" budget item was the passage of the "pay go" rules in SCR 1604 and HR 6004. As we explained last week, these rules mean anytime a funding increase is proposed to a budget bill, it must be matched by a spending cut elsewhere to keep the impact neutral. The concern is that someone looking to add spending might account for it by proposing cuts to infrastructure investments.

A hearing is scheduled for Thursday in the Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee on SB 54, the update to the Board of Technical Professions licensure statutes. ACEC will appear and testify in support of the bill. When action on the bill is imminent, we will likely call on our members to contact their legislators to urge them to pass this bill. A companion bill, HB 2053, was introduced on the House side. There are no hearings scheduled on that bill.

Economic Lifelines has approved a position statement opposing the proposed transfers from the highway fund to the state general fund. The statement offered thanks to the Governor for his continued plans and efforts to complete the T-Works program and acknowledged that savings on things like financing and construction costs have provided overall savings. It also noted, however, that those trends will inevitably reverse and costs will go up. The statement suggests the savings realized today would be better used by reinvesting them in the highway plan to account for future cost increases or address additional infrastructure needs.

Stay tuned...

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 5 Oletha Faust-Goudeau, D-29th	Business entities; restricting the use of an acquired entity's name by an acquiring entity	In Senate Commerce	01/17/2013 - Senate Scheduled Hearing and Possible Action in Commerce: Thursday, 1/24/2013, 8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 15 Anthony Hensley, D-19th	Local ad valorem tax reduction fund; transfers to; distributions to political subdivisions	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	01/15/2013 - Senate Referred to Assessment and Taxation
SB 42	Architects and engineers; immunity from	In Senate Judiciary	01/18/2013 - Senate

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	liability in negligence under certain circumstances		Referred to Judiciary
SB 43 Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy	Requiring the Kansas Water Office to formulate a plan to address water-related issues	In Senate Natural Resources	01/23/2013 - Senate Scheduled Hearing and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Thursday, 1/31/2013, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 48 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Kansas Employer E-verify Accountability Act	In Senate Commerce	01/22/2013 - Senate Referred to Commerce
SB 54 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Amendments pertaining to the Board of Technical Professions	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	01/23/2013 - Senate Referred to Federal and State Affairs; Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Thursday, 1/31/2013, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
SCR 1604 Susan Wagle, R-30th	Joint rules for the Senate and House of Representatives, 2013-2014	On Final Action in House	01/24/2013 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be adopted as amended
HB 2005 Steve Huebert, R-90th	State aid for capital improvements and capital outlay for school districts	In House Education	01/14/2013 - House Introduced; Referred to Education
HB 2010 Gail Finney, D-84th	Business entities; restricting the use of an acquired entity's name by an acquiring entity	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/14/2013 - House Introduced; Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2031 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Distribution of sales and use tax revenue; funding streams to the state water plan fund	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/18/2013 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2051 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Water; creating limited transfer permits; dams, inspection; multi-year flex account incentive; administrative review of certain orders of the chief engineer and repealing certain water statutes	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/24/2013 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2053 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Amendments pertaining to the Board of Technical Professions	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/24/2013 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2072 House Local Government Committee	Municipalities; solid waste collection; limitations	In House Local Government	01/24/2013 - House Referred to Local Government

HB 2073 House Local Government Committee	Streams, dams and obstructions; chief engineer, division of water resources duties; counties, authority	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/24/2013 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2074 House Local Government Committee	Cities and counties; solid waste disposal areas; restrictions	In House Local Government	01/24/2013 - House Referred to Local Government
HB 2077 House Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee	Granting professional licenses to military service members	In House Veterans, Military and Homeland Security In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/24/2013 - House Referred separately to Veterans, Military and Homeland Security and Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HR 6004 Ray Merrick, R-27th	Rules of House of Representatives, permanent rules of the 2013-2014 biennium	On Final Action in House	01/24/2013 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be adopted as amended