

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

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The big news in Week 4 was the passage by both chambers of H Sub for SB 4, the rescission bill for the FY 15 budget year. It is very unusual for any budget issue to move this quickly so early in the session, but the state was up against an incredibly tight deadline to balance the budget. Unfortunately, the rescission bill included over \$150 million in additional sweeps from the highway fund. This is an extremely painful hit, and it's hard to truly see any silver lining...but it could have been worse. Particularly with things moving so quickly, which means stakeholder groups such as ACEC Kansas have less time to engage policy makers in discussion. Now we move on to the proposed two-year budget that will be addressed later in the session. The budget as proposed by the Governor includes an additional \$100 million sweep from the highway fund for each fiscal year. This budget bill is not likely to see much substantive work until April.

In better news, SB 24 passed the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee Thursday morning and now heads for the full Senate. It passed with no amendments and without any “no” votes. SB 24 is the update to the Board of Technical Professions licensure bill that was passed last year. ACEC Kansas, and the other professions covered under the Board of Technical Professions, strongly support this legislation.

HB 2177, which makes some changes to the Kansas voluntary cleanup and property redevelopment act (VCP), will be heard in the House Local Government Committee next Tuesday. It would modernize some of the statutes governing this program and is supported by ACEC Kansas.

Under the “no news is good news” category, there is still no hearing scheduled for HB 2153. We reported on this bill last week...it is riddled with bad business policies and will remain a top priority for ACEC to kill for the rest of the session.

We did see one very bad piece of legislation introduced this week. HB 2244 would make significant changes to the licensure requirements in Kansas for design professionals. It would significantly loosen the restrictions on when a licensed design professional is required. The bill is new and still being studied, and we do not yet know who requested introduction of the bill.

With legislative deadlines approaching fast, action on these items and others will speed up significantly in the next couple weeks. Stay tuned....

Bill Number	Bill Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
H Sub for SB 4	Legislative Post Audit Committee	Appropriation revisions and supplementals for FY 2015 and FY 2016 for various state agencies	Pending motion to concur in Senate	02/04/2015 - House Final Action: Passed; Yeas 88, Nays 34
SB 24	Senate Federal and	Technical professions act; definitions	In Senate Federal	02/02/2015 - Senate

	State Affairs Committee	clarification	and State Affairs	Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Federal and State Affairs: Thursday, 2/5/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
SB 29	Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Removal of community improvement district sales tax administration fund aggregate cap	On General Orders in Senate	01/28/2015 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed by Assessment and Taxation
SB 35	Senate Ways and Means Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	01/20/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ways and Means: Thursday, 1/22/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 36	Senate Natural Resources Committee	Allowing carryover and a change application for place of use for multi-year flex accounts	On General Orders in Senate	02/04/2015 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed by Natural Resources
SB 52	Senate Natural Resources Committee	Authorizing chief engineer to allow augmentation to secure water	In Senate Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - Senate Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Thursday, 2/5/2015, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 64	Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Public water supply storage; interest rate change	In Senate Natural Resources	01/28/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 2/4/2015, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 80	Anthony Hensley, D-19th	Enacting the Kansas working families pay raise act	In Senate Commerce	01/27/2015 - Senate Referred to Commerce
SB 81	Senate Ways and Means Committee	Appropriation revisions and supplementals for FY 2015 and FY 2016 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	01/28/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ways and Means: Wednesday, 1/28/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 107	Senate Commerce Committee	Public entities expenditures for energy projects intended to reduce energy costs	In Senate Commerce	01/29/2015 - Senate Referred to Commerce
SB 118	Senate Natural Resources Committee	Amending the powers and duties of the Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation and the state conservation commission	In Senate Natural Resources	02/02/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Thursday, 2/5/2015, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 124	Senate Natural Resources Committee	Eliminating the sunset on landspreading of oil and gas drilling waste	In Senate Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 2/11/2015, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 138	Senate Ways and Means Committee	Prohibiting the secretary of health and environment from adopting rules and regulations relating to confined feeding facilities that are more restrictive than federal law	In Senate Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - Senate Referred to Natural Resources
HB 2003	Michael Houser, R-1st	Cities; annexation of non-adjointing land	On Final Action in House	02/04/2015 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be further amended; be passed as amended
HB 2012	Jim Ward, D-86th	Enacting the Kansas working families pay raise act	In House Appropriations	01/13/2015 - House Referred to Appropriations

HB 2014	Tom Sloan, R-45th	Authorizing the Kansas water office, with approval of the Kansas water authority, to establish the clean drinking water fee by rules and regulations and imposing a cap on such fee	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	01/20/2015 - House Withdrawn from Agriculture and Natural Resources; referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget
HB 2019	House Vision 2020 Committee	Property tax levy for the Kansas educational building fund	In House Taxation	01/28/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Taxation: Wednesday, 2/4/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2023	House Judiciary Committee	Legislative review of exceptions to disclosure of public records	In Senate Judiciary	02/04/2015 - Senate Referred to Judiciary
HB 2035	House Education Committee	Amending the tax credit for low income students scholarship program act	In House Education	01/20/2015 - House Referred to Education
HB 2036	House Vision 2020 Committee	Electricity and the sale of renewable energy	In House Energy and Environment	01/20/2015 - House Referred to Energy and Environment
HB 2037	House Vision 2020 Committee	Renewable energy generation and tax exempt entities	In House Energy and Environment	01/20/2015 - House Referred to Energy and Environment
HB 2038	House Appropriations Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	01/20/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Wednesday, 1/21/2015, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
HB 2039	House Judiciary Committee	Domestic case management	In House Judiciary	01/21/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Judiciary: Wednesday, 1/28/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 112-N
HB 2059	House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Authorizing chief engineer to allow augmentation to secure water	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Monday, 2/9/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2063	House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Amending the definition of project in the public water supply project loan program	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Tuesday, 2/10/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2068	House Transportation Committee	Removing requirement that bicycles use path	In House Transportation	01/28/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Thursday, 2/5/2015, 1:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2069	House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Allowing carryover and a change application for place of use for multi-year flex accounts	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Monday, 2/9/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2085	House Appropriations Committee	Contracts between the secretary of transportation and the Kansas Turnpike Authority; annual reports from the authority; director of operations	In House Transportation	01/28/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Thursday, 2/5/2015, 1:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2133	House Appropriations Committee	Appropriation revisions and supplementals for FY 2015 and FY 2016 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	01/29/2015 - House Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in

				Appropriations: Monday, 2/2/2015, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
HB 2153	House Appropriations Committee	Taxpayer empowerment, accountability and transparency in state contracting act	In House Appropriations	01/29/2015 - House Referred to Appropriations
HB 2156	House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Public water supply storage; interest rate change	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Tuesday, 2/10/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2177	House Energy and Environment Committee	Voluntary cleanup and property redevelopment act	In House Local Government	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Local Government: Tuesday, 2/10/2015, 1:30 PM, Rm 281-N
HB 2192	House Energy and Environment Committee	Kansas storage tank act	In House Energy and Environment	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Energy and Environment: Monday, 2/9/2015, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2193	House Energy and Environment Committee	Solid and hazardous waste and the risk management program act	In House Energy and Environment	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Energy and Environment: Monday, 2/9/2015, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2194	House Transportation Committee	Establishing a safety corridor program	In House Transportation	02/04/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Thursday, 2/12/2015, 1:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2224	House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Scope of practice for technical professions	In House Federal and State Affairs	02/05/2015 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HB 2227	House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Creating water conservation areas	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/05/2015 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2233	House Energy and Environment Committee	Electric utilities and carbon dioxide emissions	In House Energy and Environment	02/05/2015 - House Referred to Energy and Environment
HCR 5011	House Education Budget Committee	Foresight 2020 strategic plan	In Senate Education	02/03/2015 - House Referred to Education