

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

No. 9 – March 13, 2015

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Week nine saw the legislature turn most of its attention to a debate about the future of K-12 funding. That notwithstanding, there was a large amount of activity on ACEC Kansas issues.

We continue to push hard for passage of SB 24, which makes small amendments to last year's comprehensive updates to the statutes governing the Board of Technical Professions. There was a hearing in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee this week. Rick Worrel, ACEC Kansas President, testified in support of the bill. KSPE and the associations representing the other four disciplines under the Board of Technical Professions testified in support as well.

Unlike the hearings on in the Senate, this time there was opposition. Three individual architects shared their concerns with the State of Kansas licensure law. Interestingly enough, none of them said they were opposed to the modest cleanup language in SB 24, but they are attempting to hijack the bill and use it as a platform for their larger arguments. Somewhat to our surprise, their arguments seem to have found traction with some legislators. We expect the Committee to vote sometime next week, and are working hard to ensure that the bill is passed.

HB 2395, which would raise the threshold below which Regents can use on call contracts, was passed by the House Commerce Committee Wednesday. The bill would raise the threshold for engineering services from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and for architecture contracts from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Jarrod Mann testified on behalf of ACEC Kansas in support of the bill last week.

The bill initially included additional language about the posting of projects and public hearings, but that language was amended out of the bill, leaving just the change to the the threshold. With this change, the bill was passed by the Committee Thursday and will hopefully be worked on the Senate floor early next week.

House bills 2177 (Kansas Voluntary Cleanup Fund), 2192 (creating environmental steward fund), and 2193 (creating a risk management program under the Kansas Voluntary Cleanup Fund) were heard this week in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Pat Goeke submitted testimony in support of HB 2177 and HB 2192. There were no opponents at the hearings, but the Committee had some questions about HB 2192. We are hoping the Committee will discuss and pass these bills early next week.

Introduction of new bills slows down to a crawl at this point in the session, but we have a substantive new bill that just hit the calendar. HB 2407 would enable the state in some circumstances to explore public/private partnerships on state infrastructure projects. We are investigating to find out who requested introduction of this bill and exactly what the implications would be. There are no hearings schedule at this time.

Next week is the last week scheduled for committee hearings. After that, action will move to the floor of each chamber and conference committees. Stay tuned....

Bill Number and 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	Approved by Governor	02/10/2015 Approved by Governor Sam Brownback

H Sub for SB 7 Legislative Post Audit Committee	Creating the classroom learning assuring student success act; making and concerning appropriations for fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, for the department of education	On Final Action in House	03/12/2015 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report recommending substitute bill be adopted; be amended; substitute be passed as amended
SB 24 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Technical professions act; definitions clarification	In House Federal and State Affairs	03/04/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Tuesday, 3/10, 9:00 AM, Rm 346-S
SB 29 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Removal of community improvement district sales tax administration fund aggregate cap	In House Taxation	03/11/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Taxation: Friday, 3/13, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N
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	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/09/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/12, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
SB 52 Senate Natural Resources Committee	Authorizing chief engineer to allow augmentation to secure water	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/05/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/12, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
SB 64 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Public water supply storage; interest rate change	On General Orders in Senate	02/12/2015 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Natural Resources
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	02/11/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Tuesday, 2/17,

			8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
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 House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/09/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Wednesday, 3/11, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-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
SB 209 Anthony Hensley, D-19th	Repealing the prohibition against agencies and municipalities requiring contractors to enter into certain labor agreements for public works construction projects	In Senate Commerce	02/12/2015 - Senate Referred to Commerce
SB 210 Anthony Hensley, D-19th	Requiring employment of Kansas workers for certain state contracts and tax incentives	In Senate Commerce	02/12/2015 - Senate Referred to Commerce
SB 211 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Technical professions; scope of practice	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	02/12/2015 - Senate Referred to Federal and State Affairs
SB 227 Senate Natural Resources Committee	Local enhanced management areas; due consideration; corrective control measures	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/16/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Monday, 3/16, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
SB 245 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Repealer; certain bridge inspections	In Senate Transportation	03/09/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Thursday, 3/12, 8:30 AM, Rm 546-S
SB 246 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Exempting certain state leases from energy audit requirements when such energy audit is not economically feasible	In Senate Utilities	03/04/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Utilities: Monday, 3/9, 1:30 PM, Rm 548-S
SB 250 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Joint committee on state building construction; reports of the secretary of administration	In Senate Ways and Means	02/19/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ways and Means: Monday, 2/23, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 253	Renewable energy standards act sunset	In Senate Utilities	03/04/2015 - Senate

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee			Scheduled Hearing in Utilities: Tuesday, 3/10, 1:30 PM, Rm 548-S
SB 268 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Changes to stream maintenance and obstruction requirements	In Senate Natural Resources	02/26/2015 - Senate Referred to Natural Resources
SB 275 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Establishing water conservation areas	In Senate Natural Resources	03/11/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 3/18, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
HB 2003 Michael Houser, R-1st	Cities; annexation of non-adjoining land	In Senate Local Government	02/12/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing and Possible Action in Local Government: Tuesday, 2/17, 9:30 AM, Rm 159-S
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	02/13/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget: Thursday, 2/19, 1:30 PM, Rm 142-S
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	On General Orders in Senate	03/11/2015 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed by 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-

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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 Senate Natural Resources	03/09/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/12, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
HB 2063 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Amending the definition of project in the public water supply project loan program	In Senate Natural Resources	03/11/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/19, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-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	Stricken from House calendar	03/04/2015 - House Stricken from Calendar, House Rule 1507
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 Senate Ways and Means	03/04/2015 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
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 Senate Natural Resources	02/25/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 3/4, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
HB 2177 House Energy and Environment Committee	Voluntary cleanup and property redevelopment act	In Senate Natural Resources	03/09/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 3/11, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
HB 2192	Kansas storage tank act	In Senate Natural Resources	03/09/2015 - Senate

House Energy and Environment Committee			Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 3/11, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
HB 2193 House Energy and Environment Committee	Solid and hazardous waste and the risk management program act	In Senate Natural Resources	03/11/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/12, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
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 Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 2/12/2015, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
HB 2233 House Energy and Environment Committee	Electric utilities and carbon dioxide emissions	In House Energy and Environment	03/12/2015 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; rereferred to Energy and Environment
HB 2245 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Amending procedure for cases involving groundwater	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/06/2015 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2255 House Transportation Committee	Prohibiting the secretary of transportation from entering agreements or issuing bonds after December 31, 2014, for the transportation revolving fund and the communication systems revolving fund; repealing the intermodal transportation revolving fund	In House Transportation	02/11/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Tuesday, 2/17, 1:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2267 House Appropriations Committee	Alternative project delivery; notice requirements and selection procedures	In Senate Commerce	03/11/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Monday, 3/16, 8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
HB 2296 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Cities and counties; public building commission; revenue bonds; election required	In House Local Government	02/18/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Local Government: Tuesday, 2/24, 1:30 PM, Rm 281-N
HB 2303 House Appropriations Committee	Allowing the secretary of health and environment to establish variances to water quality standards	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/05/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Wednesday, 3/11, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S

HB 2314 Tom Burroughs, D-33rd	Repealing the prohibition against agencies and municipalities requiring contractors to enter into certain labor agreements for public works construction projects	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	02/12/2015 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2317 Brandon Whipple, D- 96th	Requiring employment of Kansas workers for certain state contracts and tax incentives	In House Taxation	02/13/2015 - House Withdrawn from Commerce, Labor and Economic Development; referred to Taxation
HB 2351 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Allowing conservation districts to sponsor local enhanced management areas	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/05/2015 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; rereferred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2373 House Taxation Committee	Renewable energy standards act sunset	In House Energy and Environment	03/11/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing (cont.) in Energy and Environment: Friday, 3/13, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2395 House Appropriations Committee	State building projects; negotiating committees; alternative procurement	On General Orders in House	03/12/2015 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2407 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	State infrastructure projects; allowing for public private agreements	In House Federal and State Affairs	03/12/2015 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HCR 5011 House Education Budget Committee	Foresight 2020 strategic plan	In Senate Education	02/03/2015 - House Referred to Education