

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

No. 4 February 5, 2016

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Week four saw legislative committees take their first substantive action on the Governor's proposed budget. The Legislature is showing a very independent streak this year in amending several parts of the Governor's original plan. One of those amendments was to put a 19% cap on state highway fund debt service starting in FY2017. They also took a pretty large slap at The University of Kansas to show their displeasure with KU's privately bonding several large infrastructure projects that did not go through traditional Kansas channels. A proposed transfer of social services funding currently in a protected part of the budget to the state general fund was thwarted. There are many more negotiations that will clearly take place between the Legislature and the Governor.

The Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) efficiency study that we have cited the last couple weeks is still our hottest issue. As we have discussed, it has two recommendations to which we are strongly opposed. First is the hiring of 20 additional KDOT engineers on the grounds that they can do the work cheaper and more efficiently than the private sector. Second is a recommendation to move away from the state's qualifications based selection (QBS) procurement process for professional services.

These were included in the original A&M report. While that report was well over 200 pages long, the "full" report from A&M is yet to come, and is scheduled to arrive February 12. Many parties, including ACEC of Kansas, are anxious to see what supporting data may or may not be listed in that full report.

In any case, we continue to visit with legislators several hours a day to educate policy makers on why these two proposals must be rejected. We will likely send an "APB" to our membership to contact their legislators sometime in the next week or two. Please keep your eye out for that and call your legislators when you see it!

There were a couple new bills of interest this week.

SCR 1608 is a constitutional amendment limiting transfers from the state highway fund. The chances of this bill having a hearing are probably pretty limited, but we'll watch.

HB 2574 is the effort of State Representative Annie Tietze. It has to do with requirements on state contracts to have a certain percentage of employees working on those contracts be Kansas residents. This might sound familiar, as we have seen this bill many times in recent years. ACEC of Kansas has been instrumental in killing this bill in the past. However, we want to give credit and appreciation to Representative Tietze. She approached ACEC of Kansas proactively to talk about our concerns with this bill and to see if there was common ground we could find that would take care of our concerns. The result of those conversations is that the five disciplines covered by the Board of Technical Professions (engineers, architects, land surveyors, geologists, and landscape architects) are exempted from this year's bill. It's a wonderful thing when a legislator partners with stakeholder groups in an effort to compromise.

The session is finally gaining steam, as February 26 is "turnaround day", the day by which most bills have to be passed through their chamber of origin to stay alive for the session.

Stay tuned...

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
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
H Sub for SB 29 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Concerning taxation; relating to income tax, rates, itemized deductions, credits, income modifications and rural opportunity zones; tax amnesty; sales and compensating use tax, rates, food and distribution thereof; sales tax authority for Bourbon, Douglas and Thomas counties; cigarettes, rates; property taxation, consolidated fire districts	On General Orders in House	05/28/2015 - House Not subject to limitations of Joint Rule 4(k); Motion to emergency to Final Action, amendment and debate, failed
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 64 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Public water supply storage; interest rate change	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/31/2015 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
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 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 House Transportation	03/31/2015 - House Referred to Transportation
SB 246 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Exempting certain state leases from energy audit requirements when such energy audit is not economically feasible	In House Energy and Environment	01/20/2016 - House Scheduled Hearing in Energy and Environment: Wednesday, 1/27, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
SB 250 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Joint committee on state building construction; reports of the secretary of administration	On General Orders in House	01/25/2016 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Appropriations
SB 268 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Changes to stream maintenance and obstruction requirements	In Senate Natural Resources	03/17/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/19, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
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
SB 316 Jacob LaTurner, R-13th	Property tax lid; effective date; exemptions	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	01/12/2016 - Senate Referred to Assessment and Taxation
SB 322 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Creating application requirement and fee to appropriate surface water that otherwise leaves the state	In Senate Natural Resources	02/01/2016 - Senate Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Thursday, 2/4, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 329 Senate Natural Resources Committee	Clarifying approval of a change application for place of use for multi-year flex accounts	In Senate Natural Resources	01/15/2016 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 1/20, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 330 Senate Natural Resources Committee	Establishing the Kansas conservation reserve enhancement program	In Senate Natural Resources	01/28/2016 - Senate Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 2/3, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 337	Creating a penalty for failure to report annual water use	In Senate Natural Resources	01/21/2016 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 1/27, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 354 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2016, FY 2017 and FY 2018 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	01/26/2016 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ways and Means: Tuesday, 1/26; Wednesday, 1/27; 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 356 Senate Education Committee	Creating the school district bond project review board	In Senate Education	02/03/2016 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Education: Wednesday,

			2/10, 1:30 PM, Rm 144-S
SB 365 Senate Commerce Committee	Enacting the contaminated property redevelopment act	In Senate Commerce	02/03/2016 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Wednesday, 2/10, 8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 389 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018 for the state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	02/01/2016 - Senate Scheduled Hearings in Ways and Means: Tuesday, 2/2; Wednesday, 2/3, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 394 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee	Enacting the supporting families act, relating to temporary care for children	In Senate Judiciary	02/03/2016 - Senate Withdrawn from Public Health and Welfare; referred to Judiciary
SB 396 Senate Judiciary Committee	Kansas sunset law	In Senate Ways and Means	02/03/2016 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
SCR 1608 Senate Transportation Committee	Constitutional amendment limiting transfers from the state highway fund	In Senate Ways and Means	02/03/2016 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
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 2015 Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight	Juvenile offenders; prohibiting placement in a juvenile correctional facility for a current misdemeanor adjudication	In House Appropriations	02/20/2015 - House Withdrawn from Corrections and Juvenile Justice; referred to Appropriations
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 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 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 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 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
S Sub for HB 2177 House Energy and Environment Committee	Wildlife, parks and tourism; relating to licenses, permits and stamps; citations; disposal of seized wildlife; boating; safety education courses; certain sailboats	In Conference Committee	06/05/2015 - House Not subject to limitations of Joint Rule 4(k); Acceded; appointed Kleeb, Suellentrop and Sawyer
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 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 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 2296 House Federal and State	Cities and counties; public building commission; revenue bonds; election required	On General Orders in House	03/13/2015 - House Committee Report

Affairs Committee			recommending bill be passed as amended by Local Government
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