

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

No. 2 – January 23, 2015

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Week 2 at the Capitol was abbreviated, as the legislature took Monday off in recognition of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Bill introductions are continuing at a brisk pace. The House already has over 100 bills in play, and the Senate over 70. This number will increase dramatically in the next couple weeks as deadlines for introduction of bills approach. February 2 is the last day for individual members to introduce a bill, and February 13 is the last day for most committees (some are exempt) to introduce bills.

SB 24, as we reported last week, is the “clean up” bill to the major licensure update bill we passed last year. It is scheduled for a hearing Thursday in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. ACEC of Kansas President Rick Worrel will attend and testify in support of the bill on behalf of ACEC of Kansas. The other disciplines (architects, land surveyors, landscape architects, and geologists) are expected to testify in support as well. We have visited with a few legislators so far, and early indications show broad support for the bill.

Both of the budget rescission bills (SB 35 and HB 2038), which close the quarter billion dollar gap in the current year’s budget, will have hearings next week. SB 35 will be heard in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and HB 2038 will be heard in the House Appropriations Committee. These bills are likely to be heavily amended before passage as the legislature works to put its policy fingerprints on the Governor’s proposal.

The Kansas Board of Regents intends to introduce a bill that would raise the threshold under which they can use on-call contracts to \$1 million for both engineering and architecture. These limits have not been adjusted for a very long time, and inflation has rendered them artificially low. ACEC of Kansas plans to support this bill when it is introduced.

Discussions are ongoing amongst policy makers about the two year budget they will construct later in the session, specifically the proposed transfers of \$100 million per year from the highway fund. We encourage you to visit with your legislators and urge them to hold infrastructure funding harmless, or at least to minimal harm, as they search for revenue to fill the \$648 million budget gap for the coming fiscal year. Your voice needs to be heard at home along with ours here at the Capitol.

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 Senate Federal and State Affairs	01/21/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Thursday, 1/29/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S

SB 29 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Removal of community improvement district sales tax administration fund aggregate cap	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	01/21/2015 - Senate Scheduled Discussion and Action in Assessment and Taxation: Tuesday, 1/27/2015, 9:30 AM, Rm 548-S
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	01/21/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ways and Means: Wednesday, 1/28/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S; Possible Action: Thursday, 1/29/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
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	01/21/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ways and Means: Wednesday, 1/28/2015, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S; Possible Action: Thursday, 1/29/2015, 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 Senate Natural Resources	01/21/2015 - Senate Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 1/28/2015, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
HB 2003 Michael Houser, R-1st	Cities; annexation of non-adjointing land	In House Local Government	01/14/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Local Government: Tuesday, 1/20/2015, 1:30 PM, Rm 281-N
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	01/15/2015 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2035 House Education Committee	Amending the tax credit for low income students scholarship program act	In House Education	01/21/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Education: Monday, 1/26/2015, 1:30 PM, Rm 112-N
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	Renewable energy generation and tax exempt entities	In House Energy and Environment	01/20/2015 - House Referred to Energy and Environment

Committee			
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	01/21/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 1/29/2015, 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	01/22/2015 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2068 House Transportation Committee	Removing requirement that bicycles use path	In House Transportation	01/22/2015 - House Referred to Transportation
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	01/22/2015 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources