

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

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825 S Kansas Ave, Suite 500 Topeka, KS 66612 Phone (785)357-1824 Fax(785)233-2206 email scott@acecks.org

Week three saw a continued increase in bill introductions as deadlines approach. Monday is the last day for individual members to request bill introductions, with February 13 being the deadline for committee bill introductions, save a few committees that are exempt from legislative deadlines. February 27, only four weeks away, is “turnaround”. This is the date by which most bills have to be passed in their chamber of origin or they are dead for the session.

SB 24, the Board of Technical Professions bill which tweaks the major changes made last year, had a hearing in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee this week. ACEC Kansas President Rick Worrel testified in support of the bill. All five professions licensed by the Kansas Board of Technical Professions were there to testify in support. There were no concerns or questions from the committee, which is a great start. Hopefully the bill will be brought up for a vote of the committee next week and start its journey to the Senate floor.

HB 2133 and SB 35, the rescission bills which cut \$278 million from the current fiscal year (which ends June 30) to bring the state budget back into balance, are being debated by the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees, respectively. The amount of money proposed to be transferred from the highway fund has now grown to over \$158 million. In addition the proposed budgets for the next two fiscal years contain an additional sweep of \$100 million in each of those years. These amounts are still fluid, but there is great fear that they will grow as the legislature works its way through the budget. Please take every opportunity to visit with your state legislators about the importance of minimizing these cuts as much as possible!

HB 2019 is scheduled for hearing Wednesday in the House Tax Committee. It would raise property taxes by 3 mills, with the proceeds designated for several projects under the Kansas Board of Regents, specifically technology, agriculture, and aviation. The Board of Regents would be required to make a report to the Secretary of Revenue showing what needs exist, and proposing funding amounts for those projects. This is in addition to a 1 mill levy that has been in place for some time to help Regents institutions with ongoing maintenance.

We did see the introduction this week of a truly horrible bill, HB 2153. HB 2153 would require any governmental entity, before contracting with the private sector for any services, to do a cost analysis which shows the private sector can deliver the services *at least* 10% cheaper than the cost of the governmental entity doing the services themselves. It would require companies contracting with governmental entities to publish the hourly rates of all employees working on those projects. All meetings between consultants and governmental entities would be subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, which means anyone from the public to competitors could attend and listen to all discussions on scope and fee. The list of bad policy provisions in this bill go on and on. It is not scheduled for a hearing yet, but ACEC will stridently oppose this legislation every step of the way.

Committee hearings will intensify next week, particularly on budget issues. 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	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	In Senate Natural Resources	01/21/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Wednesday, 1/28/2015, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 52 Senate Natural Resources Committee	Authorizing chief engineer to allow augmentation to secure water	In Senate Natural Resources	01/26/2015 - Senate Scheduled Hearing and Possible Action in Natural Resources: Thursday, 1/29/2015, 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	01/30/2015 - Senate Referred to Natural Resources
HB 2003 Michael Houser, R-1st	Cities; annexation of non-adjoining land	On General Orders in House	01/29/2015 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Local Government
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	In House Agriculture and Natural	01/20/2015 - House Withdrawn from Agriculture and

	establish the clean drinking water fee by rules and regulations and imposing a cap on such fee	Resources Budget	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	On General Orders in House	01/28/2015 - House Withdrawn from Consent Calendar; placed on General Orders
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 (REMOVED FROM AGENDA)
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	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	01/28/2015 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Tuesday, 2/3/2015, 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	Allowing carryover and a change application	In House Agriculture	01/28/2015 - House

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	for place of use for multi-year flex accounts	and Natural Resources	Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Monday, 2/2/2015, 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	01/29/2015 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2177 House Energy and Environment Committee	Voluntary cleanup and property redevelopment act	In House Local Government	01/30/2015 - House Referred to Local Government
HB 2192 House Energy and Environment Committee	Kansas storage tank act	In House Energy and Environment	01/30/2015 - House Referred to Energy and Environment
HB 2193 House Energy and Environment Committee	Solid and hazardous waste and the risk management program act	In House Energy and Environment	01/30/2015 - House Referred to Energy and Environment