

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

No. 3 January 27, 2017

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

Week 3 was fairly quiet on the ACEC front. The legislature continues to slog its way through tax and budget data as they try to find a way to balance the budget for the current fiscal year and draft a balanced budget that will cover the next two fiscal years. Tensions are extremely high in many committee hearings as budget and tax projections are debated and often criticized.

Many state agencies involved in state infrastructure are appropriately concerned. The most attention this week was probably on KDOT as Secretary Richard Carlson addressed several committees and shared the dramatically reduced number of bid lettings that are expected. Good news is hard to come by on the infrastructure front, but we are working with our stakeholder partners to try to advance responsible funding streams for infrastructure where we can.

HB 2032, which would produce a steady revenue stream for water infrastructure, will have a hearing in the House Water & Environment Committee Tuesday. While the odds of passage are slim, it is at least a forward thinking public policy discussion regarding infrastructure.

HB 2185 is brand new to the calendar and would overturn a current state restriction on local units of government making certain requirements of contractors on items such as offering prevailing wage, insurance benefits, etc.

We are also hearing that the misguided “local preference” legislation from years past will return. This would require, on state contracts of over \$100,000, that 70% or more of the staff working on the projects be residents of Kansas. That produces strains on firms near a state line or who share work between offices and encourages neighboring states to respond with similar restrictive policies. ACEC opposed this legislation for years, and the most recent version actually exempted professional design services. We’ll see if those are exempted again in the new legislation.

Activity will continue to heat up in week 4. Stay tuned...

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 27 Senate Way and Means Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	01/13/2017 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
SB 46 Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Water conservation area findings, notice and management plans	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/23/2017 - Senate Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
SB 48 Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Remedies for the impairment of a valid water right or permit to divert and use water	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/23/2017 - Senate Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
SB 55 Senate Federal and State	Public construction contracts and performance and payment bonds	In Senate Commerce	01/24/2017 - Senate Referred to Commerce

Affairs Committee			
SB 76 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Professional occupations; restrictions on fees and licensing requirements	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	01/27/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Wednesday, 2/1, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
HB 2032 House Water and Environment Committee	Increasing fees credited to the state water plan fund	In House Water and Environment	01/25/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water and Environment: Tuesday, 1/31, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2039 House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Making the Kansas airport improvement program independent of the transportation works program	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/12/2017 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2052 House Appropriations Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	01/18/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Thursday, 1/26, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
HB 2066 House Water and Environment Committee	Public wholesale water supply districts and highway right-of-way	In House Water and Environment	01/20/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water and Environment: Thursday, 1/26, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2082 House Taxation Committee	Property tax lid; cities and counties; repealed	In House Taxation	01/19/2017 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2099 House Agriculture Committee	Relating to remedies for the impairment of a valid water right or permit to divert and use water	In House Agriculture	01/20/2017 - House Referred to Agriculture
HB 2100 House Agriculture Committee	Relating to water conservation areas	In House Agriculture	01/20/2017 - House Referred to Agriculture
HB 2129 House General Government Budget Committee	Relating to an exception to department of administration energy audit requirements	In House General Government Budget	01/24/2017 - House Referred to General Government Budget
HB 2138 House Local Government Committee	State fire marshal; school lockdowns; rules and regulations	In House Local Government	01/25/2017 - House Referred to Local Government

HB 2153 House Judiciary Committee	Fee agencies, moneys transferred to the state general fund; notification to persons paying fees that moneys have been transferred	In House Judiciary	01/26/2017 - House Referred to Judiciary
HB 2185 House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Restoring local control over wage requirements for construction projects	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/27/2017 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2190 House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee	Electric utilities and the sale of renewable energy	In House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications	01/27/2017 - House Referred to Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications