

# LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

No. 4 February 3, 2017

---

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

---

Week 4 saw committee activity of interest to ACEC and the introduction of several new bills that we will need to track closely. The state also received some modest good news when January revenue numbers exceeded projections, making a slight dent in the current year's budget shortfall that the legislature is working to fix.

Speaking of budget fixes, the House Tax Committee wrapped up a multi-week review of various taxing options and listening to stakeholder groups talk about the impact of those options. Next week they are expected to begin efforts to craft a tax package to fill the budget shortfall. This will start with a hearing on HB 2237, which would raise multiple taxes in an effort to get state funding back to (or close to) levels prior to the income and LLC tax cuts of a few years ago. This process will likely take several weeks. We continue to lobby legislators for a structural reform that will produce enough revenue for the general fund that raids on various infrastructure revenue streams can finally stop.

SB 76, which would prohibit licensure requirements and fees in certain situations, had a hearing this week in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. There was a significant amount of opposition to this bill, and it looks like it may be headed to a subcommittee for more study.

HB 2032, which would create fresh revenue streams for water infrastructure, had a hearing this week in House Water & Environment. It is the first of what are likely to be several bills providing revenue streams for water infrastructure. All of these bills face long odds of getting passed with the state facing such large revenue shortfalls, but it is a positive step to see this much interest and energy being committed to the topic.

HB 2138, despite its short length, is a fairly nuanced bill that calls for accommodations to be made to prepare for school lockdown situations. One of those accommodations is a possible override of fire codes and the best judgment of professional engineers. A hearing was scheduled this week on HB 2138, but enough concern has been generated that the hearing was postponed. ACEC is likely to oppose this bill if it comes up for a hearing.

Among new bills this year is a particularly egregious effort to keep government work in house instead of using the private sector. HB 2201 would, among other things, force the state to show that using the private sector would produce a savings of at least 10%, and require companies doing business with the state to more or less open their books and show rates of pay and other financial information. This bill is not yet scheduled for a hearing, but ACEC will bring all resources to bear to kill this legislation.

There were a few other interesting bills aimed to limit and/or stop political contributions by anyone doing business with the state or a local unit of government. These are not likely to gain any traction, but we'll be ready if they do. As things exist currently, this would create a big problem for ACEC and its member firms.

Action will continue to pick up pace as deadlines loom for introduction of bills and we approach Turnaround, the date by which most bills must be passed by their chamber of origin or be dead for the session. Stay tuned...

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
<a href="#">SB 27</a> Senate Way and Means Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	<b>01/30/2017 - Senate</b> Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Ways and Means: Thursday, 2/2; Friday, 2/3, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S

<a href="#">SB 46</a> Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Water conservation area findings, notice and management plans	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 2/9, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
<a href="#">SB 48</a> 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	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 2/9, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
<a href="#">SB 55</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Public construction contracts and performance and payment bonds	In Senate Commerce	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Tuesday, 2/7, 8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
<a href="#">SB 76</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Professional occupations; restrictions on fees and licensing requirements	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	<b>01/27/2017 - Senate</b> Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Wednesday, 2/1, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
<a href="#">SB 103</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Secretary of State; political action committees prohibited	In Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Referred to Ethics, Elections and Local Government
<a href="#">SB 104</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Lobbyists; restrictions on tickets to events and meals for legislators	In Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Referred to Ethics, Elections and Local Government
<a href="#">SB 105</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Campaign finance; contribution prohibitions for certain persons entering into contracts with the state or a municipality	In Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Referred to Ethics, Elections and Local Government
<a href="#">SB 107</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Authorizing the attorney general to establish a system of legal representation charges and collect such charges from state agencies	In Senate Judiciary	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#">SB 116</a> Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Repealing certain obsolete or expired sections relating to taxation	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	<b>02/01/2017 - Senate</b> Referred to Assessment and Taxation
<a href="#">HB 2032</a> House Water and Environment Committee	Increasing fees credited to the state water plan fund	In House Water and Environment	<b>01/25/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Water and Environment: Tuesday, 1/31, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N

<a href="#">HB 2039</a> 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	<b>01/31/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Thursday, 2/2, 1:30 PM, Rm 112-N
<a href="#">HB 2052</a> House Appropriations Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	<b>01/18/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Thursday, 1/26, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
<a href="#">HB 2066</a> House Water and Environment Committee	Public wholesale water supply districts and highway right-of-way	On General Orders in House	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Committee Report recommending bill be passed by Water and Environment
<a href="#">HB 2082</a> House Taxation Committee	Property tax lid; cities and counties; repealed	In House Taxation	<b>01/19/2017 - House</b> Referred to Taxation
<a href="#">HB 2099</a> House Agriculture Committee	Relating to remedies for the impairment of a valid water right or permit to divert and use water	In House Agriculture	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture: Thursday, 2/9, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N
<a href="#">HB 2100</a> House Agriculture Committee	Relating to water conservation areas	In House Agriculture	<b>01/20/2017 - House</b> Referred to Agriculture
<a href="#">HB 2129</a> House General Government Budget Committee	Relating to an exception to department of administration energy audit requirements	In House General Government Budget	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in General Government Budget: Thursday, 2/9, 1:30 PM, Rm 218-N
<a href="#">HB 2138</a> House Local Government Committee	State fire marshal; school lockdowns; rules and regulations	In House Local Government	<b>01/25/2017 - House</b> Referred to Local Government
<a href="#">HB 2153</a> 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	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Judiciary: Wednesday, 2/8, 3:30 PM, Rm 112-N
<a href="#">HB 2185</a> House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Restoring local control over wage requirements for construction projects	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Tuesday, 2/7, 1:30 PM, Rm 112-N

<a href="#">HB 2190</a> House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee	Electric utilities and the sale of renewable energy	In House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications	<b>01/27/2017 - House</b> Referred to Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
<a href="#">HB 2201</a> House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Taxpayer empowerment, accountability and transparency in state contracting act	In House Federal and State Affairs	<b>01/31/2017 - House</b> Referred to Federal and State Affairs
<a href="#">HB 2211</a> House Local Government Committee	Limiting campaign contributions to governor and lieutenant governor after second term inauguration	In House Elections	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Referred to Elections
<a href="#">HB 2227</a> House Taxation Committee	Property tax levy for the Kansas educational building fund	In House Taxation	<b>02/01/2017 - House</b> Referred to Taxation
<a href="#">HB 2237</a> House Taxation Committee	Concerning taxation; relating to income tax, rates, determination of income, tax credits; motor fuels tax, rates, trip permits, distribution; sales and compensating use tax, food and food ingredients	In House Taxation	<b>02/02/2017 - House</b> Referred to Taxation
<a href="#">HB 2241</a> House Water and Environment Committee	Creating the surface water protection fee and the irrigation water use fee and depositing such fees in the state water plan fund	In House Water and Environment	<b>02/02/2017 - House</b> Referred to Water and Environment