

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

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Week 5 in the Kansas legislature was interesting to say the least. The House and Senate are each still trying to come up with spending cuts and revenue enhancements to close the budget gap for the current fiscal year as well as creating a two year budget moving forward. The Senate believed it was very close to having such a package ready, and cleared all Senate calendars Thursday for a full day of debate. That morning, the Republican caucus met and serious divisions came to light, causing the Senate to basically cancel all plans for the rest of the week, and provoking a promise from Senate President Wagle that no additional legislation will pass the Senate until the current fiscal year's shortfalls are solved. Later Thursday afternoon, the House Tax Committee passed its own plan, but early odds are that there are not enough votes on the House floor to pass that package.

The budget continues to dominate the time and attention of the legislature. Making all these conversations potentially harder was an announcement this week that Kansas has had its credit rating downgraded. This will make it more expensive to borrow money, and harder to fill the pending budget gaps.

ACEC weighed in on one proposed budget fix, which was contained in HB 2237. We testified in favor of the bill this week. It would raise several taxes to provide a structural balance to the budget. The odds of it passing are long, but it provides a starting point for discussion about legitimate, structural changes to the budget that might allow Kansas to once again start addressing its infrastructure needs.

ACEC has been tracking HB 2138 with some concerns, as it would call for fire codes to be overridden in certain situations in education facilities. The State Fire Marshall visited with legislative leaders and expressed their concerns, and it now appears the bill will not move forward this session. Good news! ACEC was planning to testify in opposition.

There are still multiple bills in circulation that would provide various funding streams for water infrastructure. While many of these would make good public policy, with the revenue and budget shortfalls the state is facing they all have long odds of being passed in 2017.

We saw the return of a bad bill this week that we have worked hard to kill many times in the past. SB 177 would require any entity contracting with the state for an amount over \$100,000 to prove at least 70% of the employees working on the project are citizens of Kansas. For firms near a state line, or firms that share work between offices based on demand and availability, this is a potential disaster. If this bill receives a hearing, ACEC Kansas will once again lead the effort to kill it.

ACEC Kansas partnered with KSPE this week to sponsor a lunch for new legislators, of which there are over 50. It was scheduled for Thursday, but events conspired against us. As we mentioned above, the Senate unexpectedly adjourned for the week on Thursday morning, and the House was debating bills on the floor Thursday until almost 1pm. This resulted in a fairly light turnout, but for the 10 or so legislators that did show up, we were able to have great conversations about our issues and offer our assistance to them in their new roles.

There are less than two weeks until the "turnaround deadline", by which most bills have to be passed in their chamber of origin or be dead for the session. Stay tuned....

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
Sub for SB 27 Senate Way and Means Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 for various state agencies	On General Orders in Senate	02/07/2017 - Senate Committee Report recommending substitute bill be passed by 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	02/08/2017 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Wednesday, 2/15, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
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	02/08/2017 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Wednesday, 2/15, 8:30 AM, Rm 159-S
SB 55 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Public construction contracts and performance and payment bonds	In Senate Commerce	02/01/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Tuesday, 2/7, 8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
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
Sub for SB 97 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Relating to taxation, income tax, rates, modifications; sales and compensating use tax, food, rates	On General Orders in Senate	02/08/2017 - Senate Committee Report recommending substitute bill be passed by Assessment and Taxation
SB 103 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Secretary of State; political action committees prohibited	In Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government	02/01/2017 - Senate Referred to Ethics, Elections and Local Government
SB 104 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Lobbyists; restrictions on tickets to events and meals for legislators	In Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government	02/01/2017 - Senate Referred to Ethics, Elections and Local Government
SB 105 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	02/01/2017 - Senate Referred to Ethics, Elections and Local Government
SB 107 Senate Federal and State	Authorizing the attorney general to establish a system of legal representation charges and collect such charges from state	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	02/08/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Tuesday, 2/14,

Affairs Committee	agencies		10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
SB 116 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Repealing certain obsolete or expired sections relating to taxation	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	02/08/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Assessment and Taxation: Tuesday, 2/14, 9:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 147 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Under Kansas income tax act; providing rate changes and determination of Kansas adjusted gross income and sunseting certain modifications	On General Orders in Senate	02/07/2017 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Assessment and Taxation
SB 167 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Property tax lid; cities and counties; repealed	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	02/08/2017 - Senate Referred to Assessment and Taxation
SB 175 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Income tax, rates, modifications, credits; cigarettes and tobacco products, rates; alcoholic beverages, liquor enforcement, rates; business entities, filing fees	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	02/09/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Assessment and Taxation: Thursday, 2/16, 9:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 176 Anthony Hensley, D-19th	Kansas buy American act	In Senate Commerce	02/09/2017 - Senate Referred to Commerce
SB 177 Anthony Hensley, D-19th	Hiring Kansans first	In Senate Commerce	02/09/2017 - Senate Referred to Commerce
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	01/31/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Thursday, 2/2, 1:30 PM, Rm 112-N
HB 2052 House Appropriations Committee	Appropriation revisions for FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	02/09/2017 - House Scheduled Discussion and Possible Action in Appropriations: Monday, 2/13, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
HB 2066 House Water and Environment Committee	Public wholesale water supply districts and highway right-of-way	On General Orders in House	02/01/2017 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed by Water and Environment
HB 2082	Property tax lid; cities and counties;	In House Taxation	01/19/2017 - House

House Taxation Committee	repealed		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	02/01/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture: Thursday, 2/9, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2100 House Agriculture Committee	Relating to water conservation areas	In House Agriculture	02/08/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture: Monday, 2/13, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2129 House General Government Budget Committee	Relating to an exception to department of administration energy audit requirements	In House General Government Budget	02/08/2017 - House Scheduled Discussion and Action in General Government Budget: Monday, 2/13, 1:30 PM, Rm 218-N
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	02/01/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Judiciary: Wednesday, 2/8, 3:30 PM, Rm 112-N
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	02/01/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Tuesday, 2/7, 1:30 PM, Rm 546-S
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
HB 2201 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Taxpayer empowerment, accountability and transparency in state contracting act	In House Federal and State Affairs	01/31/2017 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HB 2211 House Local Government Committee	Limiting campaign contributions to governor and lieutenant governor after second term inauguration	In House Elections	02/01/2017 - House Referred to Elections
HB 2227	Property tax levy for the Kansas	In House Taxation	02/01/2017 - House

House Taxation Committee	educational building fund		Referred to Taxation
HB 2237 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	02/02/2017 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2241 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	02/03/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water and Environment: Tuesday, 2/7, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2272 House Water and Environment Committee	Establishing the Kansas water collaborative to promote coordination among agencies on state water priorities	In House Water and Environment	02/07/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water and Environment: Thursday, 2/9, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2311 House Water and Environment Committee	Maintenance requirements for streambank stabilization and water quality protection projects	In House Water and Environment	02/09/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water and Environment: Tuesday, 2/14, 9:00 AM, Rm 582-N
HB 2315 House Taxation Committee	Income tax, rates, modifications, credits; cigarettes and tobacco products, rates; alcoholic beverages, liquor enforcement, rates; business entities, filing fees	In House Taxation	02/09/2017 - House Referred to Taxation
HB 2327 House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Restoring local control over wages, benefits and other labor-related matters by regulation and in public construction contracts	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	02/10/2017 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development