

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

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Week 6 was dominated by budget and tax policy work as the Legislature continues to grapple with revenue shortfalls in the current fiscal year and the two fiscal years ahead. Several different tax plans have been debated by the House and Senate, with those conversations continuing into the time of this writing on Friday.

Globally speaking, it looks like one of the toughest “decision points” for the legislature concerns, the current fiscal year and choosing between the options of selling idle assets of the state (very unpopular with many legislators) or cutting education funding in the current fiscal year (very unpopular with many legislators). The Legislature really hopes to have the current fiscal year situation sorted out by the end of next week, so this will continue to dominate their time. The wild card in all of these discussions is whether or not the Governor will sign whatever lands on his desk. All plans so far call for repealing the LLC exemption, and the Governor continues to state his strong opposition to this change.

The House Water Committee has heard several bills this year that would provide funding sources for water infrastructure in the state. Tuesday, Chairman Sloan asked the committee to bring suggestions to the table based on all the data in those plans. After lengthy discussion, the committee could not reach consensus on a plan. Instead, they asked Chairman Sloan to talk to leadership to see if there was any hope that current sweeps into the general fund of money intended for water purposes would abate, thereby mitigating the need for new revenue. Chairman Sloan has done this, but we have not heard the conclusion yet. In the meantime, HB 2032 and HB 2241 have been “blessed”. This means they were temporarily assigned to a committee which is exempt from the normal legislative deadlines, then sent back to the Water Committee. This frees those pieces of legislation from any deadlines and allows the Water Committee to use them as a “shell” into which they can amend any water plan they agree to. In any case, it is still very questionable as to whether any of these bills can pass because they all call for new taxes/fees/revenue.

Several bad pieces of legislation continue to languish in committee. This is good news, particularly in light of the looming “turnaround” deadline next Thursday. After this “turnaround” date, most bills must be passed by their chamber of origin or be dead for the session. This should help sort out which bills still have life in 2017 and help stakeholder groups focus their resources. Monday will be the last day for committee hearings, then both chambers will spend Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday on the floor debating bills. They will adjourn Thursday, then take a week off before resuming their deliberations.

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	02/13/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing 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	On General Orders in Senate	02/14/2017 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Commerce
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 Affairs Committee	Authorizing the attorney general to establish a system of legal representation charges and collect such charges from state agencies	On General Orders in Senate	02/16/2017 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by Federal and State Affairs
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	02/15/2017 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be further amended and reported without recommendation by Assessment and Tax
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	Income tax, rates, modifications, credits; cigarettes and tobacco products, rates;	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	02/10/2017 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Assessment

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	alcoholic beverages, liquor enforcement, rates; business entities, filing fees		and Taxation: Monday, 2/13, 1:30 PM, 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
SB 194 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Amending groundwater management district water user charges	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/15/2017 - Senate Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2032 House Water and Environment Committee	Increasing fees credited to the state water plan fund	In House Water and Environment	02/16/2017 - House Withdrawn from Taxation; rereferred to Water and Environment
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
Sub for HB 2052 House Appropriations Committee	Appropriations for FY 2017, FY 2018, FY 2019 and FY 2020 for various state agencies	On Final Action in House	02/16/2017 - House Committee of the Whole: Committee Report recommending substitute bill be adopted; be amended; substitute be passed as amended
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 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	02/14/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing (cont.) in Agriculture: Thursday, 2/16, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2100 House Agriculture	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

Committee			
HB 2129 House General Government Budget Committee	Relating to an exception to department of administration energy audit requirements	On General Orders in House	02/15/2017 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed by 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	On General Orders in House	02/13/2017 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended by 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	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 House Taxation Committee	Property tax levy for the Kansas educational building fund	In House Taxation	02/01/2017 - House 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	Creating the surface water protection fee	In House Water and	02/16/2017 - House

House Water and Environment Committee	and the irrigation water use fee and depositing such fees in the state water plan fund	Environment	Withdrawn from Taxation; rereferred to Water and Environment
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	02/13/2017 - House Scheduled Possible Action in Water and Environment: Thursday, 2/16, 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	02/10/2017 - House Scheduled Hearing in Taxation: Thursday, 2/16, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
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 Developmen
