

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

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The Legislature had a short week, taking Monday off for the Martin Luther King holiday and taking half a day off Wednesday due to inclement weather. Still, committee activity continued, predominantly with informational briefings and agency updates as opposed to hearings on specific legislation.

There was no new legislation introduced this week of major impact to the engineering community, but the number of bill introductions is going to spike sharply in coming weeks as deadlines loom to get new legislative proposals introduced.

Governor Kelly officially introduced her budget this week in both the House and Senate. Reaction was mixed, as you might expect. Some parts of the budget, such as additional funding for children in need, received broad bipartisan support. Other pieces received mixed reactions, with the strongest disagreement over the Governor's plan to re-amortize KPERS and use the lower payments to fund other priorities. This will be one of the largest debates of the session.

Presentations were made this week on the State Water Plan Fund, and presentations will be heard next week from KDOT. Both water and transportation look to be trending up in terms of support for ending sweeps that have depleted those funds in recent years. This trend began last year, with less money swept away from both infrastructure funding streams, and looks to continue in 2019.

Activity will continue to pick up as more bills are introduced and committee hearings intensify. Stay tuned...

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 1 Jim Denning, R-8th	Requiring state general fund moneys to fund school district transportation weightings, not state highway fund moneys; making and concerning appropriations for the department of education and the department of transportation for FY 2019	In Senate Ways and Means	01/15/2019 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
HB 2017 Pam Curtis, D-32nd	Restoring local control over certain compensation, wage and benefit requirements for construction projects	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/15/2019 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2022 Jim Ward, D-86th	Enacting the Kansas working families pay raise act	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/15/2019 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2026 Stan Frownfelter, D-37th	Enacting the fire sprinkler industry act	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/15/2019 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic

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