

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ACEC of Kansas

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The Legislature picked up its committee activity this week as they move towards the February 28 Turnaround deadline, by which most bills must be passed by their chamber of origin or be lost for the session. Committees are slowly shifting from the early-session work of informational hearings and state agency reports to hearings on new pieces of legislation.

The major development this week was the introduction of SB 56 and HB 2115. These bills (which are the same) would require any technical or professional service providers who have a contract of \$100,000 or more with the state to purchase software that must be loaded on their computers, and possibly other devices. This software would have to be activated when work is being done on that state project and would take intermittent screen shots. These would have to be stored for 7 years and made available to the state. This is highly problematic on several levels, including the cost of purchasing/installing/maintaining the software, storing the data, and most of all the privacy issues. There could be great potential liability, and other clients with private/proprietary information are not likely to be pleased knowing their engineering service providers have this software on their computers. ACEC Kansas is going to strongly oppose these bills. SB 56 has already been scheduled for a hearing in Senate Ethics Committee Thursday. The intent of the bill seems to be preventing fraud and helping the state document the services provided, but it is far overreaching and problematic.

HB 2026, the fire sprinkler industry act, saw no action this week.

Another big piece of news this week was the official release of the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force report. The 44 page report covered many topics, but calls for a stable transportation system for Kansas. It notes the \$2 billion in transfers out of the transportation fund since 2011 have devastated the program. The Task Force recommends the completion of T-Works as the top priority in a new program. Other expansion projects will be outlined and prioritized by the Kansas Department of Transportation. In the coming days, a number of legislative bills will drop in the House and Senate to begin discussions on possible funding sources for a new program. One other result of the report is the creation of a task team to consider giving KDOT additional authority to use alternative delivery. This task team will consist of KDOT, ACEC and the Kansas Contractors Association.

Committee activity will increase in the coming weeks. 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 |
| SB 56 Senate Federal and State | Requiring verification of certain hours billed by contractors under certain state contracts | In Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government | 01/31/2019 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Ethics, Elections and Local Government: Thursday, 2/7, |

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| Affairs Committee | | | 9:30 AM, Rm 142-S |
| SB 69 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee | Requiring the state corporation commission to study electric rates and consider certain factors in establishing just and reasonable electric rates | In Senate Utilities | 02/01/2019 - Senate Referred to Utilities |
| SB 72 Senate Ways and Means Committee | Supplemental appropriations for FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024 for various state agencies | In Senate Ways and Means | 02/01/2019 - 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 Development |
| HB 2085 House Agriculture Committee | Time requirement for reinstatement of a forfeited benefit unit of a rural water district | In House Agriculture | 01/30/2019 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture: Tuesday, 2/5, 3:30 PM, Rm 582-N |
| HB 2109 House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee | Requiring electric public utilities to acquire a permit from the state corporation commission prior to the siting of certain electric transmission lines | In House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications | 01/31/2019 - House Referred to Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications |
| HB 2115 House Federal and State Affairs Committee | Requiring verification of certain hours billed by contractors under certain contracts | In House Federal and State Affairs | 02/01/2019 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs |
| HB 2121 House Appropriations Committee | Supplemental appropriations for FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024 for various state agencies | In House Appropriations | 02/01/2019 - House Referred to Appropriations |
| HB 2122 House Appropriations Committee | Appropriations for FY 2020, FY 2021 and FY 2022 for various state agencies | In House Appropriations | 02/01/2019 - House Referred to Appropriations |