



BRADEN · HEIDNER · LOWE
& ASSOCIATES

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



KANSAS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MARCH 1, 2019

OVERVIEW

The 2019 Legislative Session has reached turnaround, which marks the half-way point of the session. To date, the House has passed 59 bills while the Senate has passed 41 bills. Most bills that have not been passed before turnaround are now on hold until next January. Bills exempt from deadlines can still be considered, but in general, March is intended to consider bills that have passed one chamber. Looking ahead, legislators resume work on March 6 with committee action planned until March 22. The last week of March and first week of April are dedicated for floor debates and conference committees. Regular session ends on April 5.

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES TAX BILL

Tax policy generated spirited debate in the House of Representatives. On Monday, the House Tax Committee took the Senate's Federal Tax Windfall Bill (SB 22), and added a provision to lower sales tax on food from 6.5% to 5.5% on October 1. An internet sales tax component was added to the bill to be applied to online vendors with at least \$100,000 of annual in-state sales. The House is expected to debate the amended bill in the coming weeks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILLS

HB2043, which would require a periodic review of economic development programs, was not worked by the full House, but has been sent back to Committee to keep it alive.

SB204 will be heard in Senate Commerce on Thursday, March 7. This bill is also a review of programs and their transparency. Here is the link to the bill:

HB2006 was passed by the House. The bill would require that the Commerce Department provide information on economic development programs and be placed in a database on the website for public information. It also included that legislative post audit would conduct review and analysis of the programs. The bill was amended to protect confidential information of recipients.

Next week the Rural Revitalization Committee will have briefings on the Minnesota State Broadband Plan by Brent Christenses, President of Minnesota Telecom Alliance; on Friday a briefing on broadband mapping by J. Brent Legg, Connected Nation and Dan Strom, Kansas Farm Bureau.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN BILLS TO BE HEARD

The first of many transportation task force recommendation bills will be heard in Senate Transportation next week. SB192, which would authorize the secretary of transportation to designate toll projects on new and existing highways and changing fully funded tolling projects to being funded by a portion of tolling will be heard next Thursday.

FEDERAL FUNDS FOR AMTRAK

Amtrak is putting \$3 million into the Southwest Chief to match a federal grant that will finance track upgrades and preserve the cross-country train route through Kansas. The money was released for the Southwest Chief after Congress approved \$50 million for the train service, of which \$3 million will go toward matching a federal grant for the track improvements.

U.S. Sens. Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts helped secure the money for the track project, which will ensure that continuous train service from Chicago to Los Angeles through Kansas will be kept intact.

AO-K CAREER PATHWAY PASSES SENATE

SB 199 would establish the AO-K to Work Program. The provisions of the Program would apply to all adult education programs in Kansas. The bill would require KBOR to award a Kansas high school equivalency credential to any qualified student who is recommended and approved to participate in an AO-K career pathway approved by KBOR for college credit, successfully completes an approved AO-K career pathway and receives the industry-recognized credential appropriate to the completed pathway, takes a career readiness assessment and earns a career readiness certificate at a level approved by KBOR, and satisfies any other requirement deemed necessary by KBOR.

CIVIL LIABILITY BILL FOR WORK BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

Sub. for HB 2354 would broaden the concept of school sponsored activity, as it pertains to insurance coverage, to include secondary students' participation in an employer's "work-based learning program," as that term would be defined by the bill. Under current law, school districts may purchase insurance coverage for students' physical well-being or for the loss, the theft of, or damage to the students' personal property while on the school premises or at school sponsored activities. A participating employer would not be subject to civil liability for a claim arising from either a secondary student's or the employer's negligent act or omission. The bill would not provide immunity for gross negligence or willful misconduct. The bill was not worked by the full House but has been referred to an exempt committee to keep it alive for 2019.

SCHOOL FINANCE UPDATE

The group of schools suing the state (Schools for Fair Funding) have identified an error in Governor Kelly's funding plan in SB44. The group testified in favor of the bill earlier and have filed amended testimony. It appears that the base state aid per pupil increases after the first year did not include the inflationary amount and appears to be short by \$270 million over three years. The numbers in SB44 were provided by the State Board of Education. School finance committees are expected to work through the numbers as they inch closer toward the Supreme Court's April request date.

MEDICAID EXPANSION ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The House Health and Human Services Committee will hold a Medicaid Expansion round table discussion on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in Committee. The Committee meets at 1:30pm on Wednesday and Thursday and 9:00am on Friday.

REPAYMENT OF KPERS SENT TO GOVERNOR

SB 9, known as the KPERS Repayment that would repay KPERS payments delayed from 2016 in the amount of \$115 million was sent to the Governor. Both the Senate and House passed the bill unanimously. The bill was delivered to the Governor on February 26. She has 10 days to veto, sign or take no action – which will put the bill into law.

NEXT WEEK CALENDAR

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20190228121135.pdf

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20190228091742.pdf

QUESTIONS?

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