



KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: John J. Federico, JD
Stephen P. Duerst, JD

Date: March 5, 2022

Re: Weekly Update – Week of February 28, 2022

Please see our Weekly Update on Kansas Legislative activities:

A SPECIAL NOTE ON FINDING BILL LANGUAGE & BILL TRACKERS

If you need to find specific language of a bill, type the number in the box under “Bill number:” on the right-hand side of [this](#) webpage. Once you find the bill listed, click that specific bill. You will find the PDF logo under the “Documents” label - click the logo and this will lead you to the text of the bill.

If there are bills that you would like *removed* from or *added* to your bill tracker, please contact Stephen Duerst (Stephen@FedericoDuerst.com).

As always, our office is more than happy to send you specific language as well.

LEGISLATURE RETURNS TO UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH MAPS AND BUDGET

The Kansas Legislature returned to Topeka after a short break after Turnaround. Lawmakers took Monday off before working all week. In addition to the numerous bills and concurrent resolutions that are being heard and worked under the dome, lawmakers still need to introduce a redistricting plan for the state’s Legislative districts. There has been no word yet on when those maps will be released.

Further, lawmakers need to pass the state’s budget. This annual task, which is constitutionally the only item that needs to be addressed before the Legislature adjourns for the Session, is particularly interesting this year because of a surplus of both state tax receipts and federal stimulus funds. Some lawmakers are looking to pay down state liabilities, put money away into a rainy-day fund, or enact tax credits or exemptions. Others would like to continue to rebuild the economy after COVID-19 devastated many businesses, industries, and services.

We expect many of these issues to develop as March progresses. Further, we expect many of these items will impact how Leadership proceeds in working any number of other major issues that have not yet been resolved.

SENATE PASSES BILL FILLED WITH TAX EXEMPTIONS, CREDITS, PROPERTY TAX FREEZE

The Kansas Senate debated a small income tax credit [bill](#) on Thursday that quickly ballooned to include a freeze on property taxes, income tax credits for schoolteachers and tax credits for housing developments. Specifically, the measure now includes the following amended provisions:

- A \$250 individual income tax credit for schoolteachers purchasing classroom supplies.
- A property tax freeze for seniors 65 and older or disabled veterans whose total household income does not exceed \$50,000.
- An increase the exemption provisions from the 20 mill property tax levy. The current 20 mill rate applies to all property after the first \$20,000 in value, the amendment would increase the amount to \$65,000 and add a calculation for a scale to increase the exemption based on statewide property values.

A provision was also proposed by Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) to provide a \$250 income tax rebate to all Kansans who have filed a tax return. The amendment, which was identical to a key tenant of Governor Laura Kelly’s proposed budget and her 2022 reelection campaign, was hotly debated but was ultimately defeated by a vote of [16 to 18](#).

A final vote on the bill will be taken on Monday.

In addition to taking final votes on bills debated Thursday, the Senate will debate the following bills under the heading of General Orders, listed below:

SB 479 by Elaine Bowers, R-36th	Authorizing a permanent memorial commemorating the Kansas suffragist movement to be placed in the state capitol and establishing the Kansas suffragist memorial fund	Consent Calendar
HB 2591 by House Appropriations Committee	Repealing the state general fund and conservation fee fund transfers to the abandoned oil and gas well fund	Consent Calendar
SB 282 by Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Providing income tax credits for aerospace and aviation program graduates and their employers	Final Action
SB 326 by Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Providing an income tax credit for qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures of short line railroads and associated rail siding owners or lessees	Final Action
SB 378 by Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Regulating the retail sale of fireworks all year and extending the time period for seasonal retail sale of fireworks	Final Action
SB 276 by Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Providing considerations in family law, adoption, foster care, guardianship and child in need of care proceedings for a parent or prospective parent who is blind	General Orders

<p style="text-align: center;">HB 2075 by House Judiciary Committee</p>	<p>Allowing venue for an adoption when the state is the agency to be where the state agency or its subcontracting agency has an office</p>	<p>General Orders</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HB 2237 by House Financial Institutions and Rural Development Committee</p>	<p>Extending the eligible time period for the rural opportunity zone loan repayment program and income tax credit</p>	<p>General Orders</p>

The Senate is also expected to vote on the appointment of Janet Stanek, who was nominated by Governor Kelly to be the new Secretary for the Department of Health and Environment. Stanek takes over for Dr. Lee Norman, who left the agency in November of 2021.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SELECTION REFORMS CONSIDERED

The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) heard two measures on Friday that would modify how state supreme court justices are chosen.

[SCR 1621](#) would create the opportunity for a constitutional amendment to be placed on the ballot which would permit the Governor to appoint a supreme court justice when there is a vacancy. The resolution would also eliminate the [Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission](#) – a body made up of nine members that are both lawyers and non-lawyers that fills vacant positions through a merit-based nomination, review, and vetting process. Once nominees have been reviewed, the commission narrows the pool to three names and then the Governor chooses one nominee to appoint.

Another [measure](#) discussed Friday would also eliminate the nominating commission, but allow for partisan, statewide election of justices.

Many Republicans in the state have longed for such reform. In recent years, the Kansas supreme court has upended major Republican-supported school finance legislation and pro-life measures, which has prompted calls to change the current process.

No word yet on if or when the Resolutions will be worked.

FAIRNESS IN WOMEN’S SPORTS ACT TO BE HEARD

The Fairness in Women’s Sports Act has been scheduled to be heard. [SB 484](#) will have a hearing on Monday, March 7 at 1:30 PM in the [Senate Education Committee](#).

The concept may sound [familiar](#) as it passed the Legislature in 2021 but was vetoed by the Governor. The bill would require sports sponsored by a K-12 or post-secondary public school be expressly designated based on biological sex. Athletic teams or sports designated for females would be prohibited from being open to students of the male sex. Similar measures have been floated across the country. The Kansas Board of Regents have [noted](#) that enactment of the bill could have an effect on the state’s ability to host NCAA events if their policies conflicted with the bill.

PENSION LIABILITY PAYDOWN BILLS CONTINUE THROUGH SYSTEM

A bill that would pay down the state’s employee pension liability has moved across the dome and will now have a hearing on the House side. [SB 421](#) would transfer over \$250 million to the Kansas Public Employees System (KPERs) Trust Fund to make up for payments that were missed in 2017 and 2019 when the state was in a more parlous financial situation. Proponents noted that if the state takes advantage of the robust revenues it has now and pays down the liability, it could save nearly \$200 million in interest and annual payments.

The bill passed the Senate [40-0](#) earlier this year.

A similar [bill](#) passed out of the House Insurance & Pensions Committee that would not only make the \$250 million payment for the missed years, but would also apply an additional \$746.1 million towards generally unfunded actuarial liability.

SB 421 will be heard Monday, March 7 in the [House Insurance & Pensions Committee](#).

MAJOR TAX REFORM BILLS ON DOCKET FOR NEXT WEEK

A number of bills pertaining to tax refunds and credits on homesteads will be heard next week in the [Senate Tax Committee](#). After years of rising property valuations and, more recently, a historically competitive real estate market, measures like the ones being heard next week have been discussed by the Legislature for quite some time. Bills that will be heard on Tuesday, March 8 include the following:

- [SB 540](#) - Expanding the selective assistance for effective senior relief (SAFESR) income tax credit for certain residential property taxes paid.
- [SB 462](#) - Providing a homestead property tax refund to certain persons based on the increase in property tax over the base year property tax amount.
- [SB 384](#) - Providing an income tax credit for certain qualified property taxes levied on homesteads.

The Committee will also be taking up two resolutions. [SCR 1619](#) would urge the adoption of [recommendations](#) made by the 2021 Special Committee on Taxation and [SCR 1620](#) would have a measure put on the ballot that would ask for a constitutional amendment to be considered that would require a supermajority of the legislature any time the state wanted new or increased taxes. Both resolutions will be heard on Thursday, March 10.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: MARCH 7 – MARCH 11

Schedule subject to change. Daily Session calendars may be found [here](#).

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing: HB2456- Lifetime Hunting License; Action: HB2560- Expanding fees for certain Department of Ag programs
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	N/A
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros; Budget Report: Higher Ed. Budgets; Hearing: HB2716- Ed. Benefits for disabled safety officers to military; Possible Action

9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Financial Inst. & Rural	218-N	Hearing: HB2618- Property Tax Exemption rural business incubators, SB400- Kansas Uniform Trust Code Act; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Local Government	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	N/A
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst.	546-S	N/A
9:30 AM	S Transparency & Ethics	142-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB522- Firearm Safety Training in Schools; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Hearing: SB541- Compensation for COVID related restrictions
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros; Action: SB422- Appropriations for FY23 & FY24, SB444- Supplemental Appropriations for FY23 & FY24; Possible Action
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Hearing: SB484- Fairness in Women's Sports
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Briefing: Aviation lighting systems
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Hearings: SB366- Expanding crime of burglary, SB408- Penalties for multiple thefts of mail
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Hearing: SB343- Updating terms to "hard of hearing", SB348- Practice of Threading exempt from cosmetology
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	N/A
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:00 PM	H Transportation	N/A	Tour of Big Springs Quarry
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Hearing: SB346- On-farm sale of milk, HB2723- Animal health commissioner oversight to transport of animals
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Hearing: SB483- Theft of ATMs, SB395- Prohib. Gov surveillance, SB457- Waiver of extradition proceedings; Possible Action
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Hearing: SB362- Req. Local Board of Ed. to consider school needs assessment in the budget process
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	N/A

3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Bill Intros; Briefing: Tax Council Report and Hypothetical Taxpayer Model
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Insurance	218-N	Hearing: SB392- Terminating transfer from securities Act, SB421- Transferring \$253 million from SGF to KPERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Briefing: K-State College of Ag
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Hearing: SB489- KDHE Regulatory Authority on Infectious Diseases; Possible Action
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearings: HB2458 & HB2478- Renaming Highways; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros; Budget Report: Judicial Branch; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2681- Disposal of seized firearms
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Utilities & Telecom	582-N	Briefing: Property rights and Right-of-Way
9:00 AM	H Veterans	281-N	Briefing: ESU Veterans Services
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Bill Intros; Hearings: SB540- SAFESR Credit, SB462- Homestead Refund, SB384- Credits for taxes levied on homesteads; Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Hearing: HB2510- Amending investment for KS life insurance companies, HB2547- TEFFI insurance company
9:30 AM	S Local Government	142-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2540- Gold Star Memorial; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Hearings: SB534- Penalties for firearms in crime, HB2516- Process for error in appeal, HB2574- Mental health Counseling, HB2607- Habeas Claims
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros; Action: SB422- Appropriations for FY23 & FY24, SB444- Supplemental Appropriations for FY23 & FY24; Possible Action
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Hearing: SB455- Allow K-12 students to transfer to any district in the State
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Hearing: HCR5023- Denouncing Natural Gas Price Gouging

1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	Hearings: SB12- DCF Performance Based contracts, SB329- Amending provisions of the ABLE Act
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Hearing: SB382- Real Estate Trusts
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Hearings: SB368- Crime of internet trading child porn, SB385- Sex Offender violations breach of privacy
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	Hearing: HB2631- Enacting Career Technical Education Credential & Transition Incentive for Employment Success Act
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Hearing: SB453- Req. Adult Care Home Certified Aides to demonstrate skills
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	Hearings: HB2600, HB2601, & HB2636- Authorizing KBOR to convey certain real property
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	Hearing: SB446- Renaming K-66 Highway
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Briefing: K-State College of Ag; Action: HB2530- Regulating promotion of non-meat meat analog products
3:30 PM	H Gen. Gov Budget	281-N	Action: Amendments regarding licensure and regulation of barbering
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Hearing: SB367- Reporting receipts for seized property, SB434- KORA & Plate Readers, SB435- Expanding law enforcement; Possible Action
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Budget Action: Department of Education
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2721- Sales Tax OTC drugs. HB2724- Excluding 20 mills from Truth in Taxation
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Elections	218-N	N/A

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing: HB2563- Amending Hemp Law; Action: HB2456-Lifetime Hunting License
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Hearings: SB274- Naturopathic Drs scope of practice, SB275- Naturopathic Drs corporate practice of med; Possible Action
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearing: SB529- Electronic renewal of ID cards; Briefing: 3-M Corporation; Possible Action

9:00 AM	H. Approps	112-N	Bill Intros; Budget Report: SSB- KDADS & DCF; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2722- Process for a Convention of States, SB34- Review Rules & Regs every 5 years; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Financial Inst. & Rural	218-N	Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Local Government	281-N	Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB542- limit ad valorem taxes levied in certain cases; Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Hearing: HB2568- Amending KS Mortgage Business Act
9:30 AM	S Transparency & Ethics	142-S	Hearing: SB485- Expanding scope of contributions under Campaign Finance Act, HB2579- E-filing campaign reports
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB532- Nonpartisan offices may have candidates party on ballot; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Hearing: SB507- Extending exceptions under KORA, SB537- Req. screening for ed. Research; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros; Action: SB422- Appropriations for FY23 & FY24, SB444- Supplemental Appropriations for FY23 & FY24; Possible Action
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
12:00 PM	JCARR	212-N	Proposed Rules & Regs: Bank Commissioner, Dep. Ag, KDHE
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Hearing: SB455- Allow K-12 students to transfer to any district in the State
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Hearing: SB478- Wind energy conversion system obstruction lighting
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	Briefing: Oral Health
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Hearing: SB493- Prohibiting regulation of containers; Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Action: SB368- Crime of internet trading child porn, SB385- Sex Offender violations, SB366- Expanding burglary, SB408-Thefts of mail
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	Briefing: Dyslexia Task Force
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Hearing: SB440- Expanding capability of occupational therapists to treat a patient
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	Briefing: 3-M Transportation

2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H General Gov. Budget	281-N	Briefing: Children's Cabinet
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Hearing: SB419- KDOC employees may participate in law enforcement training; Possible Action
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	Hearing: HB2253- Updating provisions of K-TRACS
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	TBA
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Insurance	218-N	Hearing: SB377- Authorizing insurance for TEFFI; Possible Action

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing: HB2559- Creating KS Cotton Boll Weevil Program
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Hearing: SB501- Amending certain social programs for able-bodied adults; Possible Action
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearings: SB459 & HB2476- Distinctive Plates; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Budget Report: Department of Education
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2644- Sandhill Plumb official State fruit; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Utilities & Telecom	582-N	Hearing: SB417- Renewal fees for certain solid waste disposal, Sub HB2281- 988 Suicide Hotline Fees
9:00 AM	H Veterans	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Bill Intros; Hearings: SCR1620- TABOR, SCR1619- Tax Comm Reccs., SB495- SALT Parity Act, SB543- Carryforward NOL; Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Hearing: HB2110- Requiring insurance coverage for PANS and PANDAS
9:30 AM	S Local Government	142-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Hearing: SB505- Protect Home-Based Work Act, HB2703- Making Changes to Employment Security Law
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: Amending definition of "race" to include hairstyles under KS Discrimination Act

10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Hearing: HCR5022- Sheriff Elected Position, HB2473- Douglas Co. Board of Trustees, HB2508- KBI Fingerprint, HB2537- Amending KS Admin Act
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros; Briefing: SB340- Amending KS Promise Scholarship Act, SB341- Amending federal aid from School equity Act; Possible Action
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Hearing: SB528- Reimbursement for classroom supplies
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Hearing (cont.): SB478- Wind energy conversion system obstruction lighting
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Hearing: SB150- Prohibiting certain deceptive lawsuit advertising practices; Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	N/A
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Briefing: Indoor Farming
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Possible Action
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Bill Intros; Possible Action
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Elections	218-N	N/A

FRIDAY MARCH 11

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 AM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing: HB2605- Rural Vet Programs; Action: HB2559- Boll Weevil Program
9:00 AM	JC Child Welfare	212-N	Update: DCF, Child Welfare Presentations
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Possible Action