



KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

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

Date: March 12, 2022

Re: Weekly Update – Week of March 7, 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.

SNOW DISRUPTS LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE...AGAIN

Another snowstorm rolled through Kansas on Wednesday night and Thursday prompting both the House and the Senate to send members home and adjourn until next week. The weather delay comes as the Legislature has one week left to hear and work bills before they debate bills on the House and Senate floor the week of March 21.

Additionally, given the condensed schedule, the Senate is already scheduled to debate three bills on Monday, including the following:

SB 389 by Richard Hilderbrand, R- 13th	Requiring all voting systems for elections to use individual voter-verified paper ballots with a distinctive watermark	General Orders
SCR 1623 by Rick Billinger, R-40th	Urging the President of the United States to stop importing oil and gas from Russia	General Orders

<p style="text-align: center;">SB 494 by Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee</p>	<p>Providing that the employment status of a driver of a motor carrier does not change as a result of the inclusion of safety improvements on a vehicle</p>	<p>General Orders</p>
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Because of storm, many committee schedules have also been modified. We encourage you to check the weekly schedule at the bottom of this email or view the official [daily calendars](#).

TAX BILLS FILL THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR IN THE FINAL WEEKS

A number of tax bills have been introduced, and in many cases heard and worked as the Legislature examines how best to deal with a massive surplus of funds. While some bills are designed to cleanup the tax code and legislation enacted last year, many of them create tax credits, and expand or create new property tax circuit breaker programs. Some tax bills of note 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.
- [SB 542](#) — Establishing a property tax revenue neutral rate complaint process, authorizing the county clerk to limit the amount of ad valorem taxes to be levied in certain circumstances.
- [SB 495](#) — Establishing the salt parity act to allow pass-through entities to elect to pay state income tax at the entity level.
- [SB 543](#) — Allowing the carryforward of certain net operating losses for individuals for Kansas income tax purposes.
- [HB 2721](#) — Providing a sales tax exemption for sales of over-the-counter drugs.
- [HB 2724](#) — Excluding the required 20 mills for school districts from the notice and public hearing requirements to exceed the revenue neutral rate for property tax purposes.

Bills of note that have been worked and passed out of committee include:

- [SB 180](#) - Providing a sales tax exemption for certain purchases by disabled veterans.
- [SB 311](#) - Sales tax exemption for the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.
- [SCR 1619](#) — Urging the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2021 Special Committee on Taxation regarding the fiscal future of Kansas.

Further, [SCR 1620](#) was passed out of the Senate Tax Committee on Thursday and has been placed on the Senate Calendar. If passed by both Chambers, a question would be placed on the November ballot that would ask voters to modify the constitution to “require a supermajority of two-thirds of all members of the House of Representatives and Senate to pass bills to enact or amend any law creating any new state tax or increasing the rate of existing state income tax, sales tax, compensating use tax, other excise tax, property tax, estate or inheritance tax or a tax in the nature of such taxes.”

The proposal, known in some states as a variation of TABOR or the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, was promoted by some pro-business organizations such as the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Americans for Prosperity who felt making it harder to raise taxes would help control state spending. Opponents included the Kansas Contractors Association and other organizations who noted that keeping up with infrastructure

needs, such as roads and bridges, would become more difficult in bad times if the threshold of votes need to pass a tax increase was higher.

The most up to date House Tax Committee schedule can be found [here](#). The Senate Tax committee calendar can be found [here](#). In addition to the hearings listed, both committees are expected to work bills they may have previously heard.

SENATE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS RELEASE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING MAPS

Separate proposals for legislative redistricting boundaries were released late Thursday by both the Senate Republicans and [Senate Democrats](#). The maps are the first legislative redistricting maps to be released so far this Session.

Of note, the [Republican map](#) would group incumbent Senators Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City) and Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora) together, setting up a potential showdown of incumbents. It would also pair Sen. Michael Fagg (R-El Dorado) with current Senate Vice President Rick Wilborn (R-McPherson). It is rumored that Wilborn is expected to retire at the end of his term.

There is no word yet when the maps will be taken up or when the House will release its maps. While there are no Senate races until 2024, all 125 House members will stand for reelection this fall.

HEALTH SECRETARY CONFIRMED BY FULL SENATE

After several initial battles between the Governor's office and the Republican controlled Senate, the chamber voted [32-5](#) to confirm [Janet Stanek](#) as the next Secretary for the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE). During her confirmation, Senators noted that Stanek had done a good job of trying to connect personally with lawmakers and that she was committed to looking forward rather than speak for the actions of her predecessor, Dr. Lee Norman, who stepped down in November.

Stanek also said she would not close churches in the event of another health emergency. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Laura Kelly was one of the first officials in the country to order closure of churches during the Easter holiday in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. Stanek's statements promising no similar actions would be taken in the future seemingly went far in securing GOP support for the Democratic appointee.

Stanek has over 35 years of healthcare experience. Notably, she served as an executive at [Stormont Vail](#), the primary hospital in Topeka.

LIABILITY BILL PAIRED WITH HOSPITAL WORKER PROTECTION BILL; PASSES HOUSE

A bill that would protect hospitals, long term care, mental health and HCBS providers, as well as businesses from civil lawsuit claims related to COVID-19 passed the House floor by a [large margin](#) on Wednesday as many of those protection are set to lapse at the end of March.

Amendments were also added to [Sub for Sub for SB 286](#) that [broadened some protections](#) and added the contents of a [bill](#) that would enhance penalties for interfering with the conduct of a hospital and its employees.

The bill now heads to the Senate for either a concur or a request to put the bill into Conference Committee.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL TO BE HEARD NEXT WEEK

The Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee will hear a bill next week designed to allow for the sale and use of medical marijuana. [SB 560](#), was released late Friday and is scheduled to be heard Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week.

A comprehensive medical marijuana [bill](#) was passed in the waning days of the 2021 Session in the House, but was never taken up by the Senate. If passed, this new bill would allow the Senate the ability to gain a position on the issue as the House's version is still alive because of the biannual Session.

PRESS RELEASES & OTHER UPDATES

- [Governor Laura Kelly Directs State Agencies to Waive Fees for Kansans Affected by Wildfires in Reno and Harvey Counties](#)
- [Governor Laura Kelly Announces Kansas Ranked First in Nation for Most Economic Development Investment Per Capita](#)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: MARCH 14 – MARCH 19

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

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing: SB548- Groundwater Management, SB549- Groundwater Right Holders
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	N/A
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearing (Cont.):SB 546 — Providing for the use and regulation of autonomous motor vehicles
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	N/A
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB405- Convey Property to Shawnee Tribe, SB479- KS Suffragist Memorial; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Financial Inst. & Rural	218-N	Review & Update: HB2237- ROZ Loan Repayment Program
9:00 AM	H Local Government	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Hearing: SB556- Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit, SB554- Zoos as Ag land, SB319- Judicial Foreclosure Tax Sales
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	Hearing: HB2703- Employment Security Law Adjustments, SB505- Protect Home-based Work Act
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB547- Exempting Satellite Services from Franchise Fees, SB522- Firearm Safety Program; Possible Action

10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Hearing: HCR5022- Req. Sheriff be Elected, HB2608- Collection Process for Criminal Restitution; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	N/A
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: SB528- Reimbursement for Classroom Supplies; Action: SB455- Permitting K-12 Transfer to any School District; Possible Action
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
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- Deceptive Lawsuit Ad Practices
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	Hearing: SB200- Pharmacist's Scope of Practice, HB2734- Social Worker Applicant for Supervised Experience
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	N/A
2:00 PM	JC State-Tribal	159-S	Committee Organization
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		GO: sb389- Paper Ballots Watermark, SCR1623- Urging divestment from Russian Energy, SB494- Driver status based on vehicle features
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Hearing: HB2727- Limit for Mod. SSI, HB2732- Gage Park Act; Action: HB2724- 20 Mills exempt Rev. Neutral, HB2394- R&D Credit
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Insurance	218-N	Hearing: SB399- Maternity Centers Defined as Healthcare Provider, HB2733- PBM Licensure Act; Possible Action

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing: HB2605- Amending the Veterinary Training Program

8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Hearing: HB2259- Partner Therapy for STDs, SB531- Massage Therapist Licensure Act; Possible Action
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearing: HB2576,SB459,HB2597,HB2483- All Related to Distinctive Plates; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2492- Claims Against the State; Action: US Semiquincentennial; Possible Action on Budget Appropriations
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Action on Bills Previously Heard
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Utilities & Telecom	582-N	Briefing: Shari Feist Albrecht- Southwest Power Pool; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Veterans	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB374- Discontinuing Property Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Resources; Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Hearing: HB2481- Authorizing KP&F Service Credit Purchase for Non-federal Gov. Employees; Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Local Government	142-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Hearing: SB511- Providing Right to withholding of Organization Fees/Dues
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Briefing: Election Security; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Hearing: HB2537- Insurance Department Hearings, HB2574- Time Limit Mental Health counseling, HB2607- Habeas Corpus; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	N/A
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Hearing: HB2631- Tech Ed Credentials, HB2466- Computing Knowledge Act; Action: SB455- K-12 Transfer to any District
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	Hearing: SB276- Considerations for Adoption Practice; Action: DCF review of Child's Needs
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	Briefing: Master Teachers of Kansas; Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	Guest Speaker: Autumn Bertel, Kansas Miss Amazing (I/DD related program)
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	Hearing: SB161- Personal Package Delivery Devices; Possible Action
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		

3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Hearing: SB451- Tribal Membership Hunting License; Action: SB346- Retail Farm Sale of Milk, HB2530- Fake Meat Labels, HB2723- Animal Health
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Hearing: SB419- Permitting KDOC employees to attend Law Enforcement Training; Action: HB2725- Best Interest of Child Family Law Code
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	Guest Speaker: Autumn Bertel, Kansas Miss Amazing (I/DD related program)
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Hearing: HB2729- Exemption for 50% value Golden Year Homesteads; Action: HB2711- Reducing tax on food products
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Elections	218-N	Briefing: Election Integrity

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Hearing (Cont.) & Action: HB2563- Amending Commercial Hemp Act
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Hearing: HB2386- Reimbursement under Dental Benefit Plan; Possible Action
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearing: HB2595- Antique Vehicle Titling procedures; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H. Approps	112-N	Bill Intros; Action: HB2588- Appropriations for FY23 - FY25
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Action on Bills Previously Heard
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Financial Inst. & Rural	218-N	Briefing: Kansas housing Investor & Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act
9:00 AM	H Local Government	281-N	TBA
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Hearing: SB553- Enacting Kansas Thrift Savings Plan; Briefing: Property Valuation
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
9:30 AM	S Transparency & Ethics	142-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Briefing: Department of Commerce - Office of Innovation; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB560- Regulation of Medical Marijuana; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	TBA; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2567- Increasing fees for duties performed by County Treasurers
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		

1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Action: SB455- Permitting K-12 Transfer to any School District; Possible Action
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Briefing: Kansans for Responsible Solar
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	Action: HB2468- Kansas Foster Youth Bill of Rights, HB2469- Kansas Foster Parents Bill of Rights
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	Hearing & Action: SB215- Driver's Ed Programs under KBOR; Briefing: iCivics & financial Literacy; Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	Briefing: KTA; Possible Action
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Briefing: Food and Farm Coalition Part II
3:30 PM	H General Gov. Budget	281-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Action on Bills Previously Heard
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	Hearing: SB326- Railroad Track Maintenance; Action: HB2732- Enacting Gage Park Improvement Authority Act
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Insurance	218-N	Hearing: SB450- KPERS proceeds from sale of surplus real estate; Possible Action

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	TBA
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Hearing: HB2633- Distinctive Plate; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros; Action on Bills Previously Heard
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Action on Bills Previously Heard
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Utilities & Telecom	582-N	N/A
9:00 AM	H Veterans	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	TBA

9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Action on Bills Previously Heard
9:30 AM	S Local Government	142-S	Briefing: Rail Safety Act
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	TBA
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing (Cont.): SB560- Regulation of Medical Marijuana, HB2688- Farm Wineries Retail Licensure; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	TBA; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	N/A
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	N/A
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Briefing: KANREN- Anchor Institution Broadband
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	N/A
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	N/A
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	Action on Bills Previously Heard
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; Final Action on Bills Previously Heard
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Elections	218-N	N/A

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Time	Committee	Room	Notes
8:30 AM	S Agriculture	144-S	TBA
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	TBA
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing (Cont.): SB560- Regulation of Medical Marijuana; Possible Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	TBA; Possible Action