



WEEK TWO IN THE BOOKS

The second week was a short week, due to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and inclement weather cancellations Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. The week was highlighted by taxes, Medicaid expansion, budget reaction and general overview of issues in committees.

GOVERNOR KELLY NAMES MEDICAID WORKING GROUP

Governor Laura Kelly named a bipartisan group of health industry stakeholders to work on and promote expansion of Medicaid. The group will assist the Governor in finalizing a Medicaid expansion bill that will be introduced to the legislature by Tuesday, January 29 – Kansas Day.

SENATE PRESIDENT WAGLE APPOINTS NEW TAX COMMITTEE

Senate President Susan Wagle appointed a new Select Committee on Federal Tax Code Implementation that will narrowly focus on the issues of the changes in the 2017 federal income tax cuts and how the changes flow through to Kansas taxpayers. The committee will hold hearings on SB22 next Tuesday and Wednesday with a goal of acting on the bill Thursday. SB22 includes itemized deductions, providing for deferred foreign income, GILTI, business interest capital contributions and FDIC premiums income tax modifications. The bill also provides for Kansas to decouple from the federal tax code implemented in 2017.

THE KC CHAMBER PRESENTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce presented information on the Workforce Development Committee established to address the workforce needs in the area. Jim Jamieson, Honeywell F, M & T; Sheri Gonzales Warren, MARC; and Donna McDaniel, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, presented research and work being accomplished on coordination and development of best practices in workforce development to the House Commerce Committee. The presentations were well received and interested legislators continued the conversation after the hearing. This will be an ongoing priority in the House Commerce Committee.

JOE REARDON TAPPED FOR GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION COUNCIL

Governor Kelly signed an executive order to continue the Governor's Education Council that started under Governor Jeff Colyer in 2018. The Council has a goal of improving outcomes for Kansas kids and providing an opportunity for connecting educators from Pre-K through higher education with leaders in the business community. Joe Reardon, President and CEO of the KC Chamber, has been tapped to be a member of this important council on education and the workforce.



TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE REPORT

The final report from the 2018 Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force will be presented on Monday, January 28 to the members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The House Appropriations Committee has not scheduled their review.

EDUCATION FUNDING BILLS INTRODUCED

Bills to fund education according to the Governor's budget were introduced this week. They are companion bills, SB44 and HB2078 that will be referred to the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance and the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget.

NEXT WEEK

- Briefing on the Department of Commerce Urban and Rural Development in House Appropriations
- Briefing on Westar/KCP&L (Evergy) rate study in House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications and Senate Utilities
- Briefing on the audit of the Kansas 911 system in House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
- Briefing on overview of the Kansas Economic Development Initiatives and Programs and Hearing on economic development incentive program information database in House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
- Internet sales briefing in and hearing on bill to review tax credits, exemptions and economic development programs in House Taxation
- Overview and hearings on Association Health Plans in House Insurance and Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at:

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Important Dates:

Kansas State Affairs Committee Meeting: Friday, February 15, 12:00-1:15 p.m. KU Clinical Research Center (4350 Shawnee Mission Pkwy. Fairway, KS)

Johnson County Legislative Breakfast: Saturday, February 16, 7:30-9:00 a.m. DoubleTree-OP (10100 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS)

****Special Joint Kansas & Missouri State Affairs Committee Meeting:** Friday, March 8, 12:00-1:15 p.m. KC Chamber Boardroom Union Station)**

For more information and to RSVP, contact John Jenks (816.374.5461).