



BRADEN · HEIDNER · LOWE  
& ASSOCIATES

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT



**KANSAS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**MARCH 22, 2019**

## **OVERVIEW**

A busy week under the dome capped off the last week regular committees' meetings this session. There are now just two weeks left for regular session. Next week is dedicated to action on the House and Senate floor, while the first week of April is set for conference committees. House and Senate leaders are working to complete several legislative tasks before the First Adjournment date of April 5.

## **MEDICAID EXPANSION ACTION**

Medicaid Expansion captured headlines when the House offered an amendment on a healthcare bill (HB 2066) being debated on the floor. After a multi-hour debate, the amendment was adopted and the bill was passed 69-54. The bill now goes to the Senate. A big thank you to Representative Kathy Wolfe Moore for her efforts to amend the Medicaid expansion to the bill.

## **SCHOOL FINANCE**

Several days' worth of school finance discussions in the House took place this week. The House K-12 Education Budget Committee worked HB2395, their school finance bill, which contains appropriations but has several new policy pieces. The policy issues went into SB16 and the funding issues went into HB2395. The funding is for two years, similar amounts to the Senate bill, but requires earmarking funding for various weightings, as a mental health weighting. The full House will be working these two bills on Monday.

The committee also held a hearing on SB 142, which was passed by the Senate last week. There was an attempt for the House committee to recommend SB 142 but the motion failed. This will be worked out in conference.

## **AO-K CAREER PATHWAY PASSED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE**

John Jenks, KC Chamber, testified on SB 199 in the House Education Committee this week. The bill would establish the AO-K to Work Program. 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 and meets other KBOR requirements. SB199 was passed by the House Education Committee and will be worked by the full House on Monday.

## **CONFIRMATION HEARINGS**

Mark Burghart- Secretary, Department of Revenue recommended by the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee and now awaits full Senate action. Julie Lorenz also was recommended by the Senate Transportation Committee. The Senate Commerce Committee also heard the recommendation of David Toland as Commerce Secretary. The Commerce Committee by a vote of 6-5 did not recommend favorably his confirmation. All will go for Senate confirmation, and a majority of the Senate can approve the nomination.

Other Governor Appointments sent to Senate Committees include Laura Howard, Children and Families and Aging and Disability Services; Donald Brownlee, Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission; Brad Loveless, Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, and Mike Beam, Agriculture.

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Budget discussions progressed this week. The Senate Ways & Means Committee and House Appropriations Committee each considered their own budget bills and recommended them out of committee. On Thursday, the Senate debated and passed their bill 21-18. The House is expected to act on their bill next week. Once both budgets pass, the committee leaders will meet in conference committee to negotiate the differences. Hopefully this takes place and is finalized by April 5.

## **TAX BILL**

Legislators are anxiously waiting for Governor Kelly's response to SB 22, the tax package. She has ten calendar days after receiving the bill on Tuesday to act. This bill contains the decoupling of various provisions of the federal tax act of 2017, reduced food sales tax from 6.5% to 5.5% on October 1 and an internet sales tax component to be applied to online vendors with at least \$100,000 of annual in-state sales. If Governor Kelly signs the bill or lets it become law without her signature, this would most likely finish major tax discussions for the year. However, most believe she will veto the bill, forcing the Legislature back to the drawing board.

## **TRANSPORTATION PLAN BILLS**

This was another very busy week for legislative bills related to the planning and funding for the next comprehensive transportation plan. HB 2369, known as the tolling bill was heard in the House. The bill's hearing was largely the same as the Senate's hearing on the identical bill, but conferees suggested a handful of amendments to relieve concerns on the bill to ensure a thorough process is in place. The committee approved the amended bill to be sent to the House floor. The Senate version is in HB2007.

The House also heard HB 2373, which directs KDOT to start the planning process for the next transportation plan. This is an identical bill to SB186 in the Senate. The committee recommended the bill out of committee to the House floor. John Jenks, KC Chamber, testified on this bill this week.

The Senate Tax Committee held a hearing on SB 191, which creates an exception for the property tax lid for local transportation projects. The committee has not acted on the bill.

The Senate Transportation Committee acted on SB 189, which increases registration fees for hybrid and electric vehicles. The committee amended the bill to lower the proposed registration

fees to \$50 and \$100, for hybrid and electric vehicles, respectively. The committee put the amended bill language into HB 2214 and passed it out of committee. Meanwhile in the House, the Appropriations Committee approved a similar bill (HB 2372) but kept the registration fees at the proposed levels. One or both bills may be considered next week on the House and Senate floor.

HB 2371, which proposed to increase permit fees for oversize or overweight vehicles, is part of the funding options for the next comprehensive transportation plan. The bill was amended to lower the fee levels and recommend to the House floor. The Senate Transportation Committee works its identical version of the bill (SB 187) and added an amended to require escort vehicles to register with the secretary of transportation. The committee placed SB 187's language into HB 2225 and passed it out of committee. This means HB 2225 is the Senate's bill on oversize or overweight vehicles.

No action has been taken on any of fuel tax bills.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HB2006 was passed out of the Senate Commerce. 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 on the House side to protect confidential information of recipients. And in the Senate Committee, additional provisions were added to the bill.

The Broadband Expansion Planning Task Force will meet next Thursday, beginning at 9:00am. The agenda includes updates on federal broadband policies and funding; and the rural broadband needs, barriers and solutions.

## **LINKS TO NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR**

[http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019\\_20/chamber/documents/daily\\_calendar\\_house\\_20190322153114.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20190322153114.pdf)

[http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019\\_20/chamber/documents/daily\\_calendar\\_senate\\_20190322114418.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20190322114418.pdf)

## **QUESTIONS?**

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

Sandy Braden, President, Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates

Email: [sandy@bhlandassociates.com](mailto:sandy@bhlandassociates.com)

Office: 785-233-4512