



LEGISLATIVE REPORT



KANSAS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MARCH 28, 2019

OVERVIEW

The end of the 2019 regular session is in sight. There is one more week remaining in the regular session as the Legislature wrapped up three days of debate on the House and Senate floor. Most of the heavy lifting took place in the House as it tackled several bills that each engendered multiple-hour debates. Both chambers passed their own budget. Next week is dedicated to conference committees to negotiate the differences between the different versions on the budget and other bills that have passed but not yet become law.

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

Mark Burghart- Secretary, Department of Revenue and Julie Lorenz , Secretary of Transportation, were both confirmed by the Senate and are now official. The Commerce Committee turned their recommendation not to support the nomination for Secretary of Commerce Toland on Wednesday. This paves the way for the vote on David Toland as Commerce Secretary, which may occur next week.

Other Governor Appointments sent to the Senate and representative 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.

AO-K CAREER PATHWAY PASSED

The bill, SB199, would establish the AO-K to Work Program was passed by the House. 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.

TAX BILL

On Monday, Governor Kelly announced her veto of SB 22, the tax package, passed by the Legislature two weeks ago. This was the Federal Tax Windfall Bill, which decoupled Kansas from the 2018 federal tax reform changes, 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. In response, the Legislature is expected to attempt an over-ride of the veto, though it remains to be seen if there is a sufficient 2/3 majority. The bill passed the Senate on a 26-14

vote – so it would require 27 votes to override the veto. If the Senate overrides the veto, the House will need to have 84 votes to override her veto. All Republicans in the House would need to vote for the bill to override the Governor, as there are 41 Democrats and 84 Republicans.

MEDICAID EXPANSION ACTION

Medicaid Expansion captured headlines when the House offered an amendment on a healthcare bill (HB 2066) and passed the bill to the Senate. The bill was sent to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, who has asked the Senate leadership for an interim committee to study Medicaid expansion in Kansas.

SCHOOL FINANCE

The Senate already passed its school finance plan that appropriates additional funding while the House passed a plan with many policy changes. The House also has a school funding bill that was recommended by its K-12 Budget Committee. The House and Senate's school finance plans are quite different. The Senate's plan (SB 142) is similar to the funding component proposed by Governor Kelly. On the other hand, the House's school finance bill on funding (HB 2395) has less money than the Senate's plan; however, the bill appropriates money for several programs. The House's education policy bill (SB 16) includes several program and policy pieces not included by the Senate. The School Finance Conference Committee is expected to begin work on Monday to whittle down the differences. This will need to be done next week, as the oral arguments before the Kansas Supreme Court are April 15.

CONCEAL CARRY PERMIT AGE REDUCED BY HOUSE

The House voted 83-41 to send to the Senate a gun bill that allows reciprocity between states for concealed-carry permits. The bill also dropped the age from 21 to 18 at which Kansans can receive concealed-carry permits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB2006 was passed out of the Senate Commerce and reported to the Senate on Wednesday. The bill contents from the House have passed one house, so they can be added to a conference committee bill. Here is the amended Senate Commerce version and explanation:

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/measures/documents/hb2006_03_0000.pdf

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/measures/documents/supp_note_hb2006_03_0000.pdf

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

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 and HB2007, known as the tolling bills, were passed in the House and Senate.

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. Neither bill has been worked by their respective House.

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. Both bills were approved by their respective house this week.

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. Both the House and Senate passed their bills.

No action is expected this year on any of fuel tax bills, on the property tax lid for local transportation projects, and on the bill on transfers to the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and county and city revenue sharing fund for local projects.

LINKS TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

There is a schedule of conference committees now on the Kansas Legislature website. Here is the link: http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/committees/conference/

QUESTIONS?

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

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