



BRADEN · HEIDNER · LOWE
& ASSOCIATES

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER

JANUARY 31, 2020

OVERVIEW

As the world looks forward to Super Bowl LIV featuring our own Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas legislators finished the first month of the 2020 Legislative Session with conspicuous momentum. The first three weeks of session are often devoted to introductory and organizational tasks, however this session has seen Senate and House committees hit the ground running. Armed with nearly 600 bills carried over from last session, committees did not have to wait for new bills, though approximately 200 more bills have been introduced since January 13.

The Senate is leading the charge crossing major priorities off the to-do list. In the wake of a Medicaid Expansion compromise between Governor Kelly and Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning, the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee held several days of hearings on SB 252 hearing both proponents and opponents. The committee is expected to debate the bill next week, which could send the bill to the Senate floor in early February. The House is watching the activity closely. Normally, such hot-topic issues are pushed toward the end of session, thus this issue has helped ignite early session activity.

The Senate captured more headlines with its recommendation of a constitutional amendment. By a two-thirds majority, the Senate debated and passed SCR 1613, a proposed constitutional amendment that would remove the right for an abortion in the Kansas Constitution and allow the Kansas Legislature to regulate abortion through state law. The proposed amendment will now be considered by the House, where if adopted by two-thirds majority, it will be placed on the August election ballot.

February is expected to be extremely active leading up to the Turnaround deadline on February 27. This means most bills (except a few exempt committees) must be passed by their chamber of origin by the Turnaround deadline in order to continue through the process.

MEDICAID EXPANSION ACTION

Neutral testimony on SB252 was heard on January 28 and opponents on January 29 and 30. The bill is scheduled to be worked in the Senate Public Health Committee next Wednesday and Thursday. It is expected to come out of Committee and be worked on the floor in mid-February. SB252 includes full expansion, a work referral program, reinsurance waiver, fee establishment for MCO's and hospitals to support the plan. The Governor's budget set aside \$17.5 million for FY2021 for Medicaid Expansion effective January 1, 2021 and \$35 million for FY2022.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The KC Chamber testified on two bills in the House Commerce Committee this week. John Jenks testified in support of HB2515, which creates the Kansas Promise Scholarship. This will expand post secondary education opportunities to working Kansasns who otherwise may not be able to afford community college or technical

college education. John also testified on HB2507 which will expand work-based learning programs for all Kansas high school students by protecting employers and business from liability when hosting students for work-based learning programs. This will remove one of the biggest barriers employers state when deciding to offer work-based learning opportunities. Bills will be worked in Committee next week.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee will have a presentation on property tax by the former Senate President of Utah. They will also be hearing SB294, which would establish notice and public hearing requirements prior to approval by a governing body to exceed its certified tax rate for property tax purposes.

The House Taxation Committee will be hearing HB 2416, which would create the Kansas Targeted Employment Act, which would be established to decrease the reliance on Medicaid and other state programs by incentivizing employers to hire individuals who are reliant on the programs; and reallocate employer-paid tax dollars back to employers to incentivize them to hire individuals who are reliant on Medicaid and other state programs.

The House Taxation Committee will also hear two bills on marketplace facilitators; requiring the collection and remittance for sales, compensating use and transient guest taxes made on platforms; removing click through nexus provisions and provisions for remote sellers who make more than \$100,000 in gross sales for taxation.

The House and Senate Commerce Committees will have a joint meeting on Monday where the Department of Commerce will have an annual report on STAR Bonds and an update on Border War. The Senate Commerce Committee will also hear from the Community Colleges and Board of Regents on how Community Colleges and Higher Education can drive workforce and economic development in Kansas.

LINKS TO NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20200131095453.pdf

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20200131090243.pdf

QUESTIONS?

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