



LEGISLATIVE REPORT



GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

OVERVIEW

The legislative calendar turns to February ignited by the celebration of the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl LIV victory. In fact, the Legislature closed on Wednesday to allow legislators and their staff to attend the parade in Kansas City. The short week still allowed committees to meet to continue work and for action on the House and Senate floor. The proposed constitutional amendment on abortion and Medicaid Expansion continue to dominate hallway conversations under the dome with a few other issues beginning to take shape.

This week, the House debated SCR 1613, which proposes a constitutional amendment that would remove the right for an abortion in the Kansas Constitution and allow the Kansas Legislature to regulate abortion. The House rejected the amendment with 80 votes as approval requires a 2/3 majority. It is expected that this is not the end of the debate on this topic.

The Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee plans to begin its debate on the Medicaid Expansion Compromise Bill (SB 252) next week. If recommended by the committee, the Senate may debate the bill on the floor as early as late next week or the following week. However, the speed of the House and Senate's action on both SCR 1613 and SB 252 depend on the other chamber's action. Meanwhile, other health policy issues remain at a standstill until the status of SB 252 becomes clearer.

Other major issues began to capture headlines this week. The Kansas Department of Transportation introduced its FORWARD Bill, which creates plans for the next comprehensive transportation program. The House and Senate each have identical versions of the bill (HB 2588 and SB 375 respectively) that are expected to have a hearing in the middle of the month.

February remains a key month as legislators rush to move bills forward in anticipation of 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.

TRANSPORTATION BILL INTRODUCED

KDOT's FORWARD Kansas Bill, known as HB 2588 and SB 375, is a comprehensive transportation plan set for ten years but considered to be a rolling plan as far as project selection. Specifically, the bill allows the KDOT Secretary to select projects for development and construction every two years, after a series of local consultation meetings. By 2030, the bill calls for no less than three expansion or modernization projects from each of KDOT's six districts. The bill allows the use of alternative delivery for certain state projects and as an option for all projects funded by toll revenues. There is not a new tax proposed to fund FORWARD Kansas in the bill; the Department has stated the plan can be funded if the Legislature does not sweep funds from the State Highway Fund. Hearings have not been set.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce testified in support on two bills in the House Commerce Committee. The bills were HB2515, which creates the Kansas Promise Scholarship that will expand post-secondary education opportunities to working Kansans who otherwise may not be able to afford community college or technical college education; and 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. Both bills will be worked in the Commerce Committee this week.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee will be hearing HB2496 that authorizes court services officers and community corrections officers to provide a certification of identification to offenders and HB22547, which would make changes to suspended driver's license requirements that resulted from driving while suspended due to unpaid fines. The Committee is also working a number of corrections reform bills.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee had a presentation on property tax by the former Senate President of Utah. They also heard 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. No action was taken on this bill.

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.

House Taxation will also hear HB2490, which would allow for net operating loss to be considered at 80% for and additional 20 years.

LINKS TO NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20200206155024.pdf

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20200207111753.pdf

QUESTIONS?

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