



LEGISLATIVE REPORT



GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

OVERVIEW

The 2020 Legislative Session has officially reached Turnaround. Turnaround is essentially the “halfway point” of the regular session in which most bills (except a few exempt committees) must be passed by their chamber of origin in order to continue through the process. Committees met Monday while legislators spent Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday debating bills on the floor.

Due to the Turnaround rules, hundreds of bills died this week, with the remaining bills having either passed one chamber or residing in an exempt committee. The second half of the regular session begins next Wednesday. Legislators are headed home to their districts for a short break.

March will be spent piecing the budget together, which is the only actual requirement of the Legislature to complete this session. The Senate’s Medicaid Expansion Bill (SB 252) is now dead due to Turnaround, but new language can certainly be introduced in an exempt committee or added to a bill still alive on the calendar or in committee. March also expects to see continued discussion on legalizing sports betting and approving a new comprehensive transportation plan.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HB 2506, which allows new Kansas residents or military spouses who are licensed in another state to have their license be transferred to Kansas, passed out of the House by a vote of 123-2. Along with the amendments in the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, there was an additional amendment that passed clarifying residency. SB366, which was the companion bill in the Senate was not worked by the full Senate. It is expected that HB2506 will be sent to Senate Commerce Committee.

Two other bills that the KC Chamber testified in support of that passed the House 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. HB2515 passed by a vote of 116-6 and HB2507 passed by a vote of 97-27.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

HB 2496, which authorizes court services officers and community corrections officers to provide a certification of identification to offenders was passed by the House with a vote of 125-0. It now goes to the Senate. HB 2547, as amended, would amend law related to driving while suspended and fees associated with the reinstatement of driver’s licenses and application for restricted driving privileges, also passed 125-0. The Senate passed SB275, which, would amend law regarding penalties for driving with a suspended license, by a vote of 39-0.

TOBBACO 21

The full House did not take up HB2563, which would increase the age to sell regulated tobacco products to 21. As the bill was passed out of the exempt Committee of Federal and State Affairs, it remains on the House calendar to be worked in March.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB2529 would extend the STAR Bonds program and make reforms to the program. The bill was not taken up by the full House, but will be worked when they return in March.

The same fate is expected for HB2689, that it will be taken up by the full House in March. This bill would amend the angel investor tax credit with respect to the definition of qualified securities, tax credit limitations and amounts, investor requirements and extending the date that credits may be allowed.

HB 2702, which would decouple the KIT and KIR workforce training programs from the high-performance incentive fund program (HPIP) and enhancing the workforce training tax credit, also has been kept alive to work after turnaround.

LINKS TO NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20200227140329.pdf

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20200227112324.pdf

QUESTIONS?

Please contact: Sandy Braden, President, Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates

Email: sandy@bhlandassociates.com

Office: 785-233-4512