



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER

MARCH 13, 2020

OVERVIEW

Activity under the dome continues to increase as legislators work quickly to comply with upcoming legislative deadlines. Next week is the final week most committees will meet to consider and recommend bills to be sent to the House or Senate floor. Most remaining bills must be considered and passed by the opposite chamber by March 25. The last week of March is dedicated to conference committees with the regular session ending on April 3.

Relating to Coronavirus prevention, no changes to the legislative schedule have been announced at this time. However, the concern has fueled efforts to quickly wrap up lingering issues. The only real requirement of the session is for the Legislature to pass a budget for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1. The Senate Ways & Means Committee finalized its version of the budget (SB 386) on Thursday. The House Appropriations passed out their budget today and is ready to be worked next week.

FORWARD KANSAS TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Senate Ways & Means acted and recommended KDOT's Forward Transportation Bill, contained in SB 375. The bill has been sent to the Senate floor where it is expected to be debated later this month. The House Appropriations Committee debated its version of the bill (HB 2588) and sent it to the House floor. However, during the committee debate, the House Appropriations Committee voted to make several changes, including changing the alternative delivery language to say "alternative delivery procurement methods shall only be used when such methods are a condition of projects obtained through federal grants."

In comparison, SB 375's alternative delivery language says "not more than 5% of dollars spent in Forward transportation program shall be used for alternative delivery" and adds "any project utilizing alternative delivery shall equal or exceed \$100,000,000 in costs." The language differences will likely be debated in conference committee. The House committee also voted to rename the next comprehensive transportation plan as the "Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program."

SCR1601, a constitutional amendment that would prevent transfers and limit expenditures from the state highway fund to fund only items listed in the amendment, was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday and will be worked next week. The KC Chamber provided supportive testimony.

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, was passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee this week.

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, was heard in Senate Education on Monday. The bill has not been worked. The KC Chamber provided supportive testimony.

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, was heard and passed out of the Senate Commerce on Thursday. John Jenks testified in favor of the bill for the KC Chamber.

HB 2496, which authorizes court services officers and community corrections officers to provide a certification of identification to offenders will be heard in Senate Judiciary next week. The House Transportation Committee passed SB275, which, would amend law regarding penalties for driving with a suspended license.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB2529 would extend the STAR Bonds program and make reforms to the program. The bill will be worked in House Commerce on Wednesday. The Senate Commerce Committee will hear SB498 on Tuesday and Wednesday. This bill makes changes to the STAR Bonds program and sunsets the program July 1, 2022.

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 was heard and passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee on Friday.

The House Taxation Committee heard HB 2720, which would create a new refundable food sales tax credit and repeal the existing non- refundable food sales tax credit beginning in tax year 2020. The new tax credit amount would be determined by tax filing status and could be claimed by all taxpayers with income at or below certain federal adjusted gross income levels. This is another of the Governor's Tax Council recommendations. The cost of the bill would be \$52 million reduction in state general funds. No action was taken on the bill.

LINKS TO NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20200312154640.pdf
http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20200312151219.pdf

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