



KANSAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of January 22nd, 2024

Week three was a slow start because of the winter weather the region is experiencing. No votes were held in the House and the Senate voted on a number of appointments this week. Taxes continue to be a hot topic in the statehouse as the Governor vetoed the tax plan the Legislature sent over Friday afternoon. Next week, Joe Reardon, President and CEO of the **KC Chamber** will be up to testify on behalf of the World Cup and the **KC Civic Council** staff will be meeting with Legislators to discuss the 2024 Legislative Agenda.

House and Senate Republican Leadership's Tax Press Conference

The Republican Leadership held a joint press conference this week to promote the tax policy bill they sent to the Governor. A quick reminder, both the Governor and Republican leadership's tax policy are very similar except for the addition of a 5.25% "flat tax" in the Republican plan. The Republicans believe that simplifying the tax code will provide relief to all Kansas tax players and will also make Kansas more attractive for people moving from out of state. The Governor disagreed, believing this will only benefit high income Kansans and will create budget deficits in the future, and today vetoed the bill. It appears Republicans are currently one vote short of a veto override.

National Guard Tax Credits (HB 2544)

The House Commerce Committee held a hearing on HB 2544, which encourages businesses to hire and retain members of the Kansas National Guard by offering a tax credit to those who hire members and a tax credit to those who choose to serve. The **KC Chamber** believes that these tax credits offer valuable assistance to both employers and to those who serve in our National Guard. The tax credits offered in HB2544 will help Kansas and the greater Kansas City region secure its position as a leader in military and veteran support and civil-military relations. These tax credits are extremely valuable in building a network of high-quality employees and community-minded National Guard members and will incentivize employers who are considering hiring members of the National Guard. The **KC Chamber** was joined by the Kansas and Wichita chambers in support of the legislation. There were no opponents.

For more information on HB 2544 visit: https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/hb2544/

World Cup Hearings

The House and Senate Commerce Committees held hearings on the upcoming 2026 World Cup. Katherine Holland, Executive Director of "KC 2026" (the official name of the Kansas City World Cup enterprise), and Joe Reardon, KC Chamber President & CEO, presented to the Committee and discussed this once in a lifetime event for our region. KC 2026 has a budget ask of \$28 - \$32 million dollars from the state of Kansas. (Last year the Missouri General Assembly appropriated \$50 million to support KC 2026.) The Governor included \$20 million for the World Cup in her budget for the year. Joe and members of the KC 2026 committee will also be testifying next week to the House and Senate budget committees. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of this budget ask as it makes its way through the process. Please note the map below, KC is right in the middle and a four hour or less flight to any other stadium. It is one of the reasons why we are one of the more attractive host cities for visitors from all over the world.



Hearings

The hearing schedule for next week is linked below.

House:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_house_20240124162647.pdf

Senate:

https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/chamber/documents/daily_calendar_senate_20240124165735.pdf

To view House/Senate Legislative Hearings please visit the Kansas Legislature's YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_ONO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A

Key Upcoming Dates

- January 29th – Last Day for Individuals to request Bill drafts
- February 5th – Last Day for Non-Exempt Committees to request bill drafts
- February 7th – Last Day for Bill Introductions by Individuals
- February 9th – Last Day for Non-Exempt Committee Bill Introductions
- February 23rd – Turn Around (Last Day for Non-Exempt Bills in House of Origin)
- March 28th – Last Day for Non-Exempt Bills in Either House
- April 5th – Drop Dead Day – First Adjournment
- April 29th – Veto Session Begins

KC Chamber Kansas State Affairs Committee Meeting February 16th, 12-1:15 p.m.

Please note a change of venue for the February meeting

KC Chamber

World Trade Center Conference Room

30 W. Pershing Rd

Kansas City, MO