

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APWA KC Metro

Kansas Legislative Report

March 11, 2023

As the sports world prepares for March Madness, Topeka is preparing for its own version as the remaining legislative calendar consists of critical deadlines in the legislative process.

There are four more weeks of regular session, with just a few days for most committees to meet, providing an urgent environment to finish hearings and recommend bills out of committee. Most bills must be passed by the second chamber by March 24. The following days, leading to the first adjustment date of April 6, are reserved for floor debates and conference committees to reconcile any differences between House and Senate versions of legislation.

Water Policy and Funding

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources is off and running with water discussions. A hearing on HB 2302 is scheduled for March 15 and 16. HB 2302 increases appropriation for the state water plan fund. Specifically, the bill aims to replace the existing \$8M dedicated to the state water plan fund with a portion of the existing state sales tax generating more than \$50M for each of the next five fiscal years. HB 2302 passed the House last month 119-3.

This week saw the Senate committee review Legislative Post Audit's groundwater management district audit, released last month. Committee members asked several questions with no further action scheduled. Groundwater management district discussion will continue next week with the HB 2279 hearing scheduled for March 14. The committee has time set aside for possible action later in the week.

Back on the House side, the House Committee on Water plans to receive several briefings related to conservation districts.

Transportation Policy and Funding

Debate and approval of the state's budget is a top priority for the coming weeks. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means has compiled its budget bill, known as Substitute for SB 155. The House Committee on Appropriations is expected to finalize its budget bill soon. The two budgets are expected to be debated soon and passed, where budget leaders will review their respective differences in conference committee.

Though the budget bill is not anticipated to impact the state highway fund, tax policy remains on the radar for potential impact to the fund's revenue. On March 13, the House Committee on Tax will hold a hearing on the Senate's revamp of the sales tax on food. SB 248 repeals the 2022 food sales tax law and instead adds food to the sales tax exemption list. This would immediately eliminate the food sales tax at both the state and local level.

During the Senate debate, an amendment was adopted to include an adjustment to hold the state highway fund's revenue harmless. This amendment increases allocation of the state sales tax percentage sent to the state highway fund. The bill is seeing mixed support, including concern from local governments noting their share of lost revenue.

Thank you and please see below for the bill matrix.

Travis Lowe, CAE

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 90 Senate Transportation Committee	Increasing certain registration and title fees on vehicles for services provided by county treasurers and the division of vehicles, decreasing certain fees related to administrative costs and modifying the disposition of such fees and eliminating the division of vehicles modernization surcharge	In Senate Transportation	02/08/2023 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Thursday, 2/16, 8:30 AM, Rm 546-S
SB 153 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Making and concerning supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	03/01/2023 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Ways and Means: Thursday, 3/9, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 155 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Appropriations for FY 2024, FY 2025 and FY 2026 for various state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	03/01/2023 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Ways and Means: Thursday, 3/9, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 205	Authorizing certain water rights in a water bank to participate in multi-year flex accounts on a temporary basis	In House Water	03/02/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water: Thursday, 3/9, 9:00 AM, Rm 218-N

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee			
HB 2004 Bill Rhiley, R-80th	Establishing the EV energy equity road repair tax act and providing for a road repair tax on electricity distributed from a public charging station for electric vehicles	In House Transportation	01/25/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Tuesday, 1/31, 1:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2047 House Water Committee	Increasing the amortization period on loans from the Kansas water pollution control revolving fund	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/02/2023 - Senate Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2142 House Education Committee	Creating the get the lead out of school drinking water act to require schools to comply with legal limits on lead content in school drinking water	In House Education	02/08/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Education: Tuesday, 2/14, 1:30 PM, Rm 218-N
HB 2148 House Transportation Committee	Increasing certain registration and title fees on vehicles for services provided by county treasurers and the division of vehicles, decreasing certain fees related to administrative costs and disposition of such fees and eliminating the division of vehicles modernization surcharge	In House Transportation	02/01/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Transportation: Tuesday, 2/7, 1:30 PM, Rm 582-N
HB 2159 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Providing for additional sources of revenue for the water program management fund and creating additional fees for the regulation of underground injection control wells	Stricken from Calendar in House	02/23/2023 - House Stricken from Calendar by Rule 1507
HB 2273 House Appropriations Committee	Appropriations for FY 2024, FY 2025 and FY 2026 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	03/01/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Wednesday, 3/8, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N

HB 2274 House Appropriations Committee	Making and concerning supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	03/01/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Wednesday, 3/8, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
HB 2279 House Water Committee	Requiring groundwater management districts to submit annual written reports to the legislature and to submit water conservation and stabilization plans to the chief engineer	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/08/2023 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Thursday, 3/16, 8:30 AM, Rm 144-S
HB 2302 House Water Committee	Modifying the distribution of moneys into the state water plan fund, creating the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund for water-related infrastructure projects and distributing a portion of the revenue from the sales and compensating use tax to the state water plan fund	In Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources	03/08/2023 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Friday, 3/17, 8:30 AM, Rm 144-S
HB 2372 House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Regulating the land application of swine manure and wastewater	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/09/2023 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources