

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APWA Kansas

Kansas Legislative Report

January 26, 2023

The remaining days of January wind down as the momentum of the 2024 Legislative Session increases each day. The third week of session saw scores of new bills introduced with dozens of committee hearings.

Budget subcommittees are hitting the ground running to review their assigned sections of the budget while recommending changes. Today, Governor Kelly vetoed the comprehensive tax package bill, prompting an override attempt by the Legislature in the coming days. Meanwhile, committees are scheduled to continue hearings and consider recommending bills to their respective chambers.

Water Policy & Funding

The House Committee on Water remains busy as it received updates from the Kansas Water Authority and groundwater management districts. Next week, the committee will have a hearing on HB 2459, prohibiting the change of the point of diversion of a water right if such change causes the safe yield of the source of water supply to be exceeded.

New water bills continue to surface with Rep. Sandy Pickert (R-Wichita) introducing one for wastewater treatment operators. The bill number will be assigned next week.

Additionally, the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources received a presentation on the Kansas Water Authority and the state water plan fund. This presentation outlined the current priorities of the agency, upcoming initiatives, and policy recommendations. Looking ahead to next week, the committee is scheduled for a hearing on HB 2525, a bill providing for additional sources of revenue for the water program management fund and creating additional fees for the regulation of underground injection control wells.

On the Senate side, the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources also heard about the Kansas Water Authority and the state water plan fund. The committee finished the meeting with a hearing on SB331, a bill removing the definition of lead-free and an exception for leaded joints in the public water supply systems law and updating terminology relating to hazardous waste generated by certain persons. Kansas Municipal Utilities and KDHE testified in favor of the bill. There were no recorded opponents or neutral testimony.

Next week, the Senate committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on the Kansas Water Office, with budget recommendations for the office scheduled for the following day. The committee will end the week with budget recommendations for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Another hearing is on SB 383, a bill authorizing the board of directors for a drainage district to hold a meeting in executive session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The hearing will be in the Senate Committee on Local Government on Tuesday, January 30.

Transportation Policy & Funding

House and Senate budget subcommittees are beginning to hear agency requests, including the Department of Transportation.

Aviation funding continues to generate discussion under the dome. Ray Seif, the new KDOT Director of Aviation, provided the Senate Committee on Transportation with a briefing on the department’s report on the airport facilities inventory and needs assessment. The Senate Committee on Ways & Means may soon schedule a hearing for SB 272, proposing to increase the annual Kansas Department of Transportation intra-agency transfer from the State Highway Fund to the Kansas Airport Improvement Program.

The two transportation committees discussed traffic safety with hearings on a bill (SB 142) to protect disabled vehicles stranded on highways and a limited hands free bill (HB 2499) pertaining to minors and adults when driving through work zones while workers are present and school zones during designated hours. The Senate Committee on Transportation already gave the green light to SB 142.

Another rail bill, SB 402, has been introduced that says crews for class II and class III railroads do not need to be more than one person.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Travis Lowe

	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	

<p>SB 153</p> <p>Senate Ways and Means Committee</p>	<p>Making and concerning supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for various state agencies</p>	<p>In Senate Ways and Means</p>	<p>03/01/2023 - Senate Scheduled Final Action in Ways and Means: Thursday, 3/9, 10:30 AM, Rm 548-S</p>	
<p>Sub for SB 155</p> <p>Senate Ways and Means Committee</p>	<p>Making and concerning appropriations for fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 for various state agencies</p>	<p>In House Appropriations</p>	<p>01/17/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Tuesday, 1/23, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N</p>	
<p>H Sub for SB 169</p> <p>Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee</p>	<p>Providing an income tax rate of 5.15% for individuals and decreasing the normal tax for corporations, increasing the income limit for the income tax subtraction modification for social security income, increasing the standard deduction by a cost-of-living adjustment, discontinuing the food sales tax credit, decreasing the privilege tax normal tax, establishing a 0% state rate for sales and use taxes for food and food ingredients on January 1, 2024, and increasing the extent of property tax exemption for residential property from the statewide school levy</p>	<p>Veto sustained</p>	<p>04/27/2023 - Senate Motion to reconsider previous action failed; Yeas 25, Nays 14</p>	
<p>SB 331</p> <p>Dan Kerschen, R-26th</p>	<p>Removing the definition of lead-free and an exception for leaded joints in the public water supply systems law and updating terminology relating to hazardous waste generated by certain persons</p>	<p>On Consent Calendar in Senate (1st day)</p>	<p>01/25/2024 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed and placed on Consent Calendar, by Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	
<p>HB 2004</p>	<p>Establishing the EV energy equity road repair tax act and</p>	<p>In House Transportation</p>	<p>01/25/2023 - House</p>	

Bill Rhiley, R-80th	providing for a road repair tax on electricity distributed from a public charging station for electric vehicles		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	Appropriations for FY 2024, FY 2025 and FY 2026 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	03/01/2023 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations:	

House Appropriations Committee			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 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	
HB 2486 Jim Minnix, R-118th	Removing the definition of lead-free and an exception for leaded joints in the public water supply system law and updating terminology relating to hazardous waste generated by certain persons	In House Water	01/08/2024 - House Introduced; referred to Water	
HB 2525 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	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	01/24/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Agriculture and Natural Resources: Tuesday, 1/30, 3:30 PM, Rm 112-N	