

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APWA KC Metro

Kansas Legislative Report

March 24, 2023

The 2023 Legislative Session has officially reached its halfway point, known as Turnaround. The procedural legislative deadline is significant as it effectively stops bills unless they have passed one chamber or are have touched an exempt committee (budget, tax or federal and state affairs). This week the House and Senate debated and passed dozens of bills that now transition to the opposite chamber to restart the process. Bills subject to the Turnaround deadlines will not be able to receive consideration until next session unless they have been passed by one chamber.

The second half of session, beginning March 1, will see less quantity of bills in play but they will generally have more momentum. March will see the process begin to pick up speed, with two weeks dedicated for committee work and the rest of the month reserved for debating bills and conference committees.

Water Policy and Funding

The last weeks of session continue to see water policy move through the process. The water funding bill saw two days of discussion and eventual approval by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Supported by thirty stakeholders, the bill provides historic funding to the state water plan fund. During committee deliberations, the committee voted to change the funding mechanism to a straight \$35M transfer from the state general fund to state water plan fund, for each of the next five years, instead of a designated portion of the existing state sales tax. The revised version of the bill, which includes a handful of other amendments, is now known as Senate Substitute for HB 2302.

Senate Substitute for HB 2302 is now in line for debate on the Senate floor. If passed by the Senate, the two versions of the bill will be negotiated in conference committee.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources also approved HB 2279, related to ground water management district reporting requirements. Before approval, the committee also adopted a series of amendments, before sending the bill to the Senate floor.

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources held a hearing on SB 120. Similar to a bill already passed by the House, SB 120 allows the Kansas Department of Health and

Environment to establish rules and regulations for a certification program for certain public water supply systems. The committee approved the bill the following day.

Transportation Policy and Funding

The Senate Committee on Transportation wrapped up business for the session. The committee voted to approve HB 2335, related to the rail service improvement fund. The committee also approved HB 2147, requiring a person providing wrecker or towing service or agency to provide a certification of compliance to a purchaser upon the sale and transfer of an abandoned or towed vehicle.

The House Committee on Transportation already concluded business for the year and did not meet this week.

The House Committee on Tax reviewed several more tax proposals in recent days. After the hearing on SB 248, proposing to eliminate state and local sales tax on food, the committee decided not to consider action to SB 248.

On March 23, the House Committee on Tax approved a comprehensive tax package, contained in House Substitute for SB 169. Among the many provisions is the acceleration of the state sales tax phase-out for food and food ingredients to zero percent as of July 1, 2023. The definition of food and food ingredients used for the exemption remains the same as current law. The committee adjusted the designated percentage of the state sales tax for the state highway fund to 18%, to hold the highway fund harmless. The House is expected to debate the bill next week.

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

Sub for SB 155 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Making and concerning appropriations for fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 for various state agencies	In House Appropriations	03/24/2023 - House Referred to Appropriations
SB 205 Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Authorizing certain water rights in a water bank to participate in multi-year flex accounts on a temporary basis	On General Orders in House	03/22/2023 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended, by Water
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	On General Orders in Senate	03/21/2023 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended, by Agriculture and Natural Resources
S Sub for HB 2302 House Water Committee	Making appropriations for the state treasurer for fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, providing for a transfer of moneys from the state general fund to the state water plan fund for fiscal year 2024, establishing the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund for water-related infrastructure projects	On General Orders in Senate	03/23/2023 - Senate Committee Report recommending substitute bill be passed, by Agriculture and Natural Resources
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