

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APWA KC Metro

Kansas Legislative Report

February 8, 2024

Another busy week is in the books as the Turnaround deadline lurks closer. This week marked the last week most committees can introduce bills but there are still a few paths for new legislation to emerge. Nonetheless, over a thousand bills are currently floating within the process. Activity continues to heat up as next week is the last full week committees can work to consider and recommend bills while the following week will be reserved for day-long debates on the Senate and House floor. Turnaround, which serves as the deadline by which most bills must be passed in their chamber of origin, is set for February 23.

Water Policy & Funding

While the budget committees piece together recommendations, several water bills are on the move in the House Committee on Water. This week, the House Committee on Water held hearings for HB 2633 and HB 2634. HB 2633 provides for additional sources of revenue for the water program management fund and requires water supply system and wastewater treatment facility operator certification examination fees to not exceed the costs for such exams. The bill saw proponents from the Kansas League of Municipalities, Public Works City of Valley Center, Kansas Municipal Utilities, KDHE, and the Water Resource Manager of Garden City. Kansas Rural Water testified against the bill, and there was no neutral testimony. The committee approved the bill in the following meeting.

HB 2634, introduced by Groundwater Management Districts 1 and 4, aims to provide an additional corrective control provision for the chief engineer to consider when issuing orders of designation. During the hearing, Groundwater Management Districts 1, 4 & 5 testified in favor of the bill. Other proponents included the Kansas Corn Association, Kansas Livestock Association, and the Kansas Farm Bureau. The Kansas Department of Agriculture gave neutral testimony. There were no opponents. The committee approved the bill in the following meeting.

The committee also had a hearing on HB 2678, introduced by Groundwater Management District 5. The bill would extend the period for how long a groundwater right can be deposited in a water bank. Proponents included representatives of Groundwater Management District 5 and the Kansas Corn Association with neutral testimony from Kansas Water Resources and the Department of Agriculture. There were no opponents.

On Tuesday, February 13, the committee will have a hearing on HB 2696, followed by a hearing on HB 2697. HB 2696, introduced by Rep. Lindsay Vaughn, allows a groundwater management district the opportunity to provide a written comment rather than a recommendation to the chief engineer for a proposed water conservation area and management plan.

HB 2697, introduced by Rep. Cyndi Howerton, allows groundwater management districts boards to provide relevant information rather than advice and assistance regarding groundwater management and other appropriate matters of concern of a district. The committee will end the week considering action on previously heard bills.

Transportation Policy & Funding

Two bills dealing with rail and airport funding continue to see discussion under the dome.

This week the Senate Committee on Transportation held a hearing on SB 349, a bill establishing an intercity passenger rail service program and making annual transfers into the passenger rail service revolving fund. Proponents included the Northern Flyer Alliance, Kansas Department of Transportation, Sierra Club, the Mayor of Ponca City, the City Manager of Arkansas City, A Topeka Councilwoman, the Mayor of McPherson, Directors of Kansas Fire Alliance, and private citizens. No neutral or opposing testimony was presented. The following day, the Senate committee voted to approve SB 349, sending the bill to the Senate floor.

On February 14 the Senate Committee on Ways and Means will have a hearing on SB 272. Proposed by the Kansas Association of Airports, SB 272 aims to increase the annual Kansas Department of Transportation intra-agency transfer from the State Highway Fund to the Kansas Airport Improvement Program from \$5M to \$18M. Meanwhile the Kansas Department of Transportation's budget moves further in the process as the Senate Committee on Transportation, working as the Senate's budget subcommittee, made recommendations to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The committee adopted the Governor's recommended KDOT budget with a few adjustments. A motion was made to add \$5M from the State General Fund to the Kansas Airport Improvement Program, combined with the statutory \$5M transfer and the additional \$5M allocated by Secretary Reed, equates to a total of \$15M for the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) in 2025. (Note- this extra \$5M comes

from the State General Fund, unlike the rest of the KAIP funds that originate from the State Highway Fund).

Further, an amendment was adopted to transfer \$5M from the State General Fund to the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means is scheduled to receive the report soon.

Next week the House Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee will meet to make its own recommendations on the KDOT budget.

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
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	01/17/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Appropriations: Tuesday, 1/23, 9:00 AM, Rm 112-N
SB 331 Dan Kerschen, R-26th	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	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	02/02/2024 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources

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 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	On General Orders in House	02/05/2024 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed as amended, by Agriculture and Natural Resources
HB 2631 Nate Butler, R-68th	Directing the Kansas turnpike authority to establish a toll exemption program for current members of the armed forces whose orders direct a permanent place of duty within Kansas	In House Transportation	01/31/2024 - House Referred to Transportation
HB 2633 House Water Committee	Providing for additional sources of revenue for the water program management fund and requiring water supply system and wastewater treatment facility operator certification examination fees to not exceed the costs for such exams	On General Orders in House	02/08/2024 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Water
HB 2674 House Welfare Reform Committee	Prohibiting the secretary for children and families from participating in the summer electronic benefits transfer for children program	In House Welfare Reform	02/02/2024 - House Referred to Welfare Reform
HB 2678 House Water Committee	Extending the period for how long a groundwater right can be deposited in a water bank and requiring a water bank to authorize a withdrawal of water on or before December 1 of the calendar year in which the withdrawn water is to be used	In House Water	02/06/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water: Thursday, 2/8, 9:00 AM, Rm 218-N

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HB 2695 House Water Committee	Allowing a majority of eligible voters in a groundwater management district or an area for a proposed extension or reduction of a district to petition the chief engineer to extend or reduce the territory in a groundwater management district	In House Water	02/07/2024 - House Referred to Water
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HB 2696 House Water Committee	Allowing a groundwater management district the opportunity to provide a written comment rather than a recommendation to the chief engineer for a proposed water conservation area and management plan	In House Water	02/07/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water: Tuesday, 2/13, 9:00 AM, Rm 218-N
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HB 2697 House Water Committee	Allowing groundwater management districts boards to provide relevant information rather than advice and assistance regarding groundwater management and other appropriate matters of concern of a district	In House Water	02/07/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Water: Tuesday, 2/13, 9:00 AM, Rm 218-N