



KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: John J. Federico, JD
Stephen P. Duerst, JD

Date: January 15, 2021

Re: Weekly Update - Week of January 11, 2021

Please see our Weekly Update on Kansas Legislative activities:

A Special Note on Finding Bill Language

If you need to find specific language of a bill, type the number in the box under “Bill number:” on the right-hand side of [this](#) webpage. Once you find the bill listed, click that specific bill. You will find the PDF logo under the “Documents” label - click the logo...this will lead you to the text of the bill.

As always, our office is more than happy to send you specific language as well.

First Week of Session Concludes

The first week of the 2021 Kansas Legislative Session wrapped up on Friday. Unlike previous years, where informational hearings and agency presentations typically dominate, several crucial pieces of legislation were advanced.

Of note, both the House and the Senate Judiciary Committees heard bills this week that would extend last year’s [HB2016](#), pertaining to the **Kansas Emergency Management Act** (in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic). The House bill advanced out of committee and will be taken up by the full body next week and the [Senate](#) advanced their [version](#) of the extension last night.

The [Senate](#) passed a [property tax transparency bill](#) last night, as well, which proponents hope will provide additional notice and hearing requirements for any taxing subdivision. The bill would also remove the property tax lid, which currently requires local units of government to hold a public vote before increasing property taxes (with some exceptions). The bill will now head to the House Taxation Committee where a hearing was just scheduled for Wednesday, January 20 at 3:30 PM.

From an “on the ground” perspective, the hallways were much quieter than usual given that fewer individuals were permitted to enter the Statehouse. To accommodate members of the public and

legislators who wished to still view and testify in committee hearings, the Legislature upgraded many of the digital systems in the over 150-year-old building. While these systems were riddled with issues all week, IT staff hope to have things better working by the time lawmakers return for business next Tuesday.

Access to Statehouse Limited

House and Senate Leadership received a memorandum from the Governor's office that would limit entrance to the Statehouse to those who have official business under the dome, including legislators and lobbyists. The announcement, released Thursday, note that because of FBI alerts about potentially violent protests at capitol buildings across the country, these extra measures were being taken. Conferees will still be able to testify virtually, and the general public can view proceedings online as well.

Governor's Budget Revealed

On Wednesday, the Governor revealed her 2021 budget. The proposal will now be submitted to both the House and Senate budget committees where they will add, delete or affirm recommendations. Items of note in this year's budget include:

- Reamortization of KPERS over 25 years. This would free up \$158.7 million of SGF in FY22 to provide more certainty given the ongoing pandemic.
- Funding to expand Medicaid, in the event the Legislature chooses to do so.
- Retail Sales & Compensating Use Taxes on Digital Property and make changes to tax code so that Marketplace Facilitators collect sales tax as well. The Governor's office estimates this would bring in \$85.8 million in FY22.
- Investment in the state's IT infrastructure, including:
 - \$37.5 million between FY21 and FY22 from Federal and revenue funds for Unemployment Insurance modernization efforts at the Department of Labor
 - \$3.1 million for Juvenile and Offender Management Information Systems
 - \$2.0 million for Electronic Health Record support and maintenance
 - \$1.0 million for Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
 - \$4.3 million for general state IT rehab and repair
 - \$6.6 million for KPERS IT modernization
- Reduce reliance on transfers from the Kansas Department of Transportation, with a plan to phase out transfers by FY23 and continued funding of the Eisenhower Legacy Plan (comprehensive transportation program passed in 2020).
- A 2.5% pay increase for all state employees.

More information on the Governor's budget can be found [here](#).

Abortion Resolution Proponents Renew Efforts in 2021

Lawmakers pushed forward with a proposal that would allow voters to choose whether the Kansas Constitution provides a **constitutional right to abortion**. The "[Value Them Both](#)" amendment, as it has been called by pro-life advocates, was stalled last year in the House when several moderate Republicans did not vote in favor of the measure. Committees in both the House and Senate will continue to hear the resolution over the next several days.

This Week

The House and Senate will both be in Session Tuesday thru Friday. They will be off on Monday, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Weekly Schedule: January 11-15

Schedule subject to change.

	<u>TUESDAY</u>		
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Bill Intros, TBD
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Bill Intros, Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform Report
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros, Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H Utilities & Telecom	582-N	N/A
9:00 AM	H Veterans	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Bill Intros, Hearing SB22- "Mega" Tax Bill, Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	Bill Intros, Hearing on SB15- Enacting Kansas Economic Recovery Loan Program
9:30 AM	S Local Government	142-S	Bill Intros, Overview of Priorities League of Municipalities & Association of Counties
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros, TBD
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	N/A
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
12:00 PM	Joint Health Meeting	112-N	KDHE COVID-19 Update
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Bill intros, HB2066- Expanding military spouse and servicemember licensure law
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Bill Intros, Mental Health Modernization Report
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	N/A
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Bill Intros

3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2008- Providing AG power to coordinate law enforcement training
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Elections	218-N	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2051- Filling Vacancy in Statewide Roles
	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>		
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Bill Intros
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Bill Intros, Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform Report
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H. Approps	112-N	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros, Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H Financial Inst. & Rural	218-N	Bill Intro, Presentation on Kansas Financial Institutions Privilege Tax, Recap Legislation on Recovery Loan Deposit Program
9:00 AM	H Local Government	281-N	Bill Intros
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	N/A
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	N/A
9:30 AM	S Transparency & Ethics	142-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros, TBD
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros, TBD
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	Bill Intros, Mental Health Briefing
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2026- Creating drug abuse treatment Program
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	N/A

1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Bill Intros, Mental Health Modernization Report (cont.)
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	Bill Intros
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H General Gov. Budget	281-N	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2001- Regarding the Kansas Offender Registration Act.
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Bill Intros, Informational Hearings: Espinoza v. Montana, Kansas Constitution Article 6, Tax Credit Scholarship Report
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	Bill Intros, Informational Hearing: Senior Care Act
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2003- Providing for County Treasurers to establish payment plan, Hearing SB13
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Insurance	218-N	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2072 & HB 2074, Informational Hearing HB2073
3:30 PM	LPA	546-S	IT Monitoring Report- Committee rules, KBI Fingerprinting Project, Informational Hearing: LPA Operations
	THURSDAY		
8:30 PM	S Agriculture	144-S	Bill Intros
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	N/A
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros, Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	Bill Intros
9:00 AM	H Utilities & Telecom	582-N	N/A
9:00 AM	H Veterans	281-N	Bill Intros
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Hearing: SB21- Sales Tax authority Cherokee County, SB23- Abatement of property tax on destroyed property, Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst. & Insurance	546-S	N/A
9:30 AM	S Local Government	142-S	Bill Intros, County Spending of CARES Act Monies

10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros, TBD
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Bill Intros
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Bill Intros
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Hearing SB24- Prohibiting municipalities from imposing restrictions on customer's use of energy
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	Bill Intros, Introduction of Senior Organizations
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Bill Intros, Presentation: Unemployment
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	Bill Intros, Information Hearing: School Emergency Medicine Legislation
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	Bill Intros
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	Bill Intros, Informational Hearing: Secretary of Transportation
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	Bill Intros, TBD
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Bill Intros
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	Bill Intros, Information Hearing: Mental Health, Aging and Disability Services Workforce
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	Bill Intros, Informational Briefing on Property Valuation
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Elections	218-N	Bill Intros, Hearing HB2052- Authorizing Legislative Gifts & HB2053- Filing of reports for state office
	FRIDAY		
8:30 AM	S Agriculture	144-S	Meeting TBD