

# THE ADVOCATE

A WEEKLY UPDATE  
FROM THE KANSAS  
LEGISLATURE

ADVOCACY THAT WORKS



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WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



## Intro

Tomorrow marks Day 30 of the 2026 legislative session, putting the Legislature one-third of the way through the 90-day calendar. Several key deadlines are already behind us, with more fast approaching. Last week was the deadline for non-exempt committees to request bill drafts or introduce legislation in their respective chambers. Monday, February 16, is the final day for non-exempt committees to meet, and Thursday, February 19, marks Turnaround, the last day for non-exempt bills to pass out of their house of origin.

This week will be dominated by committee activity as lawmakers work to move bills before the deadlines, with all-day floor debate set to begin next week. The compressed calendar, combined with ongoing challenges at the Revisor's Office, has strained both legislators and lobbyists, and many bills are expected to stall as a result in what has become another fast-moving and unpredictable session.

## **Chiefs Making Progress**

Wyandotte County commissioners voted 7–3 on February 5 to approve the STAR Bonds district for the new Kansas City Chiefs stadium and entertainment district, clearing the way to use local sales and use tax revenue to finance portion of the project. The approval allows the development of a 65,000-seat domed stadium near 126th Street and State Avenue, just north of Azura Amphitheater, following a public hearing held last week.

Supporters said the vote positions the county to negotiate more effectively with the team and the state and could unlock additional state investment in local infrastructure, including bridge improvements. Mayor Christal Watson and other leaders framed the decision as a move to strengthen partnerships and ensure the county has a seat at the table as the project moves forward. Despite reservations, county leaders emphasized the vote was a strategic step they believe serves the long-term interests of the community, with STAR Bonds required to cover all stadium-related infrastructure costs.

## **Cryptocurrency Kiosk Scams**

HB2515 passed the House 118–5, authorizing legislation to regulate cryptocurrency kiosks and curb scams that have cost consumers millions nationwide. The bill, which now heads to the Senate, establishes new safeguards to slow transactions, improve consumer awareness, and give victims a chance to recover funds before transfers are finalized. The measure would require crypto kiosk operators to be licensed and regulated by the Kansas Office of the State Bank Commissioner, mandate fraud warnings on machines, impose transaction and fee caps, and

create a 72-hour holding period during which consumers could request a full refund. Lawmakers cited rising losses from crypto ATM scams, particularly among older Kansans. The bill is supported by law enforcement, consumer groups, and financial institutions, while major kiosk operators testified as neutral but generally supportive, seeking limited changes to fee and transaction limits.

## **Budget**

Both chambers are rapidly moving towards getting their budgets out of committee. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means began the week by reporting out several smaller agency budgets from subcommittees. The committee approved the Judicial Branch budget, including salary adjustments for non-judge employees who were excluded from prior salary increases. When working on the larger budgets, the Senate mostly stuck with the baseline budget, including minimal agency enhancements for KDADS, limited reappropriations, and no enhancements for the KSDE budget. They also only provided partial funding for contract nursing at Osawatomie and Larned State Hospitals. Ways and Means plans to pass the budget out of committee by the end of the week and open each budget for provisos. Many provisos are expected, as multiple senators have indicated they will introduce them across several budgets.

On the House side, the Higher Education Budget committee and Chairman Adam Turk (R-Shawnee) made several major changes. This included a 2.5 percent reduction from operations funds for all universities, and the addition of \$5 million for nuclear research at Kansas State University, and \$5 million for Alzheimer's research through the University of Kansas Medical Center. The committee also added a mill levy freeze as a condition for certain community college funds, with the state clawing back the funds if it's violated. Additionally, \$2 million from each regent university and KBOR, along with a total of \$2 million from community colleges, was placed in "escrow" until institutions are certified as having no Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion or Critical Race Theory in their programs.

After hearing the readout from Rep. Turk, the full House Committee on Appropriations made another change. The Committee on Higher Education Budget had added a requirement for a report from K-State's veterinary medicine program after concerns were raised about in-state students being denied in favor of out-of-state students for higher revenue, which had been previously brought to the attention of several legislators, namely Chairman Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill) and Rep. Ken Rahjes (R-Agra). Vice Chairwoman Kristey Williams (R-Augusta) decided that language wasn't strong enough and made a motion to include scholarship funds in the report on out-of-state admissions.

The Appropriations Committee also passed out [HB2555](#) on Friday, which would add State Finance Council oversight to the Rural Health Transformation Program. Vice Chairwoman Kristey Williams stuck to her theme of transparency, bringing an amendment to include subgrantees in the reporting requirements and to provide information on their performance goals.

The important House Committee on Social Services Budget concluded its budget work at the end of last week, passing the Office of Early Childhood budget without changes and approving the "Big Three" budgets for KDHE, KDADS, and DCF, adding approximately \$220 million across all funds. Funding for all of the Home and Community-Based Services Waivers was increased by 3% to help reduce waitlists or prevent future waitlists on some, such as the Frail Elderly Waiver and Brain Injury Waiver. Additional funding was added to support the foster care system in Sedgwick County, donated dental services, and increased CRNA provider rates for local

anesthesia. The committee also capped CCBHC board salaries at \$400,000. The three major healthcare agency budgets will be reported out to the full committee this morning and Tuesday, allowing Appropriations to begin working on the full budget bill, [HB2434](#), on Wednesday.

## **Tax**

Last week in Tax, the House and Senate continued to hear bills. The House heard an informational presentation on Tuesday, and also worked their first bills, passing several out of committee on Thursday. Senate Tax, for its part, worked KDOR's budget last week. Property tax relief has seen, at last, a little movement in the House. On Thursday, Chairman Adam Smith (R-Weskan) introduced the House property tax plan, [HB 2745](#), which will provide a 3% "soft cap," as he described it, on local government property tax budgets. A vote of the people could override the 3% cap, and the bill would retain a \$60M property tax relief fund to be distributed to counties that remain below the 3% cap. Smith's new bill is expected to advance and will have a hearing on Thursday.

Both tax committees heard hearings of bills to enact a health care sharing ministries tax deduction act, HB2445 and SB368, respectively. Virgil Peck (R-Tyro) testified in favor of the bill in the Senate, and though the House committee was more skeptical, they asked far more questions about how health care sharing ministries function. The Senate also heard SB320, a bill to exclude owners of oil leases from having to file exemption requests through BOTA. Its House equivalent, HB2440, was heard last week, on January 27th, and was passed out of committee this Thursday.

The House Tax Committee also heard a briefing on the Tax Expenditure Report by Secretary Burghart of the Kansas Department of Revenue on Tuesday. The department announced a total of \$11 billion in forgone revenue due to exemptions and subtraction modifications, and raised questions from the committee around 501 (c) (3) exemptions. Discussion centered on the possibility of a blanket exemption of 501 (c) (3), along with, as Clarke Sanders (R-Salina) put it, whether some 501 (c) (3) organizations are of a “questionable nature” and how to make sure they are removed from the exemption list if necessary.

The Senate Tax Committee passed the KDOR budget as amended, keeping taxpayer advocate funding for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, reducing the fee from \$4 to \$1 for specialized license plates, and transferring KDOR funds collected to county treasurers rather than the highway fund. There was significant discussion among the committee about whether the legislature should authorize KDOR to charge for the production of non-specialized license plates. The budget received one no vote from Ethan Corson (D-Fairway), who wanted to hear from the Kansas Department of Transportation before taking funds from their budget. In response, Caryn Tyson (R-Parker) defended the motion because it “forces the debate” for the Ways and Means Committee.

Introduced bills of note:

HB2712 - Increasing the authority for a countywide retailers' sales tax and providing for the dedicated apportionment of special purpose tax revenues up to 2% and limiting special purpose city and countywide retailers' sales taxes to 10 years.

HB2714 - Providing for a decreased gallonage tax on beer and cereal malt beverages that are produced and packaged within the United States.

HB2737 - Enacting the taxpayer agreement act to provide for an alternative method of tax increment financing of municipal economic development projects through taxpayer agreements.

HB2745 - Requiring a vote of the electors to approve increases in property tax revenues for the next year, establishing the property tax relief fund and providing transfers to counties that limit property taxes to certain increases, establishing the property tax limit in lieu of the revenue neutral rate to provide for certain budget increases of taxing subdivisions and continuing in existence the taxpayer notification costs fund.

SB488 - Enacting the Kansas property tax freedom act of 2026, providing for the phased elimination of property taxation and for revenue replacement grants to taxing subdivisions, establishing the Kansas fair share purchase surcharge and providing such revenue to taxing subdivisions, the state general fund and the new property tax freedom reserve fund and providing for freedom dividend rebates.

SB489 - Providing for a universal homestead exemption from ad valorem property taxation.

SB490 - Authorizing the imposition of a privilege tax by a municipality for the privilege of selling alcoholic beverages, food and food ingredients and tobacco within a community improvement district.

SCR1621 - Proposing to amend section 1 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas to prohibit the levy of any property tax by the state or any political or taxing subdivision of the state

## **Health**

There was major movement on the health front last week, with many significant pieces of legislation seeing movement. Most notably, SB360, which would provide regulation for Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, such as introducing transparency, banning spread pricing, and setting dispensing fees for pharmacies, was passed out favorably by the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance after extensive work on Thursday. In a compromise, the committee chair, Sen. Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), offered an amendment to exclude self-funded “ERISA” plans from section 5 of the bill. Multiple other attempts were made to amend the legislation and remove provisions, but they were shot down by the committee.

The prior day, the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance held a hearing on SB330, which would place limits on prior authorization. Proponents argued that insurance companies’ excessive use of prior authorization threatened the quality of patient care, while opponents claimed that prior authorizations were necessary to keep insurance costs down. Early in the week, the House Committee on Insurance curiously held a hearing on HB2551, which would regulate PSOs, or pharmacy services administrative organizations, with no proponents or opponents testifying. Chairman Bill Sutton (R-Gardner) said he introduced the legislation to increase transparency, but a representative of the Department of Insurance doubted its necessity.

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare worked HB2223, which would expand the scope of practice for optometrists, across two days last week. Senator Clifford (R-Garden City), himself an ophthalmologist, vigorously opposed the legislation and offered a slew of amendments designed to limit the expansion of scope for the optometrists, which he contended was necessary for patient safety. After four of the eight offered amendments passed, the committee then passed the bill out favorably. The committee also passed out SB328, which allows pharmacists to distribute nasally administered epinephrine in schools, favorably.

On the House side, the Committee on Health and Human Services held multiple hearings on interstate compacts, designed to ease the licensure process for licensed therapists, HB2533 and HB2534, on Wednesday, and then quickly turned around and passed them out favorably on Friday.

HB2528 was introduced this session to rein in the Kansas State Board of Nursing, in response to an interim committee hearing by the House Select Committee on Government Oversight that detailed what members said were unreasonable punishments doled out by the agency. The effort is being led by Rep. Sandy Pickert (R-Wichita), a retired nurse. The House Committee on Health and Human Services held a hearing on the bill last Thursday in which proponents argued that reform was needed to avoid draconian punishments for clerical errors, which shouldn't have upended the lives of many nurses. They argued that many other boards allow licensure renewal grace periods, and the overzealous enforcement of minor violations ruins the lives of good nurses and discourages people from wanting to practice nursing in Kansas, who are already too few and far between. Opponents to the bill, including the Nursing Board, argued that the bill might violate federal reporting requirements and that it went too far in addressing the problem, making it harder for the board to take action against genuine bad actors.

Introduced bills of note:

HB2684 - Providing price limits and other requirements for health benefits covering prescription insulin drugs and establishing the insulin affordability program for the uninsured.

HB2694 - Enacting the opioid patient's right to know act to require the disclosure of the risks associated with prescribed opioid use.

HB2695 - Enacting the enhanced oversight and accountability for the prescription of psychotropic drug prescriptions act to require the secretary of health and environment to establish an online reporting system for adverse drug reactions.

HB2703 - Enacting the Kansas health insurance affordability transparency act to require a report specifying the financial impact to covered individuals resulting from the passage of certain health insurance legislation.

HB2736 - Requiring hospitals to screen all patients for eligibility for such hospital's financial assistance program or charity care policy.

HB2740 - Adopting compounding standards established by the United States pharmacopeia and allowing for exemptions from such standards.

SB474 - Enacting the Kansas short-term, limited duration insurance act; establishing definitions, disclosure, premiums, renewal and underwriting requirements relating thereto and authorizing the commissioner of insurance to adopt rules and regulations to implement and oversee the act.

SB475 - Requiring hospitals use a surgical smoke plume evacuation system and adopt policies for the evacuation of surgical smoke during certain surgical procedures.

# Economic Development

The House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development met on Friday to work SB197, an update to the STAR Bonds program. The committee reviewed how the program has evolved since 2021, including expanded eligibility for major business facilities, rural redevelopment projects, mall redevelopments, and professional sports complexes, as well as increased capital investment and sales thresholds, added transparency requirements, stricter feasibility study standards, and enhanced reporting to the Legislature. Members spent significant time questioning staff about how STAR bond districts operate over time and which performance measures are in place. Staff also clarified that the total authorized bond amounts cannot be exceeded.

The committee adopted amendments to streamline the bill and added a reporting requirement directing the Department of Commerce to track and report the inflow and outflow of business within STAR bond districts on an annual basis. A separate amendment proposal related to fiscal impact studies and vertical construction was ultimately withdrawn by Rep. Kristey Williams (R-Augusta) after extensive discussion. The committee also adopted an amendment removing court authority language added in a prior year. SB 197 was then passed out of committee as amended, extending the STAR bond sunset to July 1, 2031.

The Angel Investor Tax Credit extension to 2031 in HB2466 was passed out of House Commerce on Thursday, and HB2464, the extension of the Kansas Aviation Tax Credits, passed the House floor 81-39. The majority of the no votes only flipped to the negative after Rep.

Samantha Poetter Parshall (R-Paola) went to the well to speak against the measure during the explanation of votes. Her arguments centered on the need for property tax relief in the state and on the claim that the bill “pads mega corporations' pockets.” Rep. Brett Fairchild (R-St. John) signed on to her explanation, and Rep. Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson) presented a similar written statement. Other House members rose in support of the bill, and industry members have endorsed it as a valuable recruiting tool that benefits workers.

HB2541 is being heard in House Tax today. The bill would enact the Kansas Rural Business Growth Program Act, providing a premium tax credit to incentivize capital investment in rural areas and establishing a program to be administered by the Secretary of Commerce. The legislation is designed in part to replace the current Rural Opportunity Zones program, which has been criticized for the past several years as being ineffective in incentivizing individuals to move to Kansas or keeping Kansans in the state.

Interest in housing is building at the Capitol, with this week centered on proposals focused on renter protections, as lawmakers schedule multiple hearings. One proposal, SB369, would change how rental fees are handled by requiring landlords to disclose all charges at the outset of the leasing process. By laying out the full cost upfront, the bill aims to help renters make more informed decisions before committing to a lease. It would also rein in late fees, responding to reports of extreme penalties that have left some tenants facing thousands of dollars in additional charges. It is scheduled to be heard in Senate Commerce tomorrow.

A second measure, SB415 is scheduled to be heard in Senate Judiciary on Wednesday, and targets enforcement gaps in existing law by extending the Kansas Consumer Protection Act to cover the Kansas Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. Although the Tenant Act was intended to safeguard renters when it was adopted decades ago, it provides limited recourse when landlords ignore serious maintenance or safety issues. The intent of the bill is to give tenants a clearer path to hold landlords accountable when living conditions become unsafe.

Introduced bills of note:

HB2680 - Renaming the tax credit for low income students scholarship program the Kansas K-12 students scholarship program, expanding eligibility under the program, increasing the aggregate tax credit limit and moving the program's administration to the state treasurer.

HB2689 - Enacting the Kansas tri-share child care act for the sharing of child care costs among employers, employees and the state, establishing the Kansas tri-share child care matching program to be administered by the director of the Kansas office of early childhood and creating the Kansas tri-share child care matching program fund.

HB2757 - Repealing or discontinuing certain income tax credit incentives, extending the income tax credit for angel investors and aviation-related employment and providing expanded options in the high performance tax credit program for tax credit transfers and wage requirements for rural businesses.

## Local Government

The legislature continues to mostly avoid the Local Government committees in both chambers, opting to divert legislation that would have a wide range of ramifications on counties and municipalities to other committees, such as Federal and State Affairs, Commerce, and Taxation.

One such piece of legislation was SB418, the by-right housing act, which was heard in the Senate Committee on Commerce. Designed to lower the cost of housing by speeding up the approval process, loosening zoning restrictions, and eliminating the expensive 2024 building codes, opponents argued that it would have major consequences for local governments. The bill, the League of Kansas Municipalities testified, would hamper cities' ability to plan long-term and could put permitting decisions in the hands of unaccountable third parties rather than elected officials. Senator TJ Rose (R-Olathe), who introduced the legislation, stated that he was amenable to changes that would help alleviate the concerns of city governments. Another local government bill, SB335, was heard in Senate Commerce on Wednesday, which would require cities to enter into mutual waivers of consequential damages when contracting for public construction projects. There was some question as to the necessity of the bill, since this is done in nearly all cases already.

One bill that was heard in a local government committee was SB124, heard in the Senate Committee on Local Government on Tuesday. The bill would virtually eliminate the unilateral annexation powers of city governments. Proponents argued that the unilateral annexation system was unfair, while opponents argued that, without it, residents near a city's services but outside its borders would benefit without paying the taxes their neighbors within the city limits pay. The Kansas Association of Counties, testifying as neutral on the bill, requested that any change would allow counties to have a say in the annexation process.

HB2331, which creates a process for district coroners to respectfully dispose of the unclaimed remains of deceased persons, passed unanimously through the Senate on Thursday after being passed out of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs on Wednesday. The bill, introduced on behalf of the Sedgwick County government, was amended to create different provisions for the remains of veterans, establish requirements for continuing education for licensed embalmers, and create the crime of aggravated criminal desecration. It passed through the House last year on a vote of 118-0.

Introduced bills of note:

HB2685 - Enacting the public official accountability act to provide personal liability for actions by public officials that violate constitutional rights or exceed such official's lawful duties.

HB2690 - Authorizing interior inspections of residential property without the consent of the occupant pursuant to an administrative warrant or when there is probable cause of imminent danger related to health and safety and allowing the city to abate certain interior code violations or delegate such authority to the county.

HB2691 - Requiring cause for evictions from residential property, modifying the petition and notice requirements for eviction cases and removing the requirement to post bond before the court may grant a continuance.

HB2696 - Providing for the modernization of notarization and the notary public process with respect to real estate documents for the purpose of mitigation of real estate document-related fraud, requiring the development, implementation and administration of a two-tiered authentication system for notarization of real estate documents and requiring use of a 3D biometric antifraud system by all notaries public by December 31, 2027

HB2698 - Providing for permanent seizures of animals in instances when the owner violates county resolutions and authorizing judges of competent jurisdiction to order such seizures.

HB2699 - Providing for official legal publications on a county website for counties with a population of 100,000 or more.

HB2701 - Permitting nonuniform zoning regulations within a zoning district.

SB481 - Permitting a municipal judge to initiate a psychiatric or psychological examination to determine competence and setting forth relevant procedures.

## **Utilities**

The House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications held a hearing on HB2586 last Tuesday, legislation that would change how city franchise fees are calculated by requiring broadband service revenues to be included in a telecommunications provider's gross receipts. Proponents, led by representatives from Cox Communications and Charter Communications, argued that the statute governing franchise fees is outdated and no longer reflects how Kansans access communications services. They stated the public right-of-way is a shared public asset and that the current framework creates an uneven playing field, where some providers pay franchise fees while others pay nothing for similar use of public infrastructure.

Neutral testimony from the League of Municipalities supported the principle that private companies should compensate cities for use of public rights-of-way and acknowledged the existence of a broadband-related loophole. However, the League cautioned that the bill may contain gaps and suggested additional work is needed to ensure the policy is implemented fairly and clearly through franchise agreements. Opponents, including AT&T and Ideatek, raised significant concerns. They argued that broadband has historically been exempt from franchise fees to encourage deployment and expansion, particularly in rural and underserved areas where the state has invested millions of dollars. Committee members pressed conferees on whether the bill would increase consumer costs, how cities calculate and use franchise fees, and whether alternatives, such as flat fees, could better address the issue. Ultimately, the committee did not receive the bill favorably due to increases in customer bills, but Chairman Leo Delperdang (R-Wichita) issued guidance that the parties should come together to seek a resolution over the summer.

Kansas Gas Service has introduced a bill that aims to establish a uniform process for managing public utility facilities that cross or run parallel to railroad rights-of-way. The bill [SB439](#) is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Utilities Committee on Tuesday. Several utilities have expressed frustration with a lack of uniformity and clarity when interacting with railroad rights-of-way in recent years, and the bill borrows from a proposed federal solution.

Kansans for Lower Electric Rates' [HB2483](#), or the Transparency and Reform of Utility Expenditures Act (TRUEAct), will be heard in the House Utilities Committee on Tuesday and Thursday. Although the bill is likely to draw a good amount of attention from both supporters and opponents, it would be a Herculean effort to work it and pass it out of committee on Thursday after the conclusion of the hearing.

Introduced bills of note:

[HB2728](#) - Requiring the state corporation commission to establish uniform siting and permitting standards for certain energy facilities and limiting local governmental actions relating thereto

[SB478](#) - Increasing the criminal penalties for assault or battery of a utility or communications employee.

## Important Dates

February 16 - Last day for committees to meet before Turnaround Day

February 19 - (Turnaround) Last day for non-exempt bills to pass original chamber

# The Week Ahead

The following bills are scheduled to receive hearings this week.

## Monday, February 9

9:00AM – House Committee on Local Government

Hearing on HB2698 - Providing for permanent seizures of animals in instances when the owner violates county resolutions and authorizing judges of competent jurisdiction to order such seizures.

Hearing on HB2363 - Requiring the board of county commissioners or the city governing body to refer the proposed creation of a conservation easement to the appropriate planning commission for review and recommendation; providing the board of county commissioners or the city shall approve or deny the creation of conservation easements.

9:30AM – Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

Hearing on SB432 - Updating certain provisions of the Kansas dental practices act relating to in-person practice requirements in a dental office owned by a licensee.

10:30AM – Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing on SB315 - Making and concerning supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2026 and appropriations for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 for various state agencies, authorizing certain capital improvement projects and fees, authorizing certain transfers.

1:30PM – Senate Committee on Education

Hearing on SB340 - Prohibiting promises scholarship awards from being used to fund corequisite courses.

1:30PM – House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

Hearing on HB2639 - Changing the name of juvenile crisis intervention centers to juvenile stabilization centers, modifying the intake criteria and treatment provided at such centers and transferring moneys from the evidence-based programs account of the state general fund for use at such centers.

1:30PM – House Committee on Higher Education Budget

Hearing on HB2523 - Authorizing technical colleges and community colleges to affiliate with Kansas universities or colleges, authorizing state educational institutions to affiliate with accredited independent institutions and providing procedures for such affiliations.

3:30PM – House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing on HB2521 - Expanding the Kansas tort claims act to include child placement agencies that contract with the secretary for children and families.

Hearing on HB2613 - Providing for the crime victims compensation board to establish fees chargeable for conducting examinations of persons who may be victims of sexual assault and authorizing the board to adopt rules and regulations to administer such fees and to use moneys in the crime victims compensation fund for the payment of such fees.

3:30PM – House Committee on Insurance

Hearing on HB2602 - Establishing requirements for a portable benefit plan for independent contractors, determining types of contributions to such plans and providing a subtraction modification for Kansas income tax purposes.

3:30PM – House Committee on Taxation

Hearing on HB2385 - Authorizing cities and counties to propose an earnings tax for ballot question and to levy such tax if approved by the electors of a city or county, requiring resubmission of the question, if approved, to the electorate every 10 years, allowing certain credits and exemptions against the tax, providing for deductions by public and private employers of the tax from employee earnings and providing that revenue from any such tax be pledged for certain purposes.

Hearing on HB2547 - Restricting residential homestead property taxes to not more than the established base of property taxes owed for individuals 65 years of age and older and eliminating the property tax exemption for certain commercial properties used for healthcare when in competition with other non-exempt properties.

Hearing on HB2541 - Enacting the Kansas rural business growth program act, providing a premium tax credit to incentivize capital investment in rural areas and establishing a program to be administered by the secretary of commerce for the purpose of incentivizing such investment.

## **Tuesday, February 10**

9:00AM – House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Hearing on HB2483 - Enacting the transparency and reform of utility expenditures act. 9:30AM – Senate Committee on Local Government, Transparency, and Ethics

Hearing on SB436 - Increasing the cost threshold for when a county shall use the public bidding process in awarding a construction contract.

9:30AM – Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Hearing on SB397 - Providing that a person shall not lose eligibility for a homestead property tax refund claim or the selective assistance for effective senior relief (SAFESR) tax credit if the appraised valuation of the homestead subsequently exceeds \$350,000 after qualifying in a previous tax year.

10:30AM – Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing on SB375 - Enacting the proxy advisor transparency act, requiring proxy advisors to make certain disclosures when recommending an action against company management, authorizing the attorney general to investigate and take enforcement actions against violators and establishing a private right of action for a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief.

Hearing on SB462 - Prohibiting certain public nuisance claims, requiring the attorney general to bring nuisance actions that are not wholly contained in one political subdivision, requiring special injury for certain public nuisance actions and providing an accrual period for the statute of limitations in public nuisance actions.

1:30PM – Senate Committee on Utilities

Hearing on SB439 - Enacting the utility railroadcrossing act and establishing a process and limitations for utilities to interact with railroad right-of-way.

1:30PM – House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing on HB2702 - Providing that applicants for a physicianassistant license submitto a criminal record check, providing for the collaboration between physicians and physician assistants and requiring the revocation of a physician assistant license under certain circumstances.

1:30PM – House Committeeon Transportation

Hearing on HB2607 - Designating the official Kansasrailroad hall of fame and establishing the Kansas railroad hall of fame selection committee.

3:30PM – House Committeeon Taxation

Hearing on HB2644 - Requiring a county appraiser to adjust the value of residential and commercial propertyupon final determination or obtain a fee simple appraisal if the appraised value exceeds 5% increase over three years.

Hearing on HB2712 - Increasing the authority for a countywide retailers' sales tax and providing for the dedicated apportionment of special purpose tax revenues up to 2% and limiting special purpose city and countywide retailers' sales taxes to 10 years.

## **Wednesday, February 11**

9:00AM – House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions

Hearing on HB2649 - Establishing the Kansas empowerment savings program, authorizing certain employees to contribute to individual retirement accounts through an automatic payroll deduction and providing powers, duties, functions and responsibilities of the Kansas empowerment savings program board of trustees within the state treasurer's office concerning such program

10:30AM – Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing on SB408 - Excluding a child engaging in age-appropriate independent activities from the definition of a child in need of care in the revised Kansas code for care of children.

1:30PM – House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing on HB2740 - Adopting compounding standards established by the United States pharmacopeia and allowing for exemptions from such standards.

Hearing on HB2506 - Establishing the addiction counselor apprentice license and setting fees for such license.

1:30PM – House Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care

Hearing on HB2638 - Requiring that a child in custody of the secretary be provided information regarding the child's rights and the secretary maintain confirmation of the child's notification and understanding of such child's rights in child in need of care proceedings.

3:30PM – House Committee on Insurance

Hearing on HB2564 - Providing for the election of alternative payment methods by a dental provider and allowing such payment method to remain in force for the duration of a contract with a dental benefit plan.

3:30PM – House Committee on Taxation

Hearing on HB2388 - Providing a sales tax exemption for purchases and sales made by the friends of cedar crest association.

3:30PM – House Committee on K-12 EducationBudget

Hearing on HB2320 - Authorizing childrenin the custody of the secretary of the department for children and families to attend school in any school district, requiring records for such students to be timely transferred between school districts and requiring a transportation plan if the child remains in the school of origin.

## **Thursday, February 12**

8:30AM – Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Hearing on SB465 - Including limited liability partnerships as an entity required to obtain county approval to establish a dairy or swine production facility.

8:30AM – Senate Committee on Public Healthand Welfare

Hearing on SB431 - Establishing the remote practice of pharmacy, requiring certain conditions for such practice and limiting activities performed under such practice.

9:00AM – House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Hearing on HB2435 - Enacting the natural gas infrastructure availability act to authorize natural gas public utilities to defer to a regulatory asset all depreciation expense and carrying cost for any new plant, facilities or equipment that such utility has put into service and authorizing recovery of such regulatory asset via an interim rate adjustment mechanism.

Hearing on HB2483 - Enacting the transparency and reform of utility expenditures act.

10:30AM – Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing on SB481 - Permitting a municipal judge to initiate a psychiatric or psychological examination to determine competence and setting forth relevant procedures.

Hearing on SB487 - Requiring the Kansas bureau of investigation to implement a statewide offender registration system for agencies who register offenders under the offender registration act.

1:30PM – Senate Committee on Commerce

Hearing on SB429 - Extending the sunset for the angel investor tax credit to 2031.

1:30PM – House Committee on Transportation

Hearing on HB2647 - Authorizing the Kansas department of transportation to establish a statewide fiber system.

## **Helpful Links to Monitor the Action**

Listen live to committee hearings or playback past hearings.

Watch the House and Senate floor debates via YouTube.

Find the daily calendars.

Search for a bill.

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# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS INVESTORS

## PINNACLE



## VISIONARY



## PROSPERITY



## LEADERSHIP



## SUCCESS



## OPPORTUNITY

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas