



KDHA

Kansas Legislative Update

January 17, 2019

The 2019 Legislative Session is officially underway. Governor Laura Kelly was sworn into office on the capitol steps Monday morning, followed by the Inaugural Ball later that night and the State of the State address on Wednesday. Most House and Senate committees met to introduce legislation, while a handful of committees began to handle substantive business. Session intensity will pick up in the coming weeks, though there is already an effort to start moving certain legislative proposals at a fast pace.

Governor Kelly gave her first State of the State address highlighting her vision that focuses on K-12 education funding, Medicaid Expansion and protecting children. Her comments in the address coincided with her inaugural speech seeking compromise on issues. With the Republicans holding super majorities in both chambers, time will tell to what degree this can be accomplished. Governor Kelly's budget was presented to the two budget committees that appropriates for many of her initiatives with a 9% positive ending balance for the next fiscal year. Specifically, the budget appropriates to satisfy the Kansas Supreme Court ruling on school finance, pay for Medicaid Expansion, a 2.5% raise for state employees and several million toward child welfare and the Department of Corrections. The budget reduces State Highway Plan transfers by \$100M, which still transfers \$200M. However, Governor Kelly contends all highway transfers will stop by Fiscal Year 2023. In the State of the State address, Governor Kelly stated her budget does not require a tax increase. The House Appropriations Committee and Senate Ways & Means Committee will digest the proposal as they craft their own versions in February.

A few committees hit the ground running. The Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee introduced legislation similar to a portion of the mega tax package that died in conference committee at the end of last session. The bill (SB 13) would increase certain state deductions, allow individual expensing deductions, and provide for certain income tax credits, among a handful of other items. The committee chair held an informational briefing of the bill's contents and a formal hearing on Thursday. The committee plans to work the bill on Tuesday morning. There is an appetite by many to see the Senate work and pass this bill by the end of the month.

Education committees received the typical briefing on the history of school finance litigation and the recent Supreme Court ruling. To date, no major school finance remedies have been introduced. The committees may work to find a remedy to hopefully cease litigation for the foreseeable future.

To date, 61 bills have been introduced between the two houses.

The Dental Therapy Bill (Senate Bill 11) has been introduced and referred to the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee. No hearing has been scheduled but the KDHA lobby team is working to educate the new committee leadership.

The House and Senate are not likely going to allow a debate on Medicaid expansion, which could cause problems for other healthcare related bills to move in the process. Contrary to other sessions, Governor Kelly will welcome the bill and not veto it, removing the safeguard previously provided by Governor Brownback.

The health committees are off to a slow start. Organizational meetings were held but, with the exception of a Medicaid Expansion Bill and SB 11, not much healthcare legislation has been introduced.

Thank you,

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Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 2 Jim Denning, R-8th	Establishing the federal medical assistance percentage stabilization fund; limiting transfers from such fund, specified uses	In Senate Ways and Means	01/15/2019 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means
SB 11 Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight	Establishing the licensure of dental therapists	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	01/15/2019 - Senate Referred to Public Health and Welfare