



Kansas Association of Counties Legislative Update ***March 14, 2025***

Welcome to the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session. This is the first year of the biennium, so bills and resolutions from the 2024 Session **do not** carry over to the 2025 Session. Bill numbers do not carry over, meaning they start over at 1 (Senate) or 2001 (House). It also means that legislation that was “dead” last year is gone and must be reintroduced this year during the legislative session to be debated and considered.

For a review of common legislative terms, legislative districts, committee assignments and other legislative tools, visit <https://kansascounties.org/page/AdvocacyOverview>.

Summaries of all legislation passed during the 2024 session can be found at www.klrd.gov under the Publications and Research tab by searching the Summary of Legislation and Legislative Highlights. This includes legislation passed during the 2024 Special Session.

What Happened This Week

The end of this week signals just two more committee days left in the 2025 legislative session. There is simply not much time left in the session. Anything that has not had significant attention to this point is probably dead because there just is not enough time to move something without enormous support from both the House and Senate leadership.

[HB 2101](#), which would forbid guaranteed income programs in cities or counties, will likely pass the Senate and advance to the governor, as will [HB 2304](#), which requires reporting on economic development incentives. HB 2304 did have some amendments to make the reporting less onerous, which is beneficial to counties.

[HB 2083](#) would remove energy storage facilities from the commercial and industrial machinery and equipment definition (which is tax exempt) and instead give it a ten year tax exemption. This would allow those properties to be taxed after 10 years. This has met some resistance in the Senate. If your community is considering these types of facilities, or may in the future, you need to contact your Senator this weekend and ask them to talk to leadership about passing HB 2083.

[SB 286](#) would create some new definitions for lobbying. KAC has concerns about the impact of this bill, but has been informed that it will not move forward this year. This bill likely needs some additional clarification to avoid unintended consequences.

[HB 2343](#), the home based business bill that would prevent any local oversight or regulation of any home based business, seems to have some resistance in the Senate committee. Whether that means the bill will not advance is still in question, but with few days remaining, there is not much time to wait.

[SB 70](#), the Senate KORA bill, was heard in the House. Both the House and Senate committees favor the contents of [HB 2134](#), so that is likely the package that will move forward. SB 70 could become a shell, or could have the contents of HB 2134 inserted in it.

The Water Program bill, [HB 2172](#) continues to advance. This is the first step in creating a water plan for the state.

[SB 242](#) would require the Attorney General to give counties permission to enter into contingent fee contracts did not receive any action this week. With few committee days remaining and this bill needing multiple amendments, the path for this bill is narrow. KAC does not support this bill.

KAC does support [HB 2116](#), which would require the use of Form DA-146a by counties with populations under a certain threshold. This is compromise language agreed on when a similar bill was introduced last year. KAC anticipates this bill will pass the Senate and advance to the governor.

[HB 2160](#), the Whistleblower protections legislation for local government employees was amended with additional language, including an administrative procedure and a good faith requirement. This bill now heads to the Senate floor.

[SB 280](#), which would require an election to exceed a certain threshold, remains in limbo. Opponents pointed out logistical questions, which now leave the bill with an unclear future. Concepts from this bill could come back, however, as there is some support in the Senate for some of these ideas.

What's Coming Next Week

The committee schedule is light next week with just two days of any committee activity, but floor action late in the week could provide a lot of intrigue. There could also be meetings at the rail (impromptu committee meetings in the Rotunda at the railing) where committees can pass various bills out if there is general consensus.

[HB 2152](#), the banker's bill, will finish up in the Senate committee on Monday. Whether it can make it through both chambers this session is up in the air. The committee would have to act on it, then have it pass the floor. Whether that happens or not is anyone's guess.

Both [HB 2396](#), the ASTRA fund, and [HCR 5011](#), the rolling average for residential property, will have a hearing in Senate Assessment and Taxation on Monday at 9:30 AM. KAC supports HB 2396 and has remained neutral on HCR 5011.

The Senate Local Government, Ethics and Transparency committee will have an informational briefing on [SB 124](#), which would restrict city authority to unilaterally annex property in some cases. This is just an informational hearing. No action will be taken on the bill this session.

The rest of the week, as well as the next week (the week of March 24) will be spent on the floor, debating and passing bills, including a budget. Things could move (and change) very quickly. We also need to watch for conference committees, where things could heat up next week as well.

If you have not already done so, [SUBSCRIBE](#) to KAC legislative alerts to stay up to date on what is going on.

Additional Resources

For daily information on things happening in the Legislature, follow [@KansasCounties](#) and [@JayHallKS](#) on Twitter.

You can find information on the Kansas Legislature, such as daily calendars, audio links, and bill text at www.kslegislature.gov.

You can watch or listen to committee proceedings by following the Kansas Legislature on YouTube.

