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This Week's League News

LEAGUE NEWS



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Headlines

- 1 | [Legislative Updates](#)
- 2 | [Leadership Summit – Are You Registered?](#)
- 3 | [Municipal Finance MTI Next Week](#)
- 4 | [Budget Workshops & Webinar](#)
- 5 | [We're Hiring! League Seeking Research Associate](#)

1 | **Legislative Updates**

As the legislative session continues, the League staff remains very busy tracking relevant legislation and maintaining close contact with cities and legislators on issues important to our members. If you have questions, please reach out to the staff member indicated below.

Abandoned & Blighted Property: SB 31

(http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/), the bill that gives cities a process for dealing with abandoned and blighted housing, was considered by the full Senate earlier this week. The bill was referred back to the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee for further review and discussion due to a large amendment that was presented during the floor debate. It is anticipated that the committee will consider the amendment and rework the bill on Monday, March 27.

Without getting into detail, the offered amendment would significantly alter the nature of the bill and the way abandoned and blighted property would be handled by cities. If your Senator is on the Local Government Committee (see below), **please contact them and ask them to oppose the proposed amendment.** Larry Baer (<mailto:lbaer@lkm.org>) is the League contact on this issue.

Committee Members:

Sen. Elain Bowers, Chair, Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Steve Fitzgerald, Vice-Chair, Steve.Fitzgerald@senate.ks.gov

Sen. John Doll, John.doll@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Randall Hardy, Randall.Hardy@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Mary Pilcher-Cook, MaryPilcherCook@senate.ks.gov

Sen. John Skubal, John.Skubal@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Dinah Sykes, Dinah.Sykes@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Ranking Minority, Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@senate.ks.gov

Sen. David Haley, David.Haley@senate.ks.gov

STAR Bonds Update: On Thursday, the House Appropriations Committee passed HB 2184 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2184/) out of committee for full consideration by the House. This legislation would reauthorize STAR Bonds until July 1, 2022. It is expected to be heard in the House on Tuesday, March 28. The League supports HB 2184 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2184/) as STAR Bonds have been shown to be an important piece of legislation for both local and statewide economic development. The League suggests you contact your representative over the weekend and ask them to support HB 2184 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2184/). Cindy Green (<mailto:cgreen@lkm.org>) is the League contact on this issue.

Remote Sales and Compensating Use Tax: The House Taxation Committee held a hearing on HB 2400 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2400/) on Wednesday, March 22 with the League providing testimony in support. HB 2400 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2400/) would require any out-of-state retailer, receiving gross revenues more than \$100,000 or delivering 200 or more separate transactions into the state, to collect Kansas sales tax and remit to the Kansas Department of Revenue. This legislation is similar to a bill passed in South Dakota. Earlier in the session the House Tax Committee held a hearing on HB 2235 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2235/), which would require out of state retailers who do not collect Kansas sales or compensating use tax to furnish a notice to a Kansas purchaser and the Kansas Department of Revenue listing the amount of purchase. Both bills may be discussed by the House Tax Committee next week. Cindy Green (<mailto:cgreen@lkm.org>) is the League contact on this issue.

KPERS (Working After Retirement) Update: HB 2289 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2289/) passed the House on Final Action 124 – 1. As amended this bill expands the definition of participating service for members of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) and the Kansas Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (KP&F). Any period of time away from work, or normal duties while in paid status authorized and approved by a participating employer, would constitute service credit. Any administrative, vacation, sick, or personal leaves — including Worker’s Compensation or light-or-temporary duty assignments — would qualify as service credit without limitation. This provision

would apply retroactively, starting on July 1, 2014. The legislation has been referred to the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee passed SB 138 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb138/) favorably, as amended, for passage. SB 138 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb138/) deals with working after retirement for KPERS retirees. The committee also favorably passed HB 2268 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2268/) which is the House's solution for working after retirement for KPERS retirees. Amanda Stanley (<mailto:astanley@lkm.org>) is the League's contact for KPERS legislation.

Make sure to check out our weekly legislative activities calendar (/resource/resmgr/files/league_news/Legislative_Activities_March.pdf) for important hearings and discussions.

2 | Leadership Summit – Are You Registered?

Leadership, like many things in life, is a learned behavior. Leadership takes time, effort, practice, and most importantly, cannot be done alone and without others. The League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Mayors Association invites you to attend the 2017 Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference (<https://lkm.site-ym.com/page/LeadershipSummit>). At this year's Leadership Summit, we'll focus on collaborative communication. This two-day event will also provide elected and appointed city leaders an opportunity to gather together and share their experiences as well as learn from others. Our sessions this year focus on managing difficult conversations with constituents and peers, media relations for elected officials, strategies for economic development and how to develop memorable messaging in a State of the City Address. Elected officials and appointed officials are encouraged to attend – the keynote speaker alone will provide valuable information on how to make the best decisions for your constituents! Register online and view program at our website (<https://lkm.site-ym.com/page/LeadershipSummit>).

3 | Municipal Finance MTI Next Week

Are you taking advantage of our Municipal Training Institute? Every month, the League offers a class for appointed or elected city officials to learn more about local government and the functions of government. This month, League staff will be in Russell and Marysville on March 30 and 31 presenting Municipal Finance. This course is a core course to complete the MTI training program. Visit our website to find out more information and register (<http://lkm.site-ym.com/page/MTI>).

4 | Budget Workshops & Webinar

The Kansas Department of Administration has announced the schedule for the 2017 Budget Workshops across Kansas. The League will also offer a webinar on Monday, April 10 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. for those interested in a webinar versus the full-scale workshop. The webinar will be condensed but contain information about preparing your budgets given tax lid implications. Webinar Registration is required ahead of time (limited to 100 participants). Webinar cost is \$25 for member cities, \$35 for non-member cities. Register online:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7031491590330542851>
(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7031491590330542851>)

The Municipal Services Team with the Kansas Department of Administration will offer the following full-day workshops:

- April 11 in Iola
- April 13 in Hays
- April 19 in Salina
- April 20 in Garden City
- April 21 in Colby
- April 25 in Wichita
- April 27 in Overland Park

April 28 in Topeka The workshop will include a presentation concerning House Bill 2088 (this is the 2016 bill number for the new tax lid including election requirements for cities and counties).

Please note that seating in some locations is limited, so early registration is needed to ensure your place at the workshop you wish to attend. Registration cost for the workshops remains at \$60 per registrant, and CPE credit for the full day is worth six hours. An email was sent out earlier this week with documents needed to register for the workshop (check your files) or see additional registration information may be obtained by visiting the DOA website:
<http://admin.ks.gov/offices/chief-financial-officer/municipal-services>
(<http://admin.ks.gov/offices/chief-financial-officer/municipal-services>) .

5 | We're Hiring! League seeking Research Associate

Do you love data, surveys, policy analysis and research? We've got job for you! The Research Associate oversees research and policy analysis activities for the League of Kansas Municipalities. The position provides comparative data and instructive information about municipal government to our members and assists the League's advocacy efforts. This is accomplished by directing the

research program, analyzing fiscal policies and economic activities, conducting research, and assisting local government officials. Other duties include assisting with the development of the annual conference programming and providing staff support to the annual conference, Local Government Day, the Public Policy Committee meetings, and other events. See the full job description online (http://lkm.site-ym.com/networking/apply_now.aspx?view=2&id=422292).

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