

LEAGUE NEWS



Volume 22 - Number 5 - February 3, 2017

Published by the League of Kansas
Municipalities

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1 | Legislative Update and Resources

The fourth week of the legislative session was busy with several informational briefings, bill hearings, and several bill introductions. Looking forward to next week, there are several items we want League members to be aware of and watching.

- **Asset Forfeiture:** All five of the House bills proposed in the House Judiciary (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/committees/ctte_h_jud_1/) have been moved to Judicial Council. This move provides time for the Judicial Council to review proposed legislation, make recommendations

for changes, and then forward the recommendations back to the Legislature for consideration and for action next session.

- **Occupational Licensing Update:** On Wednesday, February 1, a hearing was held on SB 76 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb76/) in the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs. SB 76 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb76/) would prohibit cities and counties from implementing occupational licensing programs after the effective date of the bill. While the bill would grandfather in current licensing programs established in cities and allow cities to maintain them, it would prohibit cities from adding additional regulations to any licensing requirements and would put a limit on licensing fees at \$25. In addition, the bill would look to exempt low-income individuals and military families from any occupational fees for both state and local governments. The League offered testimony in opposition to SB 76 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb76/). If you have questions, please contact Brock Ingmire (<mailto:bingmire@lkm.org>).
- **Change in Sales Tax Sourcing Rules:** HB 2177 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2177/), as written, would repeal destination-based sourcing and replace it with origin based sourcing for the collection and remittance of sales tax for most in-state sales. This change will have a differing impact upon cities. Please review the bill to determine the impact it will have on your city. The League is "neutral" on HB 2177 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2177/) because it does affect different cities in different ways. We anticipate hearings on the bill the week of February 13.
- **Establishing the KanCare bridge to a healthy Kansas program:** League counsel Amanda Stanley will testify in support of HB 2064 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2064/) on Wednesday, February 8 at 1:30 p.m. in room 112-N in the House Health and Human Services Committee. We support this legislation

because we recognize the challenges that lack of funding for Medicaid has placed on Kansas cities – large and small. We have examples of these challenges from Kansas cities which illustrate the impacts - from closures of hospitals to financial burdens placed on cities to ensure hospitals remain available for the community. This is a much larger issue that affects quality of life in communities as well as the sustainability of our cities. If you have additional information to share on this topic, please contact Amanda Stanley (<mailto:astanley@lkm.org>).

- **Abandoned & Blighted Property:** The League testified this week in support of SB 31 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/). There has been some great media on this issue coming from cities – small and large. We expect to see the bill return next week for a staff briefing to the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee and then be worked during the latter part of the week. Here's the media coverage we saw this week on the issue which came, in part, from the League's press release (<https://lkm.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/media/SB31-abandonedprop2017Jan26.pdf>) last week on the legislation.
 - o **KSHB:** <http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/bill-would-help-kansas-cities-tackle-blighted-abandoned-properties-faster> (<http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/bill-would-help-kansas-cities-tackle-blighted-abandoned-properties-faster>)
 - o **KSN:** <http://ksn.com/2017/02/02/wichita-fighting-for-neighborhoods-plagued-by-abandoned-homes/> (<http://ksn.com/2017/02/02/wichita-fighting-for-neighborhoods-plagued-by-abandoned-homes/>)
 - o **Russell:** <http://krsl.com/local-news/7473-city-of-russell-supports-senate-bill-to-address-blight> (<http://krsl.com/local-news/7473-city-of-russell-supports-senate-bill-to-address-blight>)

o **Topeka:** <http://cjonline.com/opinion/editorials/2017-01-30/editorial-time-pass-new-blight-bill>
(<http://cjonline.com/opinion/editorials/2017-01-30/editorial-time-pass-new-blight-bill>)

- **Public Employer Immunity Bill has Hearing:** On Thursday, February 2, the House Federal and State Affairs Committee held a hearing on HB 2081 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2081/). The League testified in support of this bill, which was introduced at the request of the League. The bill will provide immunity to municipalities for any negligent acts committed by an employee related to the employee choosing to carry a concealed handgun. In 2016, the Legislature removed the ability of public employers to prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns by employees when working. Establishing immunity protection from any potential liability related to employees carrying concealed firearms is part of the League's Statement of Municipal Policy for 2017.

On Tuesday, January 31, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee debated SB 53 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb53/) and failed to pass the bill out of committee. SB 53 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb53/) would have removed the sunset date on public building exemptions from the concealed carry statutes. On Wednesday, February 1, the League testified in support of HB 2074 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2074/) in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. HB 2074 was identical to SB 53 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb53/). On Wednesday, February 8, SB 108 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb108/) is set for hearing before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee at 10:30 a.m. in room 144-S. The League will testify in support of the bill which is identical to HB 2081

(http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2081/) and provides additional immunity to municipalities. The League will continue to monitor these bills and keep you apprised. For more information, please contact Eric Smith (<mailto:esmith@lkm.org>).

- **Bill Concerning Kansas Sales and Compensating Use Tax:** SB 111 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb111/) would require out of state online retailers who do not collect Kansas sales tax to furnish a notice to a Kansas purchaser and the Kansas Department of Revenue if goods are purchased in a total amount exceeding \$500. The notice to the Kansas purchaser would be required to state that the purchaser is required to report the use/sales tax on their K-40 tax forms. This bill is similar to others which have been passed in 18 other states, including Colorado. Cindy Green (<mailto:cgreen@lkm.org>) is the League staff contact on this issue.
- **2017 Legislative Guide Updated:** We recently updated our current Legislative Guide (http://www.lkm.org/resource/resmgr/publications/legislative_guide/2017) but we wanted to draw your attention specifically to a phone number change for Olathe Representative Larry Campbell. The correct office number for Rep. Campbell is (785) 296-7654. The number for Lawrence Representative Tom Sloan had been incorrectly printed (785) 296-7632.

For a full look at the week ahead, download the League's Legislative Activities Calendar ([https://lkm.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/files/league_news/2017/Additional_Documents/Leg](https://lkm.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/files/league_news/2017/Additional_Documents/Legative_Activities_Calendar.pdf)) We've added an icon to show which committee meetings can be heard online with the new live audio streaming function.

2 | Hometown Showdown Photo Submission Starts

We are excited to announce the third annual Kansas Hometown Showdown! Over the past two years, this photo contest has become incredibly popular and proven to be a great way for your residents to show community pride! Cities can now submit their photos online at showdown.lkm.org



(<http://showdown.lkm.org/>). The

entry deadline for the League's Kansas Hometown Showdown is February 17, or once we have received 64 submissions, whichever comes first. Once the contest begins on February 23, we encourage cities, elected officials and residents to share the contest to create excitement and increase competition. The contest winner will have their photo placed on the cover of a future issue of the Kansas Government Journal and, of course, earn bragging rights.

3 | Leadership Summit & Mayor's Conference Registration is Now Open

Registration is open for the 2017 Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Conference, set for Dodge City, Kansas April 21-22. A general schedule-at-a-glance, and hotel information is available now [[here](#)]; workshop topics will be posted soon! This conference is a great opportunity to network with fellow elected and appointed officials, plus, Friday evening's dinner will honor graduates of the Municipal Training Institute. Register online today (<http://www.lkm.org/page/LeadershipSummit>)!

4 | Hometown Showdown Photo Submission Starts

All city/county clerks should have received a memo from League General Counsel Larry Baer and Kansas Association of Counties General Counsel Melissa Wangemann about where candidates for city office are to file. Due to changes in election statutes, some questions have been raised concerning where candidates for city office are to file. In an effort to resolve these concerns, the League of Kansas Municipalities (League) and the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) recommend all candidates be instructed to file with the county election office. The overall legislative intent of the election changes in 2015 was to move local elections to November of odd years.

K.S.A. 25-21a01(f) makes a clear statement that all candidates seeking municipal office can do so by filing with the county election office. Based on statutory interpretation, this statute is later in time and can therefore be relied upon for determining where the legislature intended for candidates to file for municipal office.

If you have any questions related to this or any other issues related to the election change, please contact either the League at (785) 354-9565 or KAC at (785) 272-2585.

5 | KU School of Medicine Asks for City Assistance with Water Survey

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) has been awarded a grant entitled "Analysis of Kansas Water Well Policies and Proposal of New Water Well Policies" from the Kansas Health Foundation. As part of this project, KUSM-W is requesting your participation in a **3-item survey** found at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KHFWells>

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KHFWells>). This survey assesses private drinking water well stakeholders' familiarity with the range of policy options pertaining to private water wells in Kansas. In a few months, they will be conducting **interviews** with stakeholders and decision-makers regarding Kansas water well policies and regulations. Information gained from the

interviews will be utilized in the development a subsequent **survey** that will assess decision-makers' interest in a range of policies related to private drinking water wells. If you are interested in receiving additional information about this project, please contact Kurt Konda at kkonda@kumc.edu (mailto:kkonda@kumc.edu) or 316-293-3401.

6 | Municipal Business Alliance is a Resource for Members

Did you know the League has an extensive network of businesses known as the Municipal Business Alliance (<http://www.lkm.org/page/BusinessLinks>)? The League's Online Business Links section lists and describes a wide-range of businesses offering products and services to local governments in Kansas. Business Links is intended to help municipal officials locate firms that can supply services and products needed by their communities. Cities can use it to compare costs and to receive more competitive bids. While the League does not necessarily endorse any individual firm list in the Business Links or the Guide, we encourage you to check this list (<http://www.lkm.org/page/BusinessLinks>) first and support the firms that support your League!

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