Local Government Day Next Week

The League of Kansas Municipalities will once again co-host Local Government Day, an event for our members, with the Kansas Association of Counties on January 23, 2019. We will have over 300 local government officials from the city and county level attending and meeting with their respective legislators that day.

We look forward to seeing you in Topeka next Wednesday!

Legislative Session Underway

The League's legislative staff is ready for the 2019 session, which began this week. Each week, we create a legislative calendar and place the calendar in League News. This calendar highlights committee activity which is pertinent to local government. You can find next week's calendar here.

Next Wednesday, Executive Director Erik Sartorius will present to the House Local Government Committee at 9:00 a.m. about local government issues and Kansas cities. You can tune in via audio at this website.

We still need local government officials to serve as key contacts for a few of the newer representatives and senators. If you would like to serve as a key contact for your representative, let Deputy Director Trey Cocking know by e-mailing him. A key contact is the person who is willing to keep in touch with state representatives and let them know what is going on in your city and talk to them about how legislation may affect local governments, and your city specifically.

We’ve compiled list of House and Senate Committees and the League legislative staff who will be monitoring each committee. You can reach out directly to the staff member responsible for keeping up on legislation and issues affecting their committees. You can see the committee list online at our website.

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Cereal Malt Beverage License Changes in 2019

In anticipation of the April 1, 2019 changes to cereal malt beverage (CMB) license rules, the League has prepared a new model ordinance. On April 1, 2019, all CMB licensed businesses will be able to sell beer containing not more than 6% alcohol by volume. Most city ordinances only reference the ability to sell CMB so, the new model authorizes the sale of “Enhanced Cereal Malt Beverage” which is defined as the combination of CMB and beer containing not more than 6% alcohol by volume.

The January/February edition of the Kansas Government Journal will have a more detailed explanation of all the changes but we wanted to provide our members with the model ordinance now so there is time to work through any questions before April 1, 2019. The model ordinance can be found at our website.

The Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control has also established rules to allow CMB businesses to accept delivery of beer not containing more than 6% alcohol beginning on March 1, 2019. The rules provide for the businesses to stock the higher alcohol content beer and secure it in a way to assure there are no sales prior to April 1, 2019. The memo explaining the rules for this process can also be found on our website. For questions regarding this CMB license change, contact Deputy General Counsel Eric Smith at (785) 354-9565 or by e-mail.