Legislative Session Underway

Property Tax – After last week’s quick moves on SB 13, the bill was noticed for hearing on Wednesday, January 20, however because of possible threats to the Statehouse the hearing was canceled and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 26 at 3:30 p.m. The bill passed the Senate 34-1 on Thursday, January 14. SB 13, would implement a new notice and hearing process as part of local governments’ annual budgeting. The underlying concept is similar to SB 294/HB 2702 from 2020, which was vetoed by Gov. Kelly. Primarily, if a city intends to collect an additional $.01 in property taxes in its budget, it will have to perform an additional notice and hearing process. Significant changes exist, however, including increased transparency for all local government (not just cities and counties). As with HB 2702, the property tax lid for local governments would be removed.

The League testified as neutral on this legislation in the Senate and offered amendments. One was adopted there and we will be taking the other concepts to the House for consideration. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Deputy Director Trey Cocking.

Extending Certain Provisions of the Governmental Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - SB 14 passed the House on Thursday. SB 14 ratifies and continuing in existence the state of disaster emergency until March 31, 2021. The bill also amends the statute to extend from 2020 through 2021 a provision prohibiting the Governor from proclaiming a new state of disaster emergency related to COVID-19 without approval by at least six legislative members of the State Finance Council. Importantly for cities, the SB 14 extends cities liability protection against COVID-19 until March 31 when a city is complying with all required public health protocols. The bill is now to the Governor’s desk. It must be signed before January 26 or the current state of emergency will end.

Suspending Provisions of a Speedy Trial - HB2078 will be heard in House Judiciary on Tuesday January 26, 2021. This bill would suspend provisions of speedy trial under KSA 22-3402 until May 1, 2024 in all criminal cases filed prior to the effective date of this act. The speedy trial provisions would be repealed completely for all criminal cases filed after the effective date of the Act. If any city would like to testify on this bill, testimony is due by 9 a.m. on Monday, January 25. Contact General Counsel Amanda Stanley for more information.

A weekly Legislative Activities calendar is available online.
**Govpalooza Event for Local Government Officials**

The Kansas Association of City-County Managers and the League has partnered with the Alliance for Innovation to bring you Govpalooza, March 1-5, 2021. As we begin 2021, local government organizations and professionals have never been under greater stress. In response to this challenge, a diverse coalition of committed partners has come together to create an antidote for these difficult times – a beacon in the night to inspire and support the local government community – TLG Govpalooza!

This massive virtual festival will feature world-class thought leaders (including Apple Co-Founder Steve Wozniak!), local government legends, and next-gen talent you won’t want to miss. Think of it as a virtual SXSW for local government – and those that are working closely with them to build a better future.

KACM & League members will get a discounted rate when you use the code KACM or LKM to register. A full schedule of events is now available at https://www.transformgov.org/govpalooza/

**KDOT Call for CCLIP Projects**

KDOT’s announced they are accepting projects for the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) for 2023 and 2024. For any questions, please contact Dawn Hueske at (785) 207-1420 or Dawn.Hueske@ks.gov. The deadline for submission is March 12.

View the [KDOT memo](https://www.transformgov.org/govpalooza/) and [program guidelines](https://www.transformgov.org/govpalooza/) on-line.

**New Personnel Policies & Guidelines Manual Released**

Good personnel management is essential for the efficient and effective functioning of city government. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of productive, competent employees in achieving the city's goals and policies. Personnel administration can also be an effective tool in city management. This manual presents a model set of personnel policies and guidelines for Kansas cities with new information relating to infectious disease as well as a variety of other legal updates. Updated January, 2021.

Order your copies online.

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