

LEAGUE News

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The American Rescue Plan and the resulting funding for Kansas local governments is an issue we're focusing on at the League. We created a web page where we will collect resources for cities regarding the ARP. View the latest information at www.lkm.org/ARP2021.



We are beginning our preparations for the **2021 League Annual Conference**, scheduled for October 9 through 11 in Topeka.

At this time, it is our intent to hold an inperson conference with possible modifications. Visit our *event web page* for updates on the Annual Conference.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

COVID-19 Shutdown Compensation Bill - *SB* 286 would set up a process where an aggrieved business could go through a process to receive compensation from the state and local governments if the local government has COVID-19 restrictions in place. The bill only provides for face mask ordinances if they are in place after May 1, 2021 and requires the business to enforce the ordinance. The bill was heard last week in the *Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee* and the bill has now been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. We expect the bill will come out and be worked by the Senate. Please contact *Trey Cocking* with any questions.

Property Tax Transparency – Yesterday, the Senate passed out *HB 2104*, which extends the 20 mills general property tax for schools for two additional years. The bill also includes an amendment that will push the date when a taxing entity must let the county clerk know it plans to exceed to the Tax Neutral Rate to July 20. Then, hearings will take place between August 20-September 20, and the final budget will be due to the County Clerk on October 1. Please contact *Trey Cocking* with any questions.

STAR Bonds - *SB 124* was passed out of the *House Commerce Committee* with additional transparency requirements, and an amendment that prevents a city or state official from being directly employed by the project developer. The bill now goes to the House Floor. Please contact *Trey Cocking* with any questions.

Special District Consolidation - *SB 118* creating an innovative new process to allow voluntary special district consolidation was passed by both Chambers and sent to the Governor. Please contact *Amanda Stanley* with any questions.

MORE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES ON PAGE 2...

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Municipal Motor Graders - *HB* 2295 exempts municipal operators of motor grader vehicles from the requirement to hold a commercial drivers' license (CDL). The bill has been through the House and has now cleared the Senate transportation committee. Cities need to ensure that operators are properly trained to use motor graders for snow removal or other operations; the committees heard testimony that CDL training does not in fact cover these vehicles and that the CDL requirement seriously hampers municipalities' ability to properly staff and appropriately train their crews. The bill has been placed on the Consent Calendar. Contact *Deborah Barnes* with questions.

A weekly *legislative calendar* is available for review.

KDHE SOLID WASTE GRANTS OPEN

KDHE's Solid Waste Grants are now open. To find our more information about the grant program, visit *KDHE's website* or contact Candy Williamson at (785) 296-1540. Grant applications for the 2021 Solid Waste Grant Program will are due May 15.

Check out the League's NEWLY REVISED 7th Grade Essay Contest! Open to All 7th Graders in Kansas!





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