

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Friday, January 17, 2025

The 2025 Legislative Session has begun! Week 1 saw the swearing in of all legislators, following last year's elections, and most committees were busy, but primarily listening to briefings getting them caught up with information from departments and agencies. Based on the Week 2 calendar, there will be much of the same, however there certainly are many bills that have been introduced that the League is monitoring.

Property Tax Reduction and RNR: [HB 2011](#) would reduce the state's 20 mills collected for schools to 18.5 mills. It would also establish that this would be set permanently at a revenue neutral rate. The League does not have a position on whether the state should reduce its mill levy - that decision is in the purview of state elected officials to make that determination. The League has no official position on whether it should be set at a permanent revenue neutral rate, but does believe legislators should hold themselves to the same standard they created for local governments and take a vote each year to determine if they should stay revenue neutral. A hearing is set for Wednesday, January 22 at 3:30 p.m. in [House Taxation](#).

Property Valuation Cap: [SCR 1603](#) is a proposed constitutional amendment that would limit property tax valuation increases for real property at three percent. There are some exceptions provided. The bill has already had a hearing this week in the [Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee](#). The League provided testimony expressing that in states where such laws have been passed there were additional exceptions to help not create market inequities. A similar amendment passed the Senate in previous sessions, but has not had a vote in the House. Approval takes a 2/3 majority of each chamber before it is put on a ballot.

Daylight Savings: [SB1](#) would exempt the state of Kansas from daylight savings time but provide for moving to permanent daylight savings time upon an act of Congress requiring such a move. A hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. in [Senate Federal and State Affairs](#). The League has not taken a position on this issue.

Three-Mile Zone: [HB 2025](#) would repeal the three-mile extraterritorial planning and zoning authority for cities within county land. A similar bill has also been introduced in the Senate, but it is not yet available for publication. A bill will also be introduced giving individuals within the three-mile zone the ability to vote in city elections. The League opposes this legislation as written.

and does not support providing county residents the ability to vote in city elections. However, the League does recognize that it might be time to adjust the three-mile zone laws and recommends the Legislature put the issue into an interim committee for consideration and discussion between now and the 2026 session. This method has the support of other stakeholders, including the Kansas Association of Counties, utilities and others that could be impacted. No hearing dates have been set.

Veteran's Tax Relief: [HB 2005](#) would establish the veteran's valor property tax relief act providing an income tax credit or refund for eligible individuals, primarily disabled veterans. The League supports this legislation, as it provides tax relief to many living in our cities. No hearing date has been set.

EV Tax: [HB 2003](#) would establish a road repair tax collected at electric vehicle charging stations, with the dollars being remitted to the state highway fund. The League does not have a position on whether the state should impose such a tax, but has taken the position that if such a tax is imposed it should be remitted to the State Highway Fund, which assists cities with infrastructure projects. No hearing date has been set.

Recreational Property Tax Exemption: [SB 10](#) and [HB 2014](#) provide a property tax exemption for certain personal property including watercraft, marine equipment, off-road vehicles, motorized bicycles, and certain trailers. No hearing has been set. The League opposes the state exempting local property tax levies, but recognizes their right to exempt the state portion on these personal property items.

Sales Tax Exemptions: Several sales tax exemption bills have been introduced, and there will be more! The League opposes the Legislature exempting local, voter-approved sales tax levies. We request that the Legislature, if they so choose, set the state rate at zero percent while leaving local levies intact.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, or others, contact Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director, at 785-354-9565 or sduncan@lkm.org

Move Over Bill: [SB 8](#) concerns traffic regulations specifically related to the duty of drivers approaching stationary vehicles that are displaying vehicular hazard warning signal lamps on Kansas highways. The League believes this bill supports our members' Constitutional Home Rule powers and their ability to address issues in a way that is responsive to their residents. A hearing is set for Thursday, January 23 at 8:30 a.m. in [Senate Taxation](#).

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, contact Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison, at 785-354-9565 or wstark@lkm.org.

Ranked Choice Voting Ban: [SB6](#) would prohibit the use of ranked-choice voting methods for conducting elections at every level. While the League is not aware of any cities interested in moving to ranked choice voting, as it would be expensive to coordinate with county election officials, we oppose this bill for preempting cities from exercising Home Rule authority. The bill was introduced in [Senate Federal and State Affairs](#) Committee but has not yet had a hearing date set.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, contact Sage Pourmirza, Staff Attorney, at 785-354-9565 or spourmirza@lkm.org.