

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KDHA

Kansas Legislative Report

January 22, 2021

The second week of the 2021 Legislative Session is in the books with notable accomplishments but with several challenges too. As a safety precaution, Governor Kelly closed state buildings in Topeka Tuesday and Wednesday, including the Statehouse. Many House and Senate committees postponed meetings until next week. A senate staffer tested positive for COVID-19, forcing many senators to test and wait for results.

The Legislature continues to focus on their high priority items. The Senate's quick passage extending the Emergency Management legislation was debated and passed by the House. This bill, known as SB 14, is on the way to Governor Kelly's desk. A handful of other priority items, including the creation and approval of the budget, are on the "top priority" list while other issues will receive attention in the meantime as long as the Legislature is meeting. There is growing concern the Legislature may adjourn early or take intermittent breaks in the event of heightened COVID-19 concerns. The Missouri Legislature, as an example, was forced to adjourn for a week after beginning session.

Over 150 bills have been introduced with dozens more on the way. The Senate passed a property tax bill that would require notice and public hearing requirements for new property taxes. The language for that is contained in SB 13, which passed the Senate 34-1. The House is moving forward on approval of a proposed constitutional amendment related to abortion, known as "Value Them Both." Budget preparation will begin soon by House and Senate committees.

Legislation related to the dental industry has been slow to be introduced, but several bills are expected to emerge in the next two weeks. Next week KDHA plans to introduce its Dental Therapy Bill in both health committees. The legislation is essentially identical to the version passed by the Senate 38-0 in 2018. This legislation was a compromise that was publicly supported by both KDHA and the Kansas Dental Association.

KDHA continues to collaborate with the Kansas Dental Assistants Association to draft legislation for the oversight for dental assistants.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions. Please see below for the bill matrix.

Travis Lowe



Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 10 Richard Hilderbrand, R-13th	Enacting the right to earn a living act to minimize unnecessary occupational licensing and regulation	In Senate Commerce	01/20/2021 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Wednesday, 1/27, 10:30 AM, Rm 546-S
HB 2061 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Increasing the minimum age to purchase or possess cigarettes and tobacco products from 18 to 21, and prohibiting cigarette vending machines and flavored vaping products	In House Federal and State Affairs	01/14/2021 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HB 2066 Chris Croft, R-8th	Expanding the military spouse and servicemember's expedited licensure law to all applicants who have established or intend to establish residency in Kansas, providing for the practice of telemedicine by out-of-state physicians, permitting the issuance of temporary licenses in emergencies and the use of electronic credentials	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	01/15/2021 - House Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Tuesday, 1/19, 1:30 PM, Rm 346-S