

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

***KDHA***

***Kansas Legislative Report***

***January 15, 2021***

Happy New Year! The turning of the calendar ushers in a new legislative session in Topeka. The 2021 Kansas Legislative Session officially started on Monday, January 11. The first week began with legislators taking the oath of office while committees starting work at a roaring pace. The atmosphere in the Statehouse is very different as countless COVID-19 precautions are in place. All committees are broadcasting meetings with video and audio over the internet to the public while legislators are spaced out across the room to social distance. Most committees only allow the public or lobbyists to be in committee rooms if they are going to testify on a bill. Large groups are not allowed to enter the Capitol. Though the calendar is very similar to previous sessions, there is a sense of urgency to complete work quickly in case the session is impacted by quarantines.

House and Senate committees opted to begin work the first week, which traditionally is spent on organizational meetings. Several committees received agency and industry updates while a few held bill hearings. The Senate Tax Committee held hearings on bills related to property and income tax while judiciary committees began discussions on legislation related to COVID-19 response. Next week will see increased activity in committees, including dozens of bill introductions and more bill hearings.

Governor Laura Kelly presented the State of the State address to the Legislature via video. Governor Kelly outlined her priorities for the new session, including protections against COVID-19 with the vaccination rollout, stable budget and economy. The Governor presented her budget recommendation for the next fiscal year that includes a \$600M ending balance.

Health committees are likely to be more active than last session. With COVID-19 the dominating issue, attention turns to vaccinations. This week the House Health Committee held a meeting to discuss the vaccination delivery process. The Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee plans to spend next week reviewing mental health.

As KDHA determines its path forward with dental assistants, the bill drafting process will continue as planned for an introduction later this month.

Licensure issues will engender plenty of discussion under the dome. The Licensure Reciprocity Bill is re-introduced as HB 2066 after the 2020 effort stalled due to the early dismissal. In short, the bill provides that people licensed out of state and/or military spouses who move to Kansas are on the fast track to obtain a Kansas license unless the requirements are substantially different. The hearing is scheduled on Tuesday.

Another licensure bill, called the Right to Earn a Living Act (SB 10), calls for every regulatory agency to provide a comprehensive review of all occupational rules and regulations and occupational licenses that justifies its function, impact on workers, consumer choices and cost and comparison to other states. SB 10, sponsored by five senators, has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

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

Travis Lowe



Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
<a href="#">SB 10</a> Richard Hilderbrand, R-13th	Enacting the right to earn a living act to minimize unnecessary occupational licensing and regulation	In Senate Commerce	<b>01/12/2021 - Senate</b> Referred to Commerce
<a href="#">HB 2061</a> 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	<b>01/14/2021 - House</b> Referred to Federal and State Affairs
<a href="#">HB 2066</a> 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	<b>01/15/2021 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Tuesday, 1/19, 1:30 PM, Rm 346-S