



BRADEN · HEIDNER · LOWE
& ASSOCIATES

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KDHA

Kansas Legislative Report

May 7, 2021

The 2021 Legislative Session is in the books! This week legislators returned to Topeka for Veto Session, which is considered to be the wrap-up session for the year. Veto Session is traditionally designed to serve as an opportunity to review Governor vetoes, if any, and finalize lingering budget issues. 2021's Veto Session provided plenty of opportunity given Governor Kelly's use of eight vetoes last week, including the following:

- SB 50 - Comprehensive tax bill, including decoupling from the federal tax cuts made in 2017.
- SB 55 - Fairness in Women's Sports Act to require female student athletic teams include members who are biologically female.
- HB 2039 - Requiring a civic test and personal financial literacy course for high school graduation.
- HB 2059 - Reciprocity for licenses to carry concealed handguns and creating a new class of concealed carry license for individuals 18 to 20 years of age and HB 2089 – Standardizing firearm safety education training programs in school districts.
- HB 2166 – Creating a Kansas license plate featuring the “Don't thread on me flag.”
- HB 2183 and HB 2332 – Election reform bills.

Using the House and Senate's GOP supermajorities, the Legislature was successful in overriding the Governor's veto on five of the bills. This includes the Tax Bill (SB 50), License Plate Bill (HB 2166), both election bills (HB 2183 and HB 2332) and HB 2059 - Reciprocity for licenses to carry concealed handguns and creating a new class of conceal and carry license for individuals 18 to 20 years of age.

The rest of the time was spent wrapping up a few conference committees, creating a new bill to provide K-12 funding, and finalizing the budget bill. In addition, the Senate spent an afternoon on a resolution to request a Convention of States, generating a fair amount of controversy before being defeated. The budget bill, which was approved by the House and Senate in the final hours, contains several provisions related to COVID-19 that makes issuance of COVID-19 vaccination passports voluntary. In addition, people's access to housing or places open to the public shall not be refused based on their vaccination status.

The Legislature will return for a ceremonial final day of session, known as Sine Die, on May 26.

Though the Veto Session saw action in several policy areas, issues impacting dental hygienists have been resolved since the Health Conference Committee wrapped up differences between House and Senate bills before the April break.

Governor Kelly signed Substitute for HB 2066, known as the Universal Licensure/Military Spouse Bill, into law. The bill provides for expedited reciprocity for military and new residents if they hold a license in another state. The Kansas Dental Board, which includes dental hygienists and dentist licensure, is subject to the new law.

Thank you!

Travis Lowe

