

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KDHA

Kansas Legislative Report

January 12, 2023

The 2023 Legislative Session is officially underway. Governor Laura Kelly was sworn into office for her second term on the capitol steps Monday morning. The Governor's anticipated State of the State address, outlining her vision for the next year, is delayed due to the Governor testing positive for COVID. The address will be given later this month.

The Kansas House looks very different this session. Along with a class of 35 freshman, the top four House leadership posts have new leaders with 13 committees with a new chair. The Senate too, which did not stand for election, saw three recent resignations, causing a reshuffling of committee rosters.

House and Senate committees held their first meetings of the session with a few already beginning to receive agency updates. Approximately 60 bills have been introduced with hundreds more promised to surface over the coming weeks. House and Senate leadership pledged their cooperation and their session calendar plans to wrap up session by the end of April.

Two committees of interest to KDHA look quite different. The House Committee on Health and Human Services added eight new members though the leadership of the committee remains the same with Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), Rep. John Eplee, MD (R- Atchison) and Rep. Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee) as the chair, vice-chair and ranking democrat, respectively. Three of the new committees include a retired physician (Rep. Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville)), veterinarian (Rep. Fred Gardner (R-Garnett)), and a nurse practitioner (Rep. Melissa Oropeza (D-Kansas City)).

No dental industry legislation has been introduced at this time.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Travis Lowe