



Community Bankers Association of Kansas

Kansas Legislative and Policy Report

Early Summer Update

June 21, 2023

Overview

The Legislature adjourned for the year on April 28th. They sent several bills to the Governor as the Session concluded and there was no opportunity to override any vetoes. The Governor vetoed a bill restricting the ability to respond to public health emergencies as well as one part of the K-12 education budget bill. At this point, we turn to the 2023 interim.

The full Legislature will return in January 2024 but there will be activity in interim committees. The Legislative Coordinating Council approved interim committee meetings and meeting dates for the summer and fall. Legislative leadership finalized member assignments to the committees reflected in our report. We do not anticipate the bulk of meetings until August or later. The full list of approved committees and days for meetings can be found here: <http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Committees/2023InterimDocs/2023-Approved-Meeting-Days.pdf> The committees of particular interest to us are included below.

Big Picture Overview

On the heels of the 2023 Session, the Governor and legislative leadership, with clearly varied perspectives, noted the significance of fully funding public education, except for special education. Legislative leadership pursued controversial gender/cultural tactics and other social issues, affirming their focus on “woke issues.” Despite the multi-billion-dollar cash balances, the Governor and the Legislature failed to resolve tax reductions and left the sales tax on food in place until 2025. Also as expected, long-standing policy issues—Medicaid expansion, medical marijuana, and a variety of other issues—remain unaddressed until next session.

The shuffle of elected officials and change in advance of the 2024 elections, when the full Legislature faces the voters, is already generating some changes that will continue through the summer and fall. Senator Dan Kerschen from Goddard will not run again. Senator Chase Blasi (R-Wichita), appointed to an open seat in late 2022, will seek election in 2024. Senator Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee) already has an opponent. Several House members, such as Drs. John Eplee (R-Atchison) and Bill Clifford (R-Garden City) have also announced they plan to run for the Senate after serving a number of years in the House. Many of these announcements will occur this summer and fall so candidates can raise campaign contributions for 2024 before the end of the calendar year.

Interim Committees

Below you will find a list of relevant interim committees and their topics. The approved interim committee list does not completely reflect the breadth of requested interim requests. A small percentage of requested interim topics were approved. Many related issues and topics will be brought into like-minded committees to polish and perfect bills that failed in 2023. For example, there were three different requests for education interims that were combined into one committee and multiple energy, utilities, and climate topics combined.

Appointments of legislators to serve on interim committees is usually limited to committee leadership and a few other legislators. Seniority usually rules the selection process. Republicans and House Democrats have made their committee member assignments, and we have included what we know as of today and will update in our July report.

The Legislative Budget Committee, KanCare Oversight, and Committee on Taxation are the regular committees with long-standing statutory policy and funding review duties. Otherwise, interim committee topics are highlighted reflecting our specific interests. The summary for each of the referenced interim committees is attached at the end of the report and no meeting dates have been set.

Interim Meetings of Interest to CBA

- Special Committee on Foreign Adversary Investments and Land. Lengthy agenda to address failed legislation in 2023 session to limit property ownership from specific nations.
- Fiduciary Financial Institutions Oversight. Statutory issues.

| INTERIM COMMITTEES | 2023 Approved Mtg. Days |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <p><i>Legislative Budget</i> Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General statutory requirements as well as: • ARPA funds; Medicaid reimbursement rates; Kansas Lottery, Expanded Lottery, and historic horse racing; implementation of BILD program; Bipartisan Infrastructure spending; mental health initiatives; K-12 and post-secondary spending; higher ed grant funds; Governor’s wildfire task force; Early Childhood Transition Task Force; APEX programs. <p>Membership: Chair Rep. Troy Waymaster, R-Bunker Hill Vice Chair Sen. Rick Billinger, R-Goodland</p> <p>Senate Members Sen. J.R. Claeys, R-Salina Sen. Pat Pettey, D-Kansas City</p> <p>House Members Rep. Will Carpenter, R-El Dorado Rep. Henry Helgerson, D-Wichita Rep. Kyle Hoffman, R-Coldwater</p> | <p>4</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Fiduciary Financial Institutions Oversight</i></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General statutory requirements. <p>Membership:</p> <p>Chair: Rep. Nick Hoheisel Vice Chair: Sen. Jeff Longbine</p> <p>Senate Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sen. Michael Fagg, R-El Dorado Sen. Ty Masterson, R-Andover Sen. Jeff Pittman, D-Leavenworth <p>House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rep. Dan Osman, D-Overland Park Rep. Stephen Owens, R-Hesston Rep. Laura Williams, R-Lenexa Rep. Rui Xu, D-Westwood | 1 |
| <p>Special Committee on Foreign Adversary Investments and Land Purchases <i>Senate Chair</i></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review issues and process to prevent foreign entities from buying land in Kansas as well as the laws and regulations concerning investments and purchases by foreign adversaries. Efforts to pass such legislation failed during the 2022 session. • Consider appropriate administrative bodies and possible statutory changes to implement related to the issue. • Attorney General bill that did not pass barred foreign adversaries from owning land in Kansas. • Foreign adversaries according to the U.S. government, include China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and the Maduro regime of Venezuela. <p>Membership:</p> <p>Chair: Mike Thompson, Shawnee Vice Chair: Ken Rahjes, Agra</p> <p>Senate Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sen. Rick Kloos, R-Berryton Sen. Virgil Peck, R-Havana Sen. Kellie Warren, R-Leawood Sen. Ethan Corson, D-Prairie Village <p>House Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rep. Nick Hoheisel, R-Wichita Rep. Susan Humphries, R-Wichita Rep. Lisa Moser, R-Wheaton Rep. Rui Xu, D-Westwood Rep. Boog Highberger, D-Lawrence | 2 |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Special Committee on Taxation House Chair</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study property valuations and the implications of a constitutional amendment to cap assessed valuation increases at 4 percent annually. <p>Membership:</p> <p>Chair: Adam Smith, Weskan Vice Chair: Caryn Tyson, Parker</p> <p>Senate Members:</p> <p>Sen. Rick Kloos, Berryton Sen. Virgil Peck, Havana Sen. Mike Petersen, Wichita Sen. Tom Holland, D-Baldwin City</p> <p>House Members:</p> <p>Rep. Brian Bergkamp Wichita Rep. Tom Kessler, Wichita Rep. Barb Wasinger, Hays Rep. Tom Sawyer, D-Wichita Rep. Mike Amyx, D-Lawrence</p> | 2 |
|--|---|

Upcoming Activities

The legislative schedule of hearings is updated regularly throughout the interim and can be found in the House and Senate calendars on the Legislature’s website at:
http://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/chamber/calendars/

Wrap Up

Let us know if you have any questions.

Shawn P. Mitchell, President
Community Bankers Association of KS
5897 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66614
785-271-1404 Office
shawn@cbak.com
www.cbak.com

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.
Little Government Relations, LLC
800 SW Jackson, Ste. 1100
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-235-8187 Office
785-845-7265 Cell
stuartjlittle@mac.com
www.lgrkansas.com

Mallory Lutz
Little Government Relations, LLC
800 SW Jackson, Ste. 1100
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-235-8187 Office
785-409-8351 Cell