



**KDHA**

**Kansas Legislative Report**

**March 17, 2017**

Another busy week concludes in Topeka. The majority of the action this week was in committee meetings, with the exception of the Senate’s passage of the budget rescission bill for the current fiscal year that expires on June 30. Committees continued to hear dozens of new bills, while passing several out with recommendations to the full House and Senate. The intensity is starting to rise as the window to the April 7 first adjournment deadline starts to close.

The Senate’s passage of the budget rescission bill marks a major step to close the \$349M shortfall for Fiscal Year 2017. The bill was passed by the House last month but the Senate made several changes. The bill will go to conference committee next week where the House and Senate budget leaders will iron out the differences between the two versions.

The House is showing signs of a plan to produce a school finance funding formula that has the support of House leadership. The House K-12 Budget Committee spent three days discussing concepts. Several conferees pushed for the new plan to include many components of the old formula, but include better ways to address the Base-State-Aid-Per-Pupil and at-risk students. There is also a strong desire to fund all-day Kindergarten. Next week should offer more clarity as a comprehensive plan could be designed.

New tax bills continue to be introduced that offer different approaches to tax policy. Some aim to move from the two-income tax bracket system to a three-tier system while others aim to move down to a flat tax system. Both tax committees are reviewing different plans. A bill was also considered, which would repeal the law known as the “property tax lid.” The lid requires a public election if a city or county wants to raise property taxes beyond the rate of inflation.

The Senate Tax Committee held a hearing on SB 224, which would increase the fuel tax by a nickel. This new revenue would be sent to the State Highway Fund where it is protected from transfers by the Kansas Constitution. The House has a bill that would increase the fuel tax 11 cents with a hearing scheduled next Thursday.

Next week the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee is planning two days of hearings for Medicaid Expansion. The bill passed in the House last month.

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

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Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
<a href="#">SB 228</a> Senate Ways and Means Committee	Enacting the Kansas Medicaid Reform Act	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	<b>03/15/2017 - Senate</b> Referred to Public Health and Welfare

<a href="#">HB 2023</a>	Determination of Kansas adjusted gross income; sunseting certain modifications	In House Taxation	<b>01/20/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing (cont.) in Taxation: Monday, 1/23, 3:30 PM, Rm 346-S
House Taxation Committee			
<a href="#">HB 2044</a>	Establishing the KanCare bridge to a healthy Kansas program and providing medicaid reimbursement for clubhouse rehabilitation services	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	<b>03/15/2017 - Senate</b> Scheduled Hearing (opponents and neutrals) in Public Health and Welfare: Tuesday, 3/21, 9:30 AM, Rm 548-S
House Health and Human Services Committee			
<a href="#">HB 2064</a>	Establishing the KanCare bridge to a healthy Kansas program	In House Health and Human Services	<b>02/22/2017 - House</b> Motion to withdraw from Committee withdrawn
House Health and Human Services Committee			
<a href="#">HB 2119</a>	Establishing non-covered services for dental benefits under health insurance	In House Health and Human Services	<b>01/25/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Health and Human Services: Wednesday, 2/1, 1:30 PM, Rm 546-S
House Health and Human Services Committee			
<a href="#">HB 2139</a>	Licensure of dental therapists	In House Health and Human Services	<b>02/08/2017 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing in Health and Human Services: Tuesday, 2/14, 1:30 PM, Rm 546-S
House Health and Human Services Committee			