



KDHA

Kansas Legislative Report

May 25, 2017

The fourth week of veto session offered progress and setbacks. Significant advancement was made on school finance while various political factions have failed to reach a consensus on tax policy. Legislators are now heading home for Memorial Day weekend and will resume session on Tuesday. This week's progress does provide momentum that can theoretically pave the way to a final adjournment by the end of next week.

The biggest headline of the week was the House's passage of their school finance plan enclosed in HB 2410. This plan develops a new finance formula and adds \$460M in new funding over the next two school years in an effort to satisfy the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling. Critics of the bill claim the plan does not spend enough new money, but an amendment to add more money was defeated by the majority of the House. The bill passed the House 84-39.

Earlier the same day, after several hours of amending their bill, the Senate School Finance Committee unanimously approved their bill for consideration by the full Senate. This bill, now enclosed in HB 2186, actually appropriates less new money but is largely modeled off the House's HB 2410. Once the Senate debates and passes their bill, a conference committee will be held to negotiate differences between the House and Senate packages.

Tax policy continues to offer glimmers of hope, which then quickly fade away. The tax conference committee met several times to design a compromise. A three-bracket income tax plan that raised over a billion dollars in two years was defeated on the House floor, after a divided Democrat caucus pulled support for the bill. The following day, a two-bracket plan that raised much less money (but was thought to be amenable to the Governor) was planned for debate but pulled after support fell through.

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

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