



# KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** John J. Federico, JD  
Stephen P. Duerst, JD

**Date:** February 19, 2022

**Re:** Weekly Update – Week of February 14, 2022

Please see our Weekly Update on Kansas Legislative activities:

### **A SPECIAL NOTE ON FINDING BILL LANGUAGE & BILL TRACKERS**

If you need to find specific language of a bill, type the number in the box under “Bill number:” on the right-hand side of [this](#) webpage. Once you find the bill listed, click that specific bill. You will find the PDF logo under the “Documents” label - click the logo...this will lead you to the text of the bill.

If there are bills that you would like *removed* from or *added* to your bill tracker, please contact Stephen Duerst ([Stephen@FedericoDuerst.com](mailto:Stephen@FedericoDuerst.com)).

As always, our office is more than happy to send you specific language as well.

### **LEGISLATURE RUSHES TO WORK BILLS BEFORE FLOOR WORK NEXT WEEK**

Despite yet another major winter storm on Wednesday, and the subsequent cancellation of some committee meetings on Thursday, the Legislature trudged on and heard and worked a number of bills this past week. Monday will mark the final day bills will be heard and worked before floor work occupies the remainder of next week for both the House and Senate.

### **NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS MADE AFTER SENATE SHAKEUP**

With the removal of [Sen. Alicia Straub](#) (R-Ellinwood), [Sen. Dennis Pyle](#) (R-Hiawatha) and [Sen. Mark Steffen](#) (R-Hutchinson) from their positions on several committees, Senate Leadership announced the following changes:

- [Sen. Brenda Dietrich](#) (R-Topeka) has been named Vice Chair of the [Commerce Committee](#).
- [Sen. Ron Ryckman, Sr.](#) (R-Meade) has been named Vice Chair of the [Agriculture Committee](#).
- Senate Vice President [Rick Wilborn](#) (R-McPherson) has been named to the [Transportation Committee](#).
- [Sen. Mike Petersen](#) (R-Wichita) has been named to the [Tax Committee](#).
- [Sen. Rick Kloos](#) (R-Berryton) has been named to the [Utilities Committee](#).
- [Sen. Dennis Pyle](#) (R-Hiawatha) has been named to the [Transparency and Ethics Committee](#) and the [Local Government Committee](#).

### **VACCINE PASSPORT BILL TO BE HEARD ON MONDAY**

The Senate [Judiciary Committee](#) will hear a [bill](#) Monday that would prohibit any place of public accommodation from refusing service based on an individual's vaccine status. Individuals would not be required to show any "immunity passport," which is defined in the bill as a document, digital record, or software application indicating that a person is immune to disease, either through vaccination or infection and recovery.

The bill would also add language to specify county commissions would be authorized to review, amend, or revoke any order by a local health officer, including orders issued because of an Executive Order of the Governor, if it pertains to a contagious or communicable disease.

The Senate Judiciary Committee convenes at 10:30 AM on Monday.

### **988 BILL PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

A [bill](#) designed to fund a suicide prevention and crisis hotline hit some resistance on Wednesday. HB 2281 would designate a hotline center or network of centers to provide crisis intervention services to individuals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A major point of contention, however, is how the service would be paid for. Although federal funds would be used to pay for a significant portion, a \$.20 per month, per subscriber fee would also be tacked on to all landline and mobile phone bills across the state to help sustain the program. While issues over the \$.20 fee were largely worked out by Committee members, other concerns around funding quickly arose.

After some significant debate, the bill was passed out of committee without recommendation – a tactic used to advance bills that are often very controversial amongst committee members – and it was referred to the [House Telecom Committee](#) for further study. The bill has been approved to be worked on after legislative deadlines have passed.

### **KANCARE MEASURE PUT ON HOLD; REFERRED TO AG'S OFFICE**

[HB 2463](#), which would prohibit renewal of the current [Medicaid managed care program](#), was halted in the [House Health Committee](#) on Thursday. The bill would require the state to negotiate and extend the current contracts with the [three managed care organizations](#) through 2025. Currently, the agreements expire at the end of 2023 and a new request for proposal is expected to be released later this year.

Opponents of the bill, including House Health Ranking Minority Member [Susan Ruiz](#) (D-Shawnee), argued the measure was essentially a no-bid contract. State officials within the agency worried that the bill would also prevent them from making frequent changes to the program, which is necessary to comply with federal law.

A motion was made to table working the bill further until an opinion from the Attorney General has been issued regarding the legality of the procurement process. There has been no word yet on a timeline regarding the opinion.

### **SENATE PROPOSAL TAKES AIM AT PLASTIC BAG & CONTAINER REGULATION**

On Thursday, the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing on [SB493](#) which would prohibit cities and counties from regulating plastic bags and other containers. Similar legislation has been by the Legislature, however, SB493 is the most extensive language seen to date. Specifically, the bill would forbid the

limitation of use of any auxiliary containers, which includes not just plastic but most foodservice packaging materials.

Proponents argued that the bill would protect businesses from having to maintain a fragmentary supply chain for packaging materials. Opponents argued the bill would have a negative impact on the environment and infringes on local control.

The committee may take up the measure on Monday.

**OTHER PRESS RELEASES & UPDATES**

- [Governor Laura Kelly Announces Grant Awards to Enhance Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crimes](#)
- [Governor’s Office Directs Agencies to Apply State Law When Complying with Supreme Court Decision to Uphold Federal CMS COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement](#)
- [Governor Laura Kelly Signs Bipartisan Bill, Strengthening Economic Development Toolkit](#)

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

*Schedule subject to change. Daily Session calendars may be found [here](#).*

*Please note that the House and Senate will be on the floor all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

TIME	COMMITTEE	ROOM	AGENDA
8:30 AM	S Agriculture	144-S	N/A
8:30 AM	S Public Health & Welfare	142-S	Action: SB174- Scope of Practice APRNs, SB454- APRN Scope of practice for controlled substances; Possible Action
8:30 AM	S Transportation	546-S	N/A
9:00 AM	H Appropriations	112-N	Bill Intros; Budget Hearing: State Hospital Mental Health & I/DD; Hearing: HB2353- KS Commission US semiquincentennial; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Fed & State	346-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: HB2462- Amending membership for the JC on State-Tribal Relations; Possible Action
9:00 AM	H Water	152-S	Action: HB2686- Creating Department of Water
9:00 AM	H Financial Inst. & Rural	218-N	Action: HB2623— Enacting the rural remote worker incentive act under Secretary of Commerce
9:00 AM	H Local Government	281-N	N/A
9:30 AM	S Tax	548-S	Bill Intros; Hearings: SB311- Tax Exemption JoCo Christmas Bureau, SB519- Inc. Std. deduction, SB520- Tax credit teacher supplies; Possible Action
9:30 AM	S Financial Inst.	546-S	N/A
9:30 AM	S Transparency & Ethics	142-S	N/A
10:30 AM	S Commerce	546-S	Confirmation Hearings; Hearing: SB491- Workers Comp for 1st responder PTSD; Possible Action

10:30 AM	S Fed & State	144-S	Bill Intros; Hearing: SB482- FIND Act, SB438- Audits of elections <1%, SB439- Req. confirmation after 4 years no election activity; Action
10:30 AM	S Judiciary	346-S	Final Action on Bills Previously Heard
10:30 AM	S Ways & Means	548-S	Budget Reports: Board of Healing Arts
11:00 AM	HOUSE FLOOR		
1:30 PM	S Education	144-S	Hearing: SB499- Req. second student count for virtual school enrollment
1:30 PM	S Utilities	548-S	Final Action on Bills Previously Heard
1:30 PM	H Ag. Budget	118-N	Budget Action: KDHE- Environment, Department of Ag
1:30 PM	H Children & Seniors	152-S	N/A
1:30 PM	H Commerce	346-S	Action: HB2433-requiring online marketplaces to verify and authenticate the identity of third parties; Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Corrections & JJ	546-S	Hearing & Action: HB2655- KDOC to establish career readiness assessment
1:30 PM	H Education	218-N	N/A
1:30 PM	H Health & Human Ser.	112-N	Hearing: HB2498- Prohibiting KDHE from requiring vax for children attending school; Possible Action
1:30 PM	H Higher Ed. Budget	281-N	Action on Budgets Previously Heard
1:30 PM	H Transportation	582-N	N/A
2:30 PM	SENATE FLOOR		
3:00 PM	SWAM Public Health	548-S	Budget Action: KDADS
3:30 PM	H Agriculture	112-N	Action: HB2531- Allowing persons to use right of way in any township
3:30 PM	Gen. Gov Budget	281-N	Budget Hearings: Judicial Branch Budget
3:30 PM	H Judiciary	582-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H K-12 Budget	546-S	Possible Action
3:30 PM	H Social Services Budget	152-S	Budget Hearing (cont.): KDADS
3:30 PM	H Tax	346-S	N/A
3:30 PM	H Transportation Budget	118-N	N/A
3:30 PM	H Insurance	218-N	Possible Action

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

House and Senate on floor all day.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

House and Senate on floor all day.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

House and Senate on floor all day.