

NEWSLETTERS



KANSAS LEGISLATIVE INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER | JULY 11, 2023

WHY JULY MATTERS IN KANSAS POLITICS

In Kansas politics, July is a key month in the legislative process for three often-overlooked reasons. First, it marks the start of fiscal year 2024 and the release of final ending balances for fiscal year 2023. Second, July 1 marks the effective date for many laws passed by the 2023 Legislature. Last week's lawsuit by Attorney General Kris Kobach against Governor Laura Kelly's administration to stop gender changes on drivers' licenses provides a vivid reminder that Senate Bill 180 is now in effect. The bill is also known as the Women's Bill of Rights, which defines women and men based on their sex assigned at birth. Third, July marks the beginning of interim committees, which will continue throughout the remainder of 2023. The Legislative Post Committee generated headlines with the release of audits on cybersecurity and election security. The Joint committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations meets this week.

INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

In June, the Legislative Coordinating Committee (LCC) reviewed numerous proposals before approving 15 Special Committees to delve into specific issues and unresolved issues from last session. The LCC decided to combine four proposals into the Special Committee on Energy and Utilities (new transmission lines, renewable energy, electric rates, and a new state energy plan). Special Committees fall into two general categories: those committees addressing ongoing budget issues, education, energy and utilities, health care, and taxation, and those addressing new subjects. The Special Committee on Taxation will draw interest because it is studying the potential impact of a constitutional amendment capping property tax valuations at 4% annually. The measure passed the Senate with 28 votes last session, which is one more vote than the necessary 2/3 vote for a constitutional amendment. Other committees will be revisiting campaign finance and election laws debated last session.

Among the relatively new topics are childcare facilities, civil asset forfeiture, foreign adversary investment and land purchases, and homelessness. The shortage of childcare providers has been an ongoing issue for employers. Last session, Gov. Kelly vetoed a measure aimed at increasing the availability of childcare by easing childcare facility regulations. It will be revisited in the interim. In June, the LCC also approved meeting days for 11 Joint Committees.

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FISCAL YEAR 2023 YEAR END

Fiscal Year 2023 ended on a positive note, with the June revenue exceeding the April revenue estimates by more than \$28 million. For the Fiscal Year 2023, the Kansas Revenue Department reported income and sales tax revenue exceeded \$10 billion. Further, the department noted that the numbers exceeded Fiscal Year 2022 by \$400 million. Revenue exceeded the April Consensus Revenue Group's (CREG) upward revision by more than \$25 million. Gov. Kelly was quick to claim that her administration's economic policies and success in attracting new businesses helped make the windfall possible. House Speaker Dan Hawkins and Senate President Ty Masterson expressed their frustration over her veto of the tax package, which was nearly overridden. Both Republican leaders noted that they would renew their efforts to pass a flat state income tax.

Kansas Legislative Insights is a publication developed by the Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Law practice group of Foulston Siefkin LLP. It is designed to inform business executives, human resources and governmental relations professionals, and general counsel about current developments occurring in current Kansas legislation. Published regularly during the Kansas legislative session, it focuses on issues involving healthcare, insurance, public finance, taxation, financial institutions, business & economic development, energy, real estate & construction, environmental, Agribusiness, employment, and workers compensation. Bill summaries are by necessity brief, however, for additional information on any issue before the Kansas Legislature, contact Foulston Siefkin's Governmental Affairs & Public Policy Law practice group leader, James P. Rankin at 785.233.3600 or jrankin@foulston.com. Learn more about the authors below:

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