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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Economic Lifelines

Kansas Legislative Report

February 24, 2022

The 2022 Legislative Session has officially reached its halfway point, known as Turnaround. The procedural legislative deadline is significant as it effectively stops legislative bills unless they have passed one chamber or have touched an exempt committee (budget, tax or federal and state affairs). This week the House and Senate debated and passed dozens of bills that now transition to the opposite chamber to restart the process. Bills subject to the Turnaround deadlines will not be able to receive consideration after February 24 unless they have been passed by one chamber.

The second half of session, beginning next week, will see less quantity of bills floating around but remaining bills generally have more momentum. March will see the process begin to pick up speed, with two weeks dedicated for committee work and the rest of the month reserved for debating bills and conference committees.

The development of the budget bills will occupy considerable time, along with consideration of state House and Senate redistricting maps. Food sales tax is expected to receive more consideration, with tax committees continuing their work on multiple approaches.

Department of Transportation Funding

With the Senate and House spending the week debating bills, budget discussions will resume when the Legislature returns next month. Both standing budget committees are expected to receive recommendations from their respective subcommittees that endorse the suspension of extraordinary transfers from the State Highway Fund.

Tax Policy Relevant to Transportation Funding

The House Committee on Tax is expected to review HB 2711 soon, which is the newest food sales tax bill that includes a hold harmless adjustment for the sales tax dedicated to the State Highway Plan. A hearing is expected in March.

House and Senate Transportation Committees

Next week the House Committee on Transportation plans to review commercial drivers licenses. On the Senate side, the Committee on Transportation plans to hold a couple hearing related to license plate and antique vehicles while receiving a report from the Kansas Motor Carriers Association.

Autonomous vehicle discussion is expected to pick back up with the introduction of a new bill in the Senate Committee on Transportation that aims to address concerns of opponents and neutrals.

Thank you!

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