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& ASSOCIATES

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## ***Economic Lifelines***

## ***Kansas Legislative Report***

***March 24, 2022***

The 2022 Session continued to churn towards First Adjournment this week as dozens of bills were debated and passed by the Senate and House. While a few bills are making their way to Governor Kelly's desk, most passed bills will be reviewed next week in conference committee to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions. Next week is the final week of regular session with legislators poised to return to their districts on April 1.

Several noteworthy issues are pushing ahead. The House passed its budget, which will be reviewed along with the Senate's version in conference committee. The House also approved new districts lines for the 125 Kansas House districts that will become effective during the primary election this August. Discussion on sports wagering and medical cannabis remains active as many legislators work to chart a possible solution.

### **Department of Transportation Funding**

This week saw the House debate and pass its own Mega Budget Bill, contained in House Substitute for Substitute for SB 267. The budget fully funds the State Highway Fund with no extraordinary transfers. The Budget Conference Committee is scheduled to meet next week to negotiate differences though the State Highway Fund should not be further changed since both budget bills have the same recommendation. Economic Lifelines will follow the process closely to monitor discussion and the final bill version.

### **Tax Policy Relevant to Transportation Funding**

Discussion on food sales tax legislation is expected be pushed to next week or even during Veto Session. If debated in the House, HB 2711, which reduces the state sales

tax rate from 6.5% to 3.5%, with a ratchet component to zero percent, includes a revenue neutral adjustment for the State Highway Fund.

On the Senate side, an attempt to approve the proposed constitutional amendment (SCR 1620) related to tax rates fell short of the required 2/3 majority place the amendment on the ballot.

### **Transportation Conference Committees**

With meetings of the House Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Transportation expected to be concluded for the year, attention now turns to the Transportation Conference Committee. The conference committee, which features the chair, vice chair and ranking Democrat of both standing transportation committees, is expected to convene next week to review the differences between passed bills. A large number of these bills are related to benign items such as designating new license plates or naming highways though autonomous vehicles may be considered after the Senate's passage of SB 546. To date, the House has not considered autonomous vehicles this session.

Travis Lowe