

Kansas Legislative Update

Below is an update on what has happened at this point in time (May 15). Keep in mind, the Legislature could still be in session or the session could be over by the time you receive this update. For a more up-to-date version and to read the full story, visit www.kfucapitolbeat.com.

Bills KFU was opposed to:

SB191 & HB2404 - Corporate Ag repeal bill. The House Ag Committee referred their bill on to the Kansas Judicial Council which will hold its review sometime this summer. The Senate Natural Resources Committee referred their bill to an interim committee that is yet to be appointed. That committee will also review the bill this summer. Bottom line: These bills will be back next session. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Pork Association, Kansas Livestock Association, and many individuals want to see one of these bills passed and signed by Gov. Brownback, and they vehemently want the county option removed. Kansas Farmers Union is strongly opposed to the removal of the county option. Stay tuned for more information on this issue as time goes on.

SB82 - RPS Bill: failed in emergency final action on Feb. 28 with a vote of 17-23.

HB2241 - RPS Bill: essentially "died in committee," was not voted on, so it never made it to the House floor.

HB2188 - Concerned non-profits who bring in over \$350 in public funds would have to publish receipts and expenditures online. UPDATE: Last hearing was held Feb. 12, so it died in committee.

HB2366 - Concerning the use of public funds to promote or implement sustainable development. UPDATE: Referred to Committee on Energy & Environment on Feb. 18. Died in committee.

HB2090 & SB87- Establishes the Kansas equine education and promotion board. UPDATE: House Bill was referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources and died in committee. Senate Bill was referred to Committee on Agriculture, which recommended bill be passed as amended on Feb. 26. No action has been taken on the Senate floor at this time, but it will likely pass.

Bills KFU watched:

SB 168 -This bill expands the 'right to farm' in Kansas. Signed into law by Gov. Brownback on April 17.

HB 2292 - protection of farmland and agricultural activities from certain nuisance actions. UPDATE: Bill died in committee.

HB 2362 - Written by KLA, in House Ag Committee, basically eviscerates the Endangered Species Act. UPDATE: Hearing held Feb. 20, bill died in committee.

HB 2051 - This bill would allow stockpiling and selling under a temporary permit 1 to 4 million gallons of water rights (mostly for fracking.) UPDATE: Passed House 117-2, referred to Senate Natural Resources Committee which offered a substitute bill that passed the Senate 39-1. Non-concurred with amendments, conference committee appointed, motion to accede adopted.

SB123 & 124 - This bill creates or amends sections of the Kansas' antitrust law - Kansas Restraint of Trade Act (KRTA). UPDATE: 123 is dead in committee, 124 is on General Orders in the Senate.

HB2224 & 2225 - Basically the same bills as SB123 & 124, restraint of trade act. UPDATE: Both bills are dead in committee.

HB2295 - Concerns KDHE; relates to water pollution control permit system with a focus on CAFOs. Bill died in committee.

SB147 - Relates to permits, fees, and liability requirements on anhydrous tanks. Bill died in committee.

SB120 - KANSAS FARMERS' MARKET PROMOTION ACT UPDATE: Passed both Senate and House. Enrolled and presented to Governor for signature April 8.

HB 2365 - Bill relating to conservation easements. Died in committee.

HB 2207 - This bill continues the requirement that any Confined Animal Feeding Facility (CAFO) with an animal unit capacity of 300 or more must register with the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and pay a fee. UPDATE: On General Orders in Senate.

HB 2171 - Establish agreed local management areas. (Ground water) Died in committee.

HB 2363 - This bill establishes limited water transfer permits up to 4 million gallons for one year. It exempts land-based sand and gravel permits or aggregate mining operations utilizing wash water ponds from certain KDHE rules and regulations. UPDATE: Signed into law by Gov. Brownback on April 17.

HB 2321 - Standards for use of graywater (fracking) - Dead in committee.

HR 1711 - A Resolution opposing the black-footed ferret programmatic safe harbor agreement and environmental assessment. UPDATE: Adopted and enrolled Feb. 26.

HB 2201 - Deregulates AT&T from being a 'carrier of last resort' by becoming an electing carrier. UPDATE: Signed by Gov. Brownback on April 17. Goes into effect July 1, 2013.