

KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Ron Gaches, Executive Director

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Note: the opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the positions of KSPE unless noted.

The 2007 Kansas Legislative Session has gotten off to a business like start. There are 24 new members in the legislature, 23 representatives and 1 new senator filling the vacancy caused by the mid-term retirement of Senator Kay O'Connor. The House Republican Majority Party has mostly new officers, but they are an experienced crew and will require little time to ramp up to full speed. House Democrats and the Senate retain largely the same leadership team.

Governor Sebelius' team is experiencing typical second-term turnover. Her general counsel has moved to a senior legal job with Blue Cross-Blue Shield and was replaced by Sally Howard, who had been serving as legal counsel at KDOT. New Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson is serving as co-chair of the Kansas Energy Council and is becoming the Administration's point person on energy issues.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan. CTP funding seems secure from legislative interference. A steadily growing State General Fund makes all the difference. Preparation for a new transportation plan is quietly starting to take shape. The projects, size, length and funding for any future plan is still to be determined.

Deferred Maintenance of Regents' Facilities. Legislators are likely to provide the Regents with a multi-year program to address deferred maintenance needs, but not the dollars originally requested. Community colleges have upped the deferred maintenance total by submitting their own list of maintenance projects topping \$120 million total. Expect a five-year program drawing dollars from the state general fund, redirecting some current regents' funding, and creation of a tax credit for private contributions to schools for maintenance needs.

Bill Deadlines -

February 1st – last day for bill requests

February 9th – last day for bill introductions

February 24th – last day for consideration of bills in house of origin (except "exempt" bills)

March 24th – last day for consideration of bills in second house (except "exempt" bills)

April 7th – anticipated end of regular session

April 25th – anticipated start of Veto Session

Bill Updates - Following is a list of bills of interest to KSPE members. Click on the bill number for an electronic copy of the bill. Please contact me via email at rgaches@gbbaks.com or cell phone at 785-633-6514 if you have questions or to add a bill to our tracking list.

Additional resources, including copies of other bills, roster of legislators, committee rosters, a link to identify your legislator and much more can be found at ... <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/index.do>

Kansas Society of Professional Engineers			
Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 15 Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	State conservation commission; relating to dam safety; creating the Kansas Dam Rehabilitation Program	In Senate Natural Resources	1/12/2007 - Senate Hearing: Thursday, 1/18/2007, 8:30 AM, Rm 423-S
SB 34 Jay Emler, R-35th	Transportation Development District Act; relating to definitions; projects	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	1/10/2007 - Senate Referred to Assessment and Taxation; Hearing: Tuesday, 1/16/2007, 10:30 AM, Rm 519-S
SB 60 Senate Agriculture Committee	Conservation districts; concerning funding	In Senate Agriculture	1/17/2007 - Senate Hearing (cont): Tuesday, 1/23/2007, 8:30 AM, Rm 423-S
SB 89 Senate Agriculture Committee	Water; concerning the Republican River and the disposition of moneys recovered from certain litigation; establishing the Republican River Water Conservation Projects Fund	In Senate Agriculture	1/17/2007 - Senate Referred to Agriculture; Hearing: Wednesday, 1/24/2007, 8:30 AM, Rm 423-S
SB 91 Senate Assessment	Licensure, certification or registration by state authority; relating to social security numbers or tax identification numbers	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	1/17/2007 - Senate Referred to Assessment and Taxation; Hearing:

and Taxation Committee			Wednesday, 1/24/2007, 10:30 AM, Rm 519-S
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SB 123 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Water; providing for establishment of an Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	In Senate Natural Resources	1/19/2007 - Senate Referred to Natural Resources
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HB 2007 Jason Watkins, R- 105th	Contracts; relating to indemnification provisions and additional insured parties	In House Judiciary	1/12/2007 - House Withdrawn from Transportation and Public Safety Budget; Referred to Judiciary
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HB 2011 Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	State Conservation Commission; relating to dams; requiring preparation of certain inundation maps	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	1/10/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 1/16/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S
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HB 2024 Bill Otto, R-9th	Interpretation of federal statutes, regulations and national codes	In House Federal and State Affairs	1/10/2007 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
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HB 2048 House Appropriations Committee	Conservation districts; relating to funding therefor	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	1/12/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources; Hearing: Tuesday, 1/16/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S
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HB 2052 Bill Otto, R-9th	Water Projects Environmental Coordination Act	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	1/12/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
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HB 2056	Enacting the Public Water Supply	In House Federal	1/12/2007 - House

House Government Efficiency and Technology Committee	System Training Act; providing for training for governing bodies of certain public water supply systems	and State Affairs	Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HB 2057	Rural water districts	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	1/12/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget
House Government Efficiency and Technology Committee			
HB 2058	Counties; relating to enforcement of county codes and resolutions	In House Elections and Governmental Organization	1/18/2007 - House Hearing: Wednesday, 1/24/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 231-N
Don Schroeder, R-74th			
HB 2070	Intensive groundwater use control areas	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	1/17/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget; Hearing: Monday, 1/22/2007, 1:30 PM, Rm 235-N
House Appropriations Committee			