

KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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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.

Regular Session Coming to a Close. The regular session of the 2007 Legislature is rapidly coming to a close. Wednesday, April 3rd will be the last day of the regular session and Friday, March 23rd will be the last day of committee hearings for most committees. After a bit of a slow start, the session has gone quickly, caused in part by the early January 8th start date.

Graduated Drivers License and Primary Seat Belts. Set for Hearings. SB 211, the primary seat belt requirement for teens 14-17 passed the Senate easily by a 30-10 vote and was also recommended favorable for passage by the House Transportation Committee. It will likely become the major piece of highway safety legislation this year as the Graduated Drivers License proposal (SB 296) was slowed down in the House Transportation Committee by a number of detailed questions from committee members regarding availability of drivers education and practicality of a 9:00 p.m. nighttime driving cutoff for teens on a restricted license. Notwithstanding the questions, there seems to be strong support for increasing the driving experience required of teen drivers before they can drive without restrictions. One topic that has attracted several questions, primarily from urban legislators, concerns the lack of change proposed to the “farm” license that is available for teens as young as age 14. According to the testimony from the AAA expert, the accident rate of teens driving with farm licensees is very low and doesn’t warrant a change. Proponents will work to address questions over the balance of this year in anticipation of bring a revised proposal to the 2008 Legislature.

University Deferred Maintenance. University interests have been noticeably disappointed with the lack of progress on addressing this year’s big money issue, unfunded university deferred maintenance. One thing seems certain, new money won’t come from a surcharge on KTA tolls, the Governor’s proposal to earmark additional dollars for maintenance. At this point it appears a blend of resources will be authorized: modest increase in student tuition, some small amount of state general fund dollars, greater flexibility in the use of university building funds, and perhaps some modest amount of bonding.

Need a Copy of a Bill? Click on the “blue” bill number on the bill status list below for a copy of the current bill and supplement (if available). For copies or status of other bills, go to www.kslegislature.org. and use the “Quick Search” tools on the right hand side of

the page. You can also **Find Your Legislator** by using the link under Hot Items at the bottom of the www.kslegislature.org home page.

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@gbaks.com or cell phone at 785-633-6514 if you have questions or to add a bill to our tracking list.

Kansas Legislature Website - Additional resources, including copies of other bills, roster of legislators, committee roosters, 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 Status Update Monday, March 19, 2007			
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	On General Orders in Senate	3/15/2007 - Senate Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Natural Resources
This has become the primary bill for addressing dam safety and creates a new program, the Kansas Dam Rehabilitation Program. Securing adequate funding for this program will become an annual challenge.			
SB 30 Derek Schmidt, R-15th	Making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, June 30, 2008, June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012; establishing the Keeping Education Promises Trust Fund and the Regents Crumbling Classrooms Debt Payment Fund; transferring moneys from the state general fund to such funds and restricting certain expenditures or transfers of certain moneys during certain fiscal years	Pending motion to concur or nonconcur	1/24/2007 - House Final Action: Passed as amended; Yeas 105, Nays 17
Bill creates a "lock box" for K-12 funding next two fiscal years and sets aside modest amounts of money to address deferred maintenance at universities.			

SB 34 Jay Emler, R-35th	Transportation Development District Act; relating to definitions; projects	In House Taxation	3/7/2007 - House Hearing: Monday, 3/12/2007, 9:00 AM, Rm 519-S
Passed Senate and waiting for House action.			
SB 60 Senate Agriculture Committee	Conservation districts; concerning funding	In Senate Ways and Means	2/22/2007 - Senate Withdrawn from Calendar; referred to Ways and Means
Bill is awaiting action in Senate Ways & Means Committee. May not move forward this year.			
Sub for 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 House Agriculture and Natural Resources	2/28/2007 - House Hearing: Thursday, 3/8/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 241-N
Proceeds from water litigation with neighboring states may be used to fund purchase of irrigators water rights. There is significant controversy surrounding the program and uncertainty about what farming practices might be authorized in land is put into conservation status.			
SB 91 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	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: Wednesday, 1/24/2007, 10:30 AM, Rm 519-S
KSPE urged legislators to go slow on endorsing this proposal which is intended to force Board of Technical Professions to provide Department of Revenue with Social Security Numbers and Tax I.D. numbers of individual and entities licensed by the Board. Most other state licensure agencies are providing this information to DOR voluntarily. As similar bill, HB 2548, has recently been introduced in the House.			
SB 123 Senate Ways and Means Committee	Water; providing for establishment of an Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	3/16/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources
An exempt bill, it had a hearing in committee, but was not worked. Still alive.			
SB 186 Chris Steineger, D-6th	The Kansas and Missouri Regional Mass Transit District Compact	In Senate Transportation	1/26/2007 - Senate Referred to Transportation
No action this year.			
SB 193	Matters pertaining to borrowings for the State and state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	3/1/2007 - Senate Hearing: Friday,

Senate Commerce Committee			3/2/2007, 10:30 AM, Rm 123-S
Would require the Kansas Development Finance Authority to produce an annual report on the state's bonded indebtedness and level of debt obligation.			
SB 211	Safety belts; concerning enforcement	On General Orders in House	3/15/2007 - House Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Transportation
Senate Transportation Committee			
Creates Primary Seat Belt law for teens age 14 up to 17. Passed with Senate by a vote of 30-10 and was approved last week by the House Transportation Committee with only a single No vote. Action expect soon on the House floor.			
SB 294	Motor vehicles; concerning driver's licenses; relating to certain age requirements; providing certain limitations; providing penalties	In House Transportation	3/7/2007 - House Hearing: Wednesday, 3/14/2007, 1:30 PM, Rm 519-S
Senate Transportation Committee			
Creates Graduated Drivers License so teens have more experience before receiving unrestricted license. Passed Senate by a vote of 23-17. During the hearing in House Transportation Committee last week questions were raised about feasibility of requiring drivers education for all teen drivers (except farm licensees) and restricting driving after 9:00 p.m. for teens driving on a "restricted" license without a supervising adult. At a meeting on Friday with KDOT, KDHE, AAA Kansas, and the Kansas Highway Patrol the bill proponents decided to work this summer and fall to address the questions raised and bring the 2008 legislature a revised bill. KSPE participated in those discussions.			
SB 333	Public construction contracts; enacting the Kansas Fairness in Public Construction Contract Act	In House Commerce and Labor	3/9/2007 - House Referred to Commerce and Labor; Hearing: Friday, 3/16/2007, 9:00 AM, Rm 231-N
Senate Commerce Committee			
The bill was amended in significant ways in the Senate to address concerns raised primarily by local government units, and was passed 35-4. Hearings were held last Friday in the House Commerce Committee. The bill is expected to pass.			
HB 2007	Contracts; relating to indemnification provisions and additional insured parties	In House Judiciary	1/31/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 2/6/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 313-S
Jason Watkins, R-105th			
Hearing was held in committee but no further action expected this year.			
HB 2011	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
Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources			
Hearing was conducted early in session but no further action and is dead for the year.			

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
Bill is in an exempt committee, but hasn't had a hearing and no action is expected this year.			
HB 2048 House Appropriations Committee	Conservation districts; relating to funding therefor	On General Orders in Senate Above the Line in Senate	3/14/2007 - Senate Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Agriculture
Would increase to \$25,000 per year state funding for conservation districts and change the funding source to the State General Fund. The increase is likely to stick. The switch from the State Water Plan funds to the SGF may not be resolved until the Veto Session.			
HB 2052 Bill Otto, R-9th	Water Projects Environmental Coordination Act	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	1/22/2007 - House Hearing: Wednesday, 1/24/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S
Hearing was conducted but no further action this year.			
HB 2056 House Government Efficiency and Technology Committee	Enacting the Public Water Supply System Training Act; providing for training for governing bodies of certain public water supply systems	In House Federal and State Affairs	1/12/2007 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
Bill is in an exempt committee but no action expected this year.			
HB 2057 House Government Efficiency and Technology Committee	Rural water districts	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	1/12/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget
HB 2058 Don Schroeder, R-74th	Counties; relating to enforcement of county codes and resolutions	In Senate Elections and Local Government	3/1/2007 - Senate Hearing: Thursday, 3/8/2007, 1:30 PM, Rm 423-S
Passed House and had hearing in Senate Committee about a week ago. Passage likely.			
HB 2126	Kansas Water Authority; relating to membership	In House	2/7/2007 - House

Tom Sloan, R-45th		Elections and Governmental Organization	Hearing: Wednesday, 2/14/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 231-N
Bill had hearing but no further action this year.			
HB 2137	Regulating traffic; requiring the wearing of helmets when operating motorcycles	In House Transportation	1/22/2007 - House Referred to Transportation
House Transportation Committee			
No action. Dead for year.			
HB 2160	Regulating traffic; concerning auxiliary driving lamps	In House Transportation	1/24/2007 - House Referred to Transportation
House Transportation Committee			
No action. Dead for year.			
HB 2184	Water; providing for establishment of the Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	2/2/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 2/6/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S
House Appropriations Committee			
Bill had hearing but no further action. Likely dead for the year.			
HB 2201	Cities; relating to building codes	In House Elections and Governmental Organization	1/26/2007 - House Referred to Elections and Governmental Organization
House Federal and State Affairs Committee			
Exempt bill but no action expected this year.			
HB 2228	Construction contracts; relating to indemnification provisions and additional insured parties	In House Judiciary	1/31/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 2/6/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 313-S
House Judiciary Committee			
Hearing held in Committee but no further action this year.			
HB 2282	Employment; ensuring that employees of government contractors are paid a living wage	In House Commerce and Labor	1/31/2007 - House Referred to Commerce and Labor
Dale Swenson, R-97th			
Dead for the year. No likelihood of passage anytime.			
HB 2315	Real property; relating to home inspections; requiring home inspector registration and	In House Commerce and	2/15/2007 - House Hearing: Monday,

House Commerce and Labor Committee	certificates	Labor	2/19/2007, 9:00 AM, Rm 231-N
KSPE sponsored amendment exempting licensed PEs from new licensure requirements was adopted in committee, but bill was not passed by committee. Dead for year.			
HB 2348	The Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science Program; relating to engineering and technology	In House Education	2/2/2007 - House Referred to Education
House Education Committee			
No action this year.			
HB 2353	Fills, levees and other water obstructions; relating to unconsolidated material storage stockpiles or safety berms	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	2/7/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 2/13/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee			
Committee hearing but no further action this year.			
HB 2400	Motor vehicles; concerning driver's licenses; relating to certain age requirements; providing certain limitations; providing penalties	In House Transportation	2/9/2007 - House Hearing: Thursday, 2/15/2007, 1:30 PM, Rm 519-S
House Transportation Committee			
Identical to Senate Bill which passed Senate earlier and had hearing in House Transportation Committee. Proponents have decided to work on a couple of issues and bring issue back next year.			
S Sub for HB 2485	Oil and gas; concerning fees for application of intent to drill a well; relating to the Kansas Petroleum Education and Marketing Act	On General Orders in Senate Above the Line in Senate	3/15/2007 - Senate Committee Report: Substitute be passed by Utilities
House Energy and Utilities Committee			
Passed House and waiting for Senate Committee hearing.			
HB 2534	Roads and highways; requiring direct access from highways on the state highway system	In House Economic Development and Tourism	3/2/2007 - House Hearing: Thursday, 3/8/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 519-S
House Appropriations Committee			
Exempt bill had hearing on March 8th. Could be worked later this week.			
HB 2548	Licensure, certification or registration by state authority; relating to social security numbers or tax identification numbers	In House Taxation	3/13/2007 - House Hearing: Friday, 3/16/2007, 9:00 AM, Rm 519-S
House Taxation Committee			
Bill would require state licensure agencies, like the Board of Technical Professions, to provide the Department of			

Revenue with the social security number or Tax I.D. number of all licensees and registered firms. Bill was introduced because BOTP is one of the few agencies that isn't already providing this info to Department of Revenue on a voluntary basis.