

KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Ron Gaches, Executive Director

Issue No.1

January 21, 2008

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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.***

2008 Session Underway

Energy policy, health care reform, immigration and politics will be the hot topics of the 2008 session. Governor Sebelius' State of the State message was relatively bland and sought to find areas of consensus with the Republican majorities in the House and Senate. With December state general fund revenues falling more than \$30 million below estimates, legislators and the Governor are very cautious in their spending expectations for the next fiscal year. The most controversial part of the Governor's budget is her reliance on more than \$80 million in new revenues from state fees from new casinos and slot machines at race tracks.

Energy Policy

The Administration's decision to deny the air permit for the new Holcomb coal-fire electric plants has set the stage for a raucous fight in the legislature over state energy policy. Both sides of the coal versus natural gas for generating electricity have committed hundreds of thousands of dollars to influence public and legislative opinions. Alternative energy proponents looking for added incentives for wind and solar energy promotion are also preparing for a busy session. What makes the decision-making process more difficult for the Legislature is that they are working without an overriding state energy policy. The basic question of whether or not Kansas should be a net energy exporter, as it was for decades during the early production of the Hugaton natural gas field, is up for serious debate. Until that broad policy question and the related question of new coal-fire electric plants is decided, every other issue will get caught up in the political crossfires.

Graduated Drivers License

Legislative interest in passage of a graduated drivers' license that would require teenage drivers to have more experience before they have unrestricted driving privileges continues. The bill, SB 294, was the subject of interim committee hearings this past fall and will be discussed further this week in the House Transportation Committee.

Water Policy

A number of new water policy bills were introduced during the first week of the session. HB 2625 provides for mandatory review and advisory committees associated with Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas. HB 2635 would establish a water

sustainability review process. HB 2636 would direct the Kansas Biological Survey to examine the potential to treat Kansas non-potable waters for productive reuse. Check the bill listing below for copies of the bills and committee assignments.

Deferred Maintenance

Several legislators agree with the Kansas Regents that the Deferred Maintenance bill passed last year falls short of meeting the long-term needs of maintaining state owned higher education facilities. Proposals will be considered this year to add technical colleges to the program (SB 415) and to increase funding for the overall program. I expect SB 415 will be adopted but a substantial increase in funding for the program seems unlikely unless state revenues experience a significant upturn in the next few months.

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

Bill Deadlines -

- January 28th – last day for legislators to request bill drafts
- February 7th – last day for Committees except Exempt Committees to request bill drafts
- February 13th – last day for individuals to introduce bills
- February 15th – last day for Committees except Exempt Committees to introduce bills
- March 1st – last day to consider bills in house of origin, except “Exempt bills”
- April 2nd – last day for consideration of bills in second house, except “Exempt bills”
- April 12th – anticipated end of Regular Session
- April 30th – anticipated start of Veto Session

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>

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 phone at 785-233-2121 if you have questions or to add a bill to our tracking list. NOTE: bills not passed or killed during the 2007 session have been held over for consideration in this second year of the biennial session.

Kansas Society of Professional Engineers			
Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 15	State conservation commission; relating to dam safety; creating the Kansas Dam	In House Agriculture and	4/3/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and

Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	Rehabilitation Program	Natural Resources	Natural Resources 4/2/2007 - House Received and introduced 3/28/2007 - Senate Final Action: Passed as amended; Yeas 40, Nays 0
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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 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 1/23/2007 - Senate Committee Report: Be passed by Agriculture 1/11/2007 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means; Withdrawn from Ways and Means; Referred to Agriculture
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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	On General Orders in House	3/28/2007 - House Withdrawn from Appropriations; referred to Committee of the Whole 3/27/2007 - House Committee of the Whole: Be passed over and retain a place on the Calendar; withdrawn from Calendar; referred to Appropriations 3/22/2007 - House Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Agriculture and Natural Resources
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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	Licensure, certification or registration by state	In Senate	1/17/2007 - Senate
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Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	authority; relating to social security numbers or tax identification numbers	Assessment and Taxation	Referred to Assessment and Taxation; Hearing: Wednesday, 1/24/2007, 10:30 AM, Rm 519-S 1/16/2007 - Senate Introduced
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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 a conservation reserve enhancement program	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources	3/16/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources 3/15/2007 - House Received and introduced 3/14/2007 - Senate Committee of the Whole: Committee Report be adopted; be further amended; be passed as amended; Emergenced to Final Action: Passed as amended; Yeas 37, Nays 3
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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 1/25/2007 - Senate Introduced
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No action this year.

SB 193 Senate Commerce Committee	Matters pertaining to borrowings for the State and state agencies	In Senate Ways and Means	3/1/2007 - Senate Hearing: Friday, 3/2/2007, 10:30 AM, Rm 123-S 2/21/2007 - Senate Committee Report: Be passed as amended by Commerce; now in Ways and Means 1/31/2007 - Senate Withdrawn from Ways and Means; referred, separately,
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			to Commerce and Ways and Means
Would require the Kansas Development Finance Authority to produce an annual report on the state's bonded indebtedness and level of debt obligation.			
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 2/27/2007 - House Referred to Transportation 2/23/2007 - House Received and introduced
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 415	Postsecondary educational institutions; relating to deferred maintenance	In Senate Ways and Means	1/15/2008 - Senate Referred to Ways and Means 1/14/2008 - Senate Introduced
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 1/12/2007 - House Withdrawn from Transportation and Public Safety Budget; Referred to Judiciary 1/8/2007 - House Introduced; Referred to Transportation and Public Safety Budget
Hearing was held in committee but no further action expected this year.			
HB 2011	State Conservation Commission; relating to	In House	1/10/2007 - House

Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	dams; requiring preparation of certain inundation maps	Agriculture and Natural Resources	Hearing: Tuesday, 1/16/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S 1/8/2007 - House Introduced; Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources 1/5/2007 Prefiled for introduction
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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 1/9/2007 - House Introduced
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Bill is in an exempt committee, but hasn't had a hearing and no action is expected this year.

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 1/12/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources 1/11/2007 - House Introduced
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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 1/11/2007 - House Introduced
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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 1/11/2007 - House Introduced
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<p>HB 2126</p> <p>Tom Sloan, R-45th</p>	<p>Kansas Water Authority; relating to membership</p>	<p>In House Elections and Governmental Organization</p>	<p>2/7/2007 - House Hearing: Wednesday, 2/14/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 231-N</p> <p>1/22/2007 - House Referred to Elections and Governmental Organization</p> <p>1/19/2007 - House Introduced</p>
<p>Bill had hearing but no further action this year.</p>			
<p>HB 2137</p> <p>House Transportation Committee</p>	<p>Regulating traffic; requiring the wearing of helmets when operating motorcycles</p>	<p>In House Transportation</p>	<p>1/22/2007 - House Referred to Transportation</p> <p>1/19/2007 - House Introduced</p>
<p>No action. Dead for year.</p>			
<p>HB 2160</p> <p>House Transportation Committee</p>	<p>Regulating traffic; concerning auxiliary driving lamps</p>	<p>In House Transportation</p>	<p>1/24/2007 - House Referred to Transportation</p> <p>1/23/2007 - House Introduced</p>
<p>No action. Dead for year.</p>			
<p>HB 2184</p> <p>House Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Water; providing for establishment of the Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</p>	<p>In House Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	<p>2/2/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 2/6/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S</p> <p>1/25/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources</p> <p>1/24/2007 - House Introduced</p>
<p>Bill had hearing but no further action. Likely dead for the year.</p>			
<p>HB 2201</p> <p>House Federal and State Affairs</p>	<p>Cities; relating to building codes</p>	<p>In House Elections and Governmental Organization</p>	<p>1/26/2007 - House Referred to Elections and Governmental Organization</p>

Committee			1/25/2007 - House Introduced
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 1/26/2007 - House Referred to Judiciary 1/25/2007 - House Introduced
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 1/30/2007 - House Introduced
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 certificates	In House Commerce and Labor	2/15/2007 - House Hearing: Monday, 2/19/2007, 9:00 AM, Rm 231-N 2/1/2007 - House Referred to Commerce and Labor 1/31/2007 - House Introduced
House Commerce and Labor Committee			
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 2/1/2007 - House Introduced
House Education Committee			
No action this year.			

<p>HB 2353</p> <p>House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee</p>	<p>Fills, levees and other water obstructions; relating to unconsolidated material storage stockpiles or safety berms</p>	<p>In House Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	<p>2/7/2007 - House Hearing: Tuesday, 2/13/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 423-S</p> <p>2/5/2007 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources</p> <p>2/2/2007 - House Introduced</p>
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Committee hearing but no further action this year.

<p>HB 2400</p> <p>House Transportation Committee</p>	<p>Motor vehicles; concerning driver's licenses; relating to certain age requirements; providing certain limitations; providing penalties</p>	<p>In House Transportation</p>	<p>2/9/2007 - House Hearing: Thursday, 2/15/2007, 1:30 PM, Rm 519-S</p> <p>2/7/2007 - House Referred to Transportation</p> <p>2/6/2007 - House Introduced</p>
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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.

<p>HB 2534</p> <p>House Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>Roads and highways; requiring direct access from highways on the state highway system</p>	<p>In House Economic Development and Tourism</p>	<p>3/2/2007 - House Hearing: Thursday, 3/8/2007, 3:30 PM, Rm 519-S</p> <p>2/19/2007 - House Referred to Economic Development and Tourism</p> <p>2/16/2007 - House Introduced</p>
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Exemp bill had hearing on March 8th. Could be worked later this week.

<p>HB 2548</p> <p>House Taxation Committee</p>	<p>Licensure, certification or registration by state authority; relating to social security numbers</p>	<p>In Senate Assessment and Taxation</p>	<p>4/2/2007 - Senate Referred to Assessment and Taxation</p> <p>3/28/2007 - Senate Received and introduced</p> <p>3/28/2007 - House Final Action: Passed as amended; Yeas 112, Nays</p>
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<p>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.</p>			
HB 2610	State Board of Regents; relating to payment of debt service for certain capital improvement projects; making and concerning appropriations for the State Board of Regents for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2008, June 30, 2009, June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012; establishing the regents crumbling classrooms debt payment fund; transferring moneys from the state general fund to the fund	In House Education Budget	<p>1/14/2008 - House Introduced; Referred to Education Budget</p> <p>1/3/2008 - House Prefiled for introduction</p>
Legislative Educational Planning Committee			
HB 2618	Administrative procedure	In House Judiciary	<p>1/14/2008 - House Introduced; Referred to Judiciary</p> <p>1/10/2008 - House Prefiled for introduction</p>
Special Committee on Judiciary			
HB 2625	Intensive groundwater use control areas, mandatory review and advisory committees	In House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	<p>1/16/2008 - House Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget</p> <p>1/15/2008 - House Introduced</p>
Special Committee on Energy, Natural Resources and Environment			
HB 2635	Establishing a water sustainability review process and implementation thereof	In House Energy and Utilities	<p>1/18/2008 - House Referred to Energy and Utilities</p> <p>1/17/2008 - House Introduced</p>
House Energy and Utilities Committee			
HB 2636	The Kansas Biological Survey; relating to treatment of non-potable waters in Kansas	In House Energy and Utilities	<p>1/18/2008 - House Referred to Energy and Utilities</p>
House Energy and Utilities Committee			

			1/17/2008 - House Introduced