

KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Ron Gaches, Executive Director

Issue No 4

March 1, 2010

825 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 500

Topeka, KS 66612

Phone (785) 233-4512

e-mail rgaches@gbbaks.com

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

Turnaround Provides Needed Break

The collective sigh you heard last week was caused by Turnaround Day, the first meaningful deadline of the 2010 Legislative Session. This is the symbolic half-way point of the Session, when all bills except “exempt bills” must be out of their house-of-origin or they are dead for the year. This narrows the field of review as the legislature moves forward and allows everyone to focus on the issues most likely to be acted on this year. Chief accomplishment so far: Passage of the FY 2010 Rescission Bill that cut the current year budget by \$92 million.

February Revenues Send Alarms

State General Fund revenues for February were horrible - \$74 million short of the estimate for the month – a HUGE shortfall. Most of it was individual income taxes. Part of this may be folks filing their taxes early if they are entitled to a refund, but the growing unemployment problem is really dragging down the state. We need jobs and fast. Total shortfall for the current fiscal year that MUST be addressed before June 30<sup>th</sup> is now \$105 million. Governor Parkinson announced he will respond this coming week. It is very hard to generate that much money from new taxes in just a couple of months, so more cuts are likely and deferring more payments to local units. Not a pretty sight.

Transportation Plan Waits

Hearings on a new comprehensive transportation plan are expected the week of March 8th in both the House and Senate, so now is the time to be reminding your state legislators of the important job creation and public safety attributes of a new CTP. This story is best told with local flavor. Legislators need your help in determining that local voters will not turn them out for supporting earmarked taxes and fees to support a new transportation plan. At this point, any CTP proposal that clears the legislature is expected to include a three year delay in implementation of any new taxes or fees, thereby providing voters an opportunity for the economy to rebound before any tax impact is felt.

Bill List Shortened

We’ve shortened the bill list to delete the bills that have been cutoff by Turnaround or are not likely to be considered at all the balance of the year. Don’t hesitate to call or email me if you have questions about another bill.

**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](http://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](http://www.kslegislature.org) home page.

**2010 Bill Deadlines -**

- January 11<sup>th</sup> – last day for individual bill requests
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – last day for committee bill requests, except Exempt Committees
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> – last day for individuals to introduce bills
- February 5<sup>th</sup> – last day for Committees, except Exempt Committees, to introduce bills
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – last day to consider bills in House of Origin, except “Exempt bills”
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – last day for consideration of bills in second house, except “Exempt bills”
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – anticipated end of Regular Session
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – anticipated start of Veto Session

**Kansas Legislature Website -** 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>

**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 [ron@gachesbraden.com](mailto:ron@gachesbraden.com) or phone at 785-233-2121 if you have questions or to add a bill to our tracking list. NOTE: This is the second year of the biennial session and most of the bills below are carried over from the 2009 Session.

**NOTE:** To reduce the size of this report we are listing the Last Action only for each bill. For a more complete history of a bill go to [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

<a href="#">SB 59</a>  Senate Transportation Committee	Motor vehicles; concerning the use of safety belts	In House Transportation	<b>02/24/2009 - House</b> Referred to Transportation
<a href="#">Sub for SB 301</a>  Senate Ways and Means Committee	Land surveys; relating to monumentation of corners and recording of surveys	On General Orders in Senate	<b>02/17/2010 - Senate</b> Committee Report: Substitute be passed by Federal and State Affairs
<a href="#">SB 302</a>  Senate Ways and Means Committee	Transportation; relating to intermodal transportation projects, and providing for the financing thereof	In House Transportation	<b>03/24/2009 - House</b> Referred to Transportation

<a href="#">SB 351</a> Senate Ways and Means Committee	Regulating traffic; prohibiting text messaging while operating a moving motor vehicle	In House Transportation	<b>02/24/2010 - House</b> Referred to Transportation
<a href="#">SB 409</a> Senate Ways and Means Committee	Establishing the passenger rail service program; providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of Transportation; establishing the passenger rail service revolving fund	In House Transportation	<b>02/24/2010 - House</b> Scheduled Hearing: Wednesday, 3/3/2010, 1:30 PM, Rm 783 DSOB
<a href="#">SB 476</a> Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee	Sales taxation; relating to imposition of tax on certain services; exemptions, repealed; fund-raising sales	In Senate Assessment and Taxation	<b>02/18/2010 - Senate</b> Withdrawn from Ways and Means; rereferred to Assessment and Taxation
<a href="#">SB 510</a> Senate Agriculture Committee	Water; relating to the beneficial use of water	In Senate Natural Resources	<b>02/15/2010 - Senate</b> Withdrawn from Ways and Means; rereferred to Natural Resources
<a href="#">Sub for SB 513</a> Senate Ways and Means Committee	Alternative project delivery building construction	In House Commerce and Labor	<b>03/01/2010 - House</b> Referred to Commerce and Labor
<a href="#">Sub for SB 514</a> Senate Ways and Means Committee	Alcoholic beverages; relating to eligibility for license for club and drinking establishments	In House Federal and State Affairs	<b>02/23/2010 - House</b> Referred to Federal and State Affairs
<a href="#">SB 526</a> Senate Ways and Means Committee	Department of Administration; concerning competitive bids; preferring bids from within the state	In Senate Ways and Means	<b>02/04/2010 - Senate</b> Referred to Ways and Means
<a href="#">SB 531</a> Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Enacting the radon certification law	In House Commerce and Labor	<b>02/24/2010 - House</b> Referred to Commerce and Labor
<a href="#">S Sub for HB 2222</a> House Government Efficiency and Fiscal Oversight Committee	Making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, and June 30, 2011, for state agencies; authorizing certain transfers, imposing certain restrictions and limitations, and directing or authorizing certain receipts, disbursements and acts incidental to the foregoing	Pending Governor's action	<b>02/26/2010 - House</b> Enrolled and presented to the Governor

<a href="#">Sub for HB 2238</a> House Commerce and Labor Committee	Construction contracts; relating to retention in public and private construction contracts	In Senate Judiciary	<b>02/25/2010 - Senate</b> Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#">HB 2283</a> House Energy and Utilities Committee	Water	In Conference Committee	<b>01/28/2010 - Senate</b> Acceded; appointed McGinn, Teichman and Francisco
<a href="#">Sub for HB 2403</a> House Appropriations Committee	Creating the council on efficient government	In House Appropriations	<b>02/16/2010 - House</b> Committee of the Whole: Committee Report recommending substitute bill be adopted; be amended; motion to refer to committee, adopted; rereferred to Appropriations
<a href="#">HB 2428</a> House Vision 2020 Committee	Drinking water supply lakes; imposing certain fees and surcharges	In House Vision 2020	<b>02/26/2010 - House</b> Withdrawn from Federal and State Affairs; rereferred to Vision 2020
<a href="#">HB 2549</a> House Taxation Committee	Sales taxation; relating to imposition of tax on certain services; exemptions, repealed; fund-raising sales	In House Taxation	<b>02/10/2010 - House</b> Scheduled Continued Hearings: Monday, 2/15/2010, 9:00 AM, Rm 783 DSOB; Tuesday, 2/16/2010, 9:00 AM, Rm 783 DSOB
<a href="#">HB 2552</a> Jo Ann Pottorff, R-83rd	Enacting the midwest interstate passenger rail compact	In Senate Transportation	<b>02/25/2010 - Senate</b> Referred to Transportation
<a href="#">HB 2617</a> House Transportation Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	In House Transportation In House Taxation	<b>02/03/2010 - House</b> Referred separately to Transportation and Taxation
<a href="#">HB 2618</a> House Transportation Committee	Transportation; providing for a transportation works for Kansas program; relating to the financing thereof	In House Transportation In House Taxation	<b>02/03/2010 - House</b> Referred separately to Transportation and Taxation