

NSPE-KS™

KANSAS SOCIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS

2020 Legislative Issues

Travis Lowe, KSPE Lead Lobbyist & Executive Director



KSPE Government Relations Committee (GRC)

- Chairman

- Travis Stryker, P.E.

- Members

- Steve Bachenberg, P.E.
- David Comstock, P.E.
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- Charlie Love, P.E.
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- Adam Stodola, P.E., F.NSPE
- Scott Uhl, P.E.
- Dana Weir, P.E.

2020 Legislative Session at a Glance

- Session began on January 13
- Early Adjournment Due to COVID-19 on March 19
- Session concluded on May 21
- Special Session called for June 3

- 1,249 total bills filed (502 Senate, 747 House)

2020 Legislature

- 125 House Members, 40 Senators
- Legislative committees tracked by KSPE:
 - Federal & State Affairs
 - Commerce
 - Taxation
 - Transportation
 - Appropriations/ Ways & Means
 - Agriculture & Natural Resources

Key KSPE Issues This Session

- Multiple Licensure Bills
- Successor to T-WORKS
- KDOT Funding
- Water Plan Funding

Licensure Bills

SB 329 - Chief Water Engineer Bill

Opposed

- Introduced by the Kansas Livestock Association in the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.
- Aims to remove statutory requirement for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Chief Water Engineer to be a Licensed Professional Engineer or even have a degree in engineering.
- KSPE strongly opposed.
- Bill was not scheduled for a hearing.
- Bill is dead.

SB 168 - Home Inspector Bill

Opposed; Compromise in Progress.

- Introduced by the Kansas Realtors Association in the Senate Commerce Committee in 2019 session.
- Aims to create a registration program for home inspectors. Original language would require P.E.'s that perform home inspections to be doubled licensed and subject to additional CE requirements.
- KSPE opposed bill in committee and worked to amend bill.
- Compromise language agreed by stakeholders.
- Bill is dead and will be re-introduced with compromise language in 2021.

HB 2506 - Licensure Reciprocity Bill

Originally Opposed; Neutral as Amended.

- Introduced in the House and Senate Commerce Committees.
- Aims to allow new residents licensed in other states to become licensed in Kansas unless the requirements vary greatly as determined by respective licensing board. Covers all licensed professions except for lawyers.
- KSPE opposed bill at first but advocated for an amendment to relieve concerns to provide Board of Technical Professions more authority.
- Amended bill was awaiting action by Senate when Legislature adjourned.
- Bill is dead and will be re-introduced with compromise language in 2021.

Transportation Bills

SB 173- Eisenhower Transportation Program *Support*

- Creates new ten-year comprehensive transportation program, with rolling stakeholder priorities set every two years.
- Utilizes tolling and alternative delivery as options under specific circumstances.
- No tax increase requested or implemented.
- No opponents.
- Bill passed and signed into law by Governor Kelly.

SCR 1601- Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Protect Transportation Funding *Support*

- Would protect State Highway Fund from sweeps similar to fuel tax money.
- If approved by 2/3 of the House and Senate, it would be on the ballot for voters this fall.
- KSPE supported.
- Failed in Senate Transportation Committee.

Budget Bills

SB 386 - Mega Budget Bill

Support

- KDOT Funding: Only \$134M scheduled to be transferred from KDOT to State General Fund. Much less compared to recent years.
- Water Funding: \$7M transferred to State Water Plan Fund. Much more compared to recent years.
- Bill Passed and Signed into law by Governor Kelly.

Others Legislatives on Radar

- All licensure bills.
- Legislation relating to sales tax on professional services.
- Legislation relating to STEM initiatives.
- Legislation impacting University Engineering Initiative Act.
- Legislation that harms KPERS.
- Legislation relating to autonomous vehicles.



TM **POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**
KANSAS SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

- KSPE PAC works to keep proven champions in the Legislature.
- 2020:
 - All 125 House seats and 40 Senate seats up for election in August and November.
- KSPE plans to support 31 candidates.
- We ask for everyone to make at least a small donation to KSPE PAC.
- Donate with debit/credit card on KSPE Website- KSPE PAC Page.

Will everyone contribute at least \$25?

Local Fall 2020 Legislative Events at KSPE Chapters

Plan to Attend!

- KSPE Eastern Chapter Legislative Breakfast
- KSPE Smoky Valley Chapter Legislative Lunch & KSPE President Visit
- KSPE Topeka Chapter Legislative Dinner
- KSPE Tri Valley Chapter Legislative Lunch & KSPE President Visit
- KSPE Wichita Chapter Legislative Breakfast