

2021 Legislative Issues

Travis Lowe, CAE

KSPE Executive Director & Lead Lobbyist



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Travis Lowe, CAE

2021 Legislative Session at a Glance

- Session began on January 11.
- Session concluded on May 7.

- 772 bills filed (318 Senate; 454 House).
- Over 100 bills signed by Governor Kelly.
- 10 bills vetoed.

Your Eyes, Ears and Voice in the State Capitol

NSPE-KS™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

KSPE Protects Your Professional License in Topeka

*“Who’s watching out
for your profession
while you’re at
work?”*



Key KSPE Issues This Session

- Multiple Licensure Bills
- University Engineering Initiative Act
- Transportation Policy
- Transportation/Water Funding

Licensure Bills

HB 2066- Military/Universal Licensure Bill

Oppose- then Support, as Amended

- Key provisions relating to professional licensure:
 - Provides for expedited licensure path if applying with an out of state license.
 - Out of state license must be a similar scope of practice as Kansas.
 - Licenses automatically granted. If not, temporary permits given.
 - Applies to any person with an out of state license relocating to the state.
- KSPE opposed language as it includes professional engineers.
- Only Board of Healing Arts exempted from the bill.

HB 2066- Military/Universal Licensure Bill

Oppose- then Support, as Amended

- One amendment was approved that provided new professional engineers licenses must be “substantially equivalent” to Kansas. Offered by bill sponsor.
- KSPE then supported amended version.
- Other amendment attempts for exemptions failed.
- Boards have ability to deny if the applicant is deemed a threat to health and safety of the public.
- Passed House 103-21 and Senate 36-2.
- Signed into law by Governor Kelly on April 21.

SB 176- Home Inspector Bill

Neutral

- Creates a new registration act for home inspectors.
- May impact P.E.'s that perform home inspections.
- KSPE has engaged on this topic for three years.
- Per KSPE request, SB 176 provides language that exempts PE's from the bill's requirements.
- Committee hearing held in Senate Commerce Committee.
- Will need continued attention.

SB 10- “Right to Earn a Living Act”

Oppose

- Calls for every regulatory agency to provide a comprehensive review of all occupational rules and licensing and required to justify each function, impact on workers, consumer choices and comparisons to other states.
- Considered by Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee.
- May receive attention in 2022.

SB 34- Rules and Regs Sunset Bill

Oppose

- Calls for all administrative rules and regs to expire after five years unless the agency and Legislature take action to renew.
- Considered by Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee.
- May receive attention in 2022.

Industry Bills

HB 2101- Extending University Engineering Initiative Act

Leading Support

- Extends the University Engineering Initiative Act through 2032.
- Currently was scheduled to sunset in 2022.
- Continues to provide \$10.5M funds to KSU, KU and WSU engineering schools.
- KSPE leads major industry lobby effort.
- Passes House 112-12 and Senate 37-2.
- Signed by Governor Kelly on April 16.

HB 2201- IKE Trailer Bill

Monitor

- Trailer bill to 2019 law.
- Decreases IKE's alternative delivery project threshold from \$100M to \$10M.
- Gives KDOT option to let IKE projects if federal funds are available.
- KSPE monitored.
- Passed Senate 40-0 and House 95-27.
- Signed by Governor Kelly on April 21.

HB 2296 – KDOT's Tolling Bill

Monitor

- Trailer bill to 2019 law.
- Requests the ability for KDOT to use toll revenues to support transportation improvements on corridor where toll project was constructed.
- KSPE monitored.
- Approved by House Transportation Committee.
- Killed on House floor, 50-72.

Infrastructure Bills

State Highway Plan Funding

Support

- Approved funding includes \$67M transferred from State Highway Fund to State General Fund.
- \$67M, is half of \$134M, as anticipated to phase out by 2023.
- Approved by House, Senate and Governor Kelly.

State Water Plan Funding

Support

- Approved funding includes \$4M transferred from State General Fund to State Water Plan Fund.
- Approved by House, Senate and Governor Kelly.