2021 Legislative Issues

Travis Lowe, CAE
KSPE Executive Director & Lead Lobbyist
KSPE Government Relations Committee (GRC)

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  Dana Weir, P.E.
  Kiel Johnson, P.E.
  Ex-Officio Member
  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

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.