



**Community Bankers Association of Kansas**  
**2020 Legislative Session Update**  
**February 3, 2020**

**Overview**

The third week of the Session concludes with lawmakers having spent the vast majority of the week focused on two issues: Medicaid Expansion and abortion. Week Four promises to be just as busy, and interesting, with scheduled hearings on various tax and health bills, and the Senate Public Health Committee is expected to take final action on the Medicaid Expansion compromise bill. Additionally, expect the House to work extra late at least one night this week as they'll likely take up the abortion constitutional amendment that the Senate passed late Wednesday evening.

**Medicaid Expansion:** The Senate Public Health Committee wrapped up five days of expansion hearings on Thursday, having spent two days listening to proponents, one day to neutral testimony, and the final two days listening to opponents. Nothing too surprising came out of the hearings—largely the same arguments we've heard over the interim—but we expect the bill will look differently when, and if, it gets out of committee next week. Following the opponents (including the Kansas Policy Institute, Opportunity Solutions Project, Americans for Prosperity, Kansas Chamber, and Northeast Johnson County Conservatives), the committee's discussion mainly focused on work requirements and Medicaid fraud. Committee discussion was often tense, and we expect the bill will not come out of committee clean, but rather with some type of amendment(s). Additionally, Congressmen Roger Marshall and Ron Estes have weighed in to voice their opposition to Medicaid Expansion.

**Taxes/Economic Development:** The Governor's Council on Tax Reform last week released their interim report, which can be found here: <https://governor.kansas.gov/governors-council-on-tax-reform-report/>. This week there are several hearings on various property tax bills in the Senate committee and income tax bill in the House committee. We could begin to see action on a number of bills they've heard over the past couple of weeks. The Department of Commerce is scheduled to provide their annual report on STAR bonds before the Joint House and Senate Commerce committee and a friendly STAR bonds renewal bill has appeared in the House. Both committees will also be briefed on Senate Bill 294, the Utah property tax model before holding a hearing the following day on legislation modeled after Utah's plan, which many municipalities and local government entities are likely to oppose.

**Energy:** Governor Kelly last week announced her plan to submit her second executive reorganization order (ERO) of the Session—this time to make the state Energy Office its own separate entity, without Kansas Corporation Committee oversight. The new Energy Office will have expanded programs, including energy planning, policy development, and stakeholder outreach. The Governor believes the reorganization is the first key step toward developing a

statewide energy plan, which a majority of states already have in place. We'll likely see her ERO submitted to the Legislature in the next week or two, since EROs must be sent to the Legislature within the first 30 days of Session.

**Privilege Tax:** There has no been no action on SB 259 which remains in the [Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance committee](#). We will keep you updated on its status.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Shawn P. Mitchell, President  
Community Bankers Association of KS  
5897 SW 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66614  
785-271-1404 Office  
[shawn@cbak.com](mailto:shawn@cbak.com)  
[www.cbak.com](http://www.cbak.com)

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.  
Little Government Relations, LLC  
800 SW Jackson, Ste. 1100  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
785-235-8187 Office  
[stuartjlittle@mac.com](mailto:stuartjlittle@mac.com)  
[www.lgrkansas.com](http://www.lgrkansas.com)