



Community Bankers Association of Kansas
2020 Legislative Session Update
January 27, 2020

Overview

Session week two has seen debate on the two biggest issues of the 2020 Session—Medicaid Expansion and a constitutional amendment related to abortion rights. Legislators wasted no time in confronting these issues, hinting at a desire to resolve these issues quickly. While these two items are being debated, it is likely there will be somewhat limited action on other issues. Both issues will carry into the third week of Session.

Thursday marked the first of five days of hearings on Senate Bill 252, the Governor Kelly and Senator Denning compromise Medicaid Expansion plan praised by expansion advocates. Proponents testified Thursday and Friday, while neutral and oppositional testimony will be presented next week. It is too early to tell if and when the bill will advance out of committee, and if the committee will attempt various amendments to the compromise bill.

On Wednesday a joint House and Senate committee advanced to the House floor a constitutional amendment that would reverse the Kansas Supreme Court's 2019 decision affirming a woman's right to an abortion by instead giving the Legislature the authority to regulate abortion. The amendment, if it passes both the House and the Senate, and if approved by voters in August's primary or the general election in November, would affirm the Legislature's right to determine abortion rights, and effectively reverse the Court's decision on abortion.

In the midst of fierce debate on these two issues, a number of other hearings took place, from a hearing on a bill that would amend the Clean Indoor Air Act to include e-cigarettes and vaping in the definition of smoking, to discussions around how schools spend at-risk funding, KDOT's plans for the future and their new rolling, adaptive transportation plan, to how hospitals are looking at new, innovative ways to confront issues facing rural hospitals and communities.

The [Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance committee](#) held three days of hearings on SB 259 ["An ACT concerning taxation; relating to privilege tax; banks, trust companies and savings and loan associations; deductions of net interest received from certain business and single family residence loans; amending K.S.A. 79-1109 and repealing the existing section."](#) We are actively working for passage of SB 259 while facing fierce opposition from the credit union industry. We will keep you updated on its status.

Next week will be equally as busy, with the continued expansion hearings, likely long days on the House and Senate floors debating the abortion amendment, a variety of hearings on property tax and appraisal bills, and the first hearing of the year on sports wagering. We are

probably still a few weeks away from a tax bill, either property taxes or income taxes, from reaching the floor.

Please let us know if you have questions.

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