



**2022 Kansas Legislative Session  
Weekly Legislative & Regulatory Update  
Week 13**

**Looking Ahead**

- 21- 23 March – On Floor All Day
- 23 March – Last Day for non-exempt bills in either chamber
- 28 March – 1 April – Conference Committees meet
- 1 April – Projected First Adjournment
- 25 April – Veto Session Begins

**Week 13**

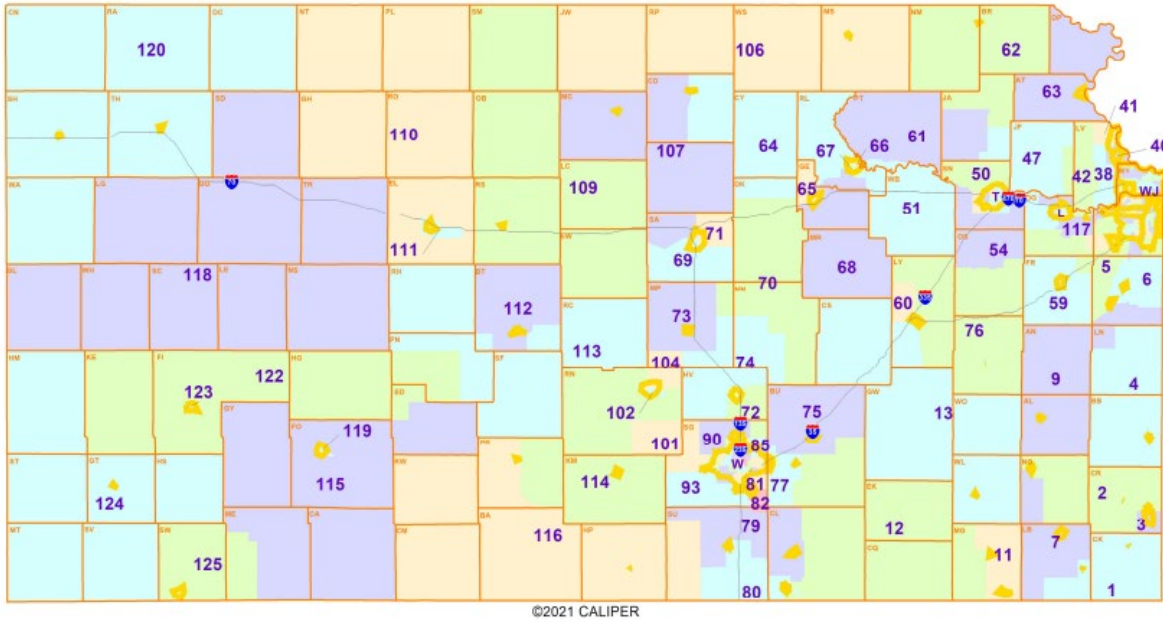
Despite being in session three-days last week, lawmakers worked incredibly hard debating and passing bills. One day the House had twenty-six bills up for debate, the Senate posted a similar number of bills up for debate as well. The Senate in fact continued debating into the early hours of Thursday – fifteen hours of debate as Friday’s “Drop Dead” legislative deadline approached. Conference committees are slated to meet week with a flurry of floor activity scheduled as well as the First Adjournment deadline bares down on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Three constitutional amendments were debated by the Legislature – one related to taxation and the other two pertained to judicial selection. The constitutional amendment related to taxation received enough votes to advance to the Governor for consideration. The others failed. There was a lot of emotion on the House and Senate floor last week. Starting with Monday morning’s honoring of the late Representative Russ Jennings on the House floor. Several hot-button political issues were debated last week – tensions were high. Legislators were glad to step away from the building after the arduous week. Also, after years of discussion and disagreement, it is possible that the state will see expanded gaming opportunities at state-owned casinos.

**Redistricting**

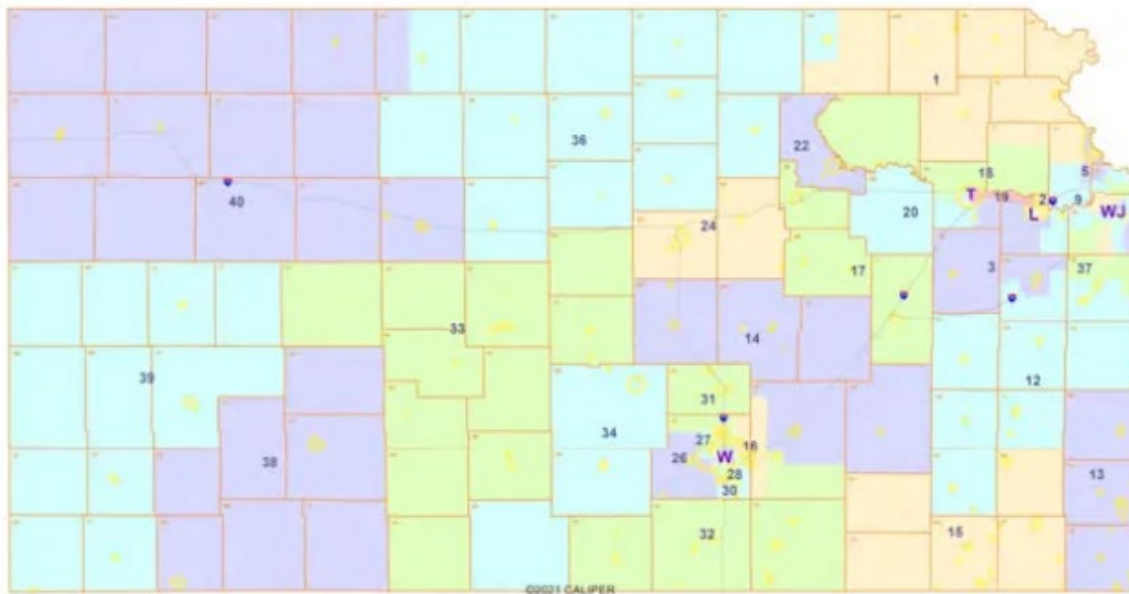
The House passed the Free State 3c map 112-10. The House and the Senate map have been placed in the same bill to finalizing those two maps required in the redistricting process. The Congressional map known as Ad Astra 2 is pending in District Court. The Attorney General did ask for expedited review by the Kansas Supreme Court but the Court said the case needed to be vetted in the lower courts first. The State Board of Education map has yet to be drawn.

## House Map



W= Wichita districts 81-101, 103,105 T=Topeka districts 50,52-58 L=Lawrence districts 10,42,44-47 WJ=Wyandotte and Johnson County districts 5,8,14-37,39,43,48,49,78,108,115,121

## Senate Map



W= Wichita districts 16, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 T=Topeka districts 18, 19, 20 L=Lawrence districts 2, 3, 19 WJ=Wyandotte and Johnson County districts 4-11, 21, 23, 35, 37

## Coal-Combustion Residual Rule & Energy Matters

SB 417 is under consideration by Governor Kelly. Evergy, Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and Sunflower requested introduction of legislation that would allow the

three generating utilities with operating coal units to modestly increase KDH&E imposed fees on themselves to retain the CCR rule compliance program at the state level rather than with the federal government.

### **Steaming Services**

SB 547 related to franchise fees and streaming services has not seen action since its hearing in Senate Federal & State Affairs two weeks ago. The bill was requested after a city in Kansas sought to impose franchise fees on streaming services. The matter is now in the courts. The proponent of the bill was from a law firm representing specifically Dish and Direct TV. He advocated that the bill simply restates current practice which is that streaming services, which do not have infrastructure in the public right of way, should not be charged a franchise fee. The proponent suggested that municipalities could begin imposing fees on all different platforms so customers could see a large pancaking of new fees assessed on all platforms if this bill is not passed. The League opposed the bill alongside the Rural Telecommunications carriers and the Cable Telecommunication Association of Kansas. Many cities provided written opposition testimony as well. Opponents advocated that this bill was introduced late in session – it was – and that the changes proposed in the bill could actually serve as the unraveling of the long-standing regulatory framework related to right-of-way management, franchises, infrastructure build out and associated maintenance fees. There was a healthy number of questions from committee members. It was repeatedly suggested that a comprehensive look at the existing framework might be in order since the last time one was done was in the early 2000s when technology looked, felt and operated much differently. The Chairman stated he was interested in advancing the bill but would follow the will of the committee. The bill did not advance last week however SB 547 is pending in a committee exempt from legislative deadlines.

### **Other Issues of Note**

Regarding taxes, the Senate did not debate legislation that would alter the long-standing county-wide sales tax formula. It is still possible that the Senate will debate HB 2316 which includes the language of SB 87 which was introduced in 2021. The Senate did pass HB 2597 on a 32-6 vote which included a bevy of different tax bills. Included in HB 2597 is the SB 542 which allows for challenges to a city's budget to be filed with the Board of Tax Appeals. As initially drafted, the bill allowed any individual to file a challenge with BOTA, but the bill was amended to read that the entity filing a challenge must be a property owner within the taxing district. SB 493 which creates a statewide ban on municipalities enacting regulations on single-use plastic containers, passed the House 74-48. The bill already received Senate approval. It is likely the Senate concurs in the small change the House made to the bill. Autonomous remotely operated vehicles continued moving through the legislative process. The House passed an expanded bill to the Senate's version which allows for additional types of remotely operated vehicles to be used. There will be a conference committee on the concept this week.

### **Looking Ahead**

This will be a fast-paced week with lawmakers seeking to move initiatives out of committee or perhaps to bottle up a few from moving.

As always, please call/email or text anytime with questions! We are here to help!

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