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LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES



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1) Regular Session Wraps Up

The 2015 regular legislative session ended yesterday. The Legislature will return on April 29 for the veto session. A number of key issues for cities remain for the veto session. Many of these are discussed below. In addition to those included below, many issues regarding taxes and other forms of revenue for the state will be receiving a large amount of attention when the Legislature returns. Please take time during the break to contact your legislators, thank them for their service, and discuss issues that are important to your community.

2) Legislature Delays Action on Moving Elections

This week, the Conference Committee on Elections inserted the language of Sub [SB 171](#), which would move elections to the fall of even years, into [HB 2104](#). The Committee then went through the necessary procedural steps to sign the report so it was ready for consideration by the Senate and House. However, neither chamber chose to consider the report, due in large part to the outreach by city officials across the state.

Thank you for educating your representatives about the problems with this bill. Over the legislative break, please continue to reach out to your [senator](#) and [representative](#). [Here](#) are some of the League and our member cities' concerns with [HB 2104](#).

We will continue to follow this issue and keep you informed about its progress. If you have questions about the bill or your legislator's position on moving elections, please contact Mike Koss at mkoss@lkm.org or 785-354-9565.

3) Bill Limiting Annexations Sent to Conference Committee

Last week, the Senate Committee on Local Government amended [HB 2003](#) to require that boards of county commissioners approve practically all unilateral annexations by cities. The League supported the compromise bill passed by the House, which amended the procedure for island annexations; we strongly oppose the current form of the bill. On Thursday, the full Senate took final action approving [HB 2003](#), as amended by the Senate Committee on Local Government. Instead of the bill going to a Conference Committee, an attempt was made in the House to concur with the Senate version of [HB 2003](#). Following debate, the House voted to place [HB 2003](#) into a Conference Committee on Local Government where, we hope the Senate Committee amendments can be removed or modified. The League will be working during the legislative break to communicate our concerns to the members of the Conference Committee. We encourage you to contact your [Legislators](#) about this important bill and ask that they not support [HB 2003](#) in its current form. You can find some talking points on this issue [here](#).

4) Action to be Taken in Veto Session on [SB 42](#) (Public Funds for Lobbying)

The Conference Committee on Elections took no action this week on [SB 42](#), which would require all lobbyists – including lobbyists of associations – who receive public funds for lobbying to report the amount of public funds they receive. In addition, because of amendments made on the Senate floor, cities will have to publish an

itemized list of all of the fees they pay:

- to employ or contract a lobbyist;
- for membership dues in an association that hires a lobbyist; and
- for membership dues in an association that has an affiliated organization that lobbies.

Cities will also be required to publish an itemized list of all lobbyists they hire or contract to lobby, and all lobbyists that work for an association or affiliated association that receives public funds from the city.

The League does not support the bill for several reasons:

- First, the bill is unmanageable. Cities would have to call every association they pay dues or provide financial support to and inquire if that association or an affiliate of that association lobbies. If so, the city would then have to report the membership dues of that association and the name of all the lobbyists employed by that association or an affiliated association, even if they do not pay dues or provide financial support to the association for lobbying purposes. For example, cities that give money to their local Chamber of Commerce would have to report the money they provide, along with the names of the lobbyists for that Chamber, and possibly the State and National Chambers. Similarly, if a city pays for an official to attend a training or conference by the Kansas Rural Water Association, they would have to report the fee for that event and list the lobbyists of the association.
- Second, the original language in [SB 42](#) was a good compromise. In the past, the League opposed public funds for lobbying bills because of the onerous reporting requirements placed on cities. The League, however, thought putting the reporting requirements on lobbyists was an appropriate compromise and removed our opposition from the base bill.
- Third, none of the amendments to the original bill had a hearing and cities were not able to provide input on them.

The League is working to remove the onerous amendments. It is important, however, to contact your legislators over the break to let them know this bill is burdensome and unmanageable.

5) KPERS Update

[Last week's League News](#) provided information about [HB 2416](#), concerning pre-1993 employees. The League is happy to report that this bill is likely dead for the year. However, a new bill addressing the final average salary calculation of KPERS employees hired before 1993 was introduced earlier this week. At this time, the bill is

not available and a hearing has not been scheduled for the veto session. The League will update you about the bill when we have more information.

6) Register Now for the Governing Body Institute in Topeka

Join us May 15 & 16 in Topeka for the 2015 Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference. Attending GBI is the first step new officials should take toward success in public office so please share the link below with newly elected officials next week. Re-elected officials or longer-term appointed officials will also value the up-to-date information on municipal operations and networking opportunities this conference offers.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

7) Final Round of the Hometown Showdown is Underway

Choose which of the final two cities you want to win! The last day to “like” your favorite photo is 11:59 p.m. CST, Monday, April 6. Go to the Kansas Hometown Showdown – Round 6 photo album on [Facebook](#) to vote.

On Tuesday, April 7, the winning city will be announced!

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