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LEAGUE NEWS



VOLUME 20 – NUMBER 17 – MAY 1, 2015

PUBLISHED BY THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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1) Senate and House to Vote on Limiting Annexations

On Wednesday, the Local Government Conference Committee moved the language of [HB 2003](#) into the Conference Committee Report on HB 2165. [HB 2003](#), as amended by the Senate, would require that boards of county commissioners approve practically all unilateral annexations. Although the League supported the compromise bill passed by the House, which amended the procedure for island annexations, we oppose the current form of the bill. Even if your city has no plans for future annexations, please contact your elected officials and ask that they oppose the Conference Committee Report on [HB 2165](#). It is important to contact them today or over the weekend because the Conference Committee Report will most likely be considered on Monday by both Houses. Here are some talking points to consider:

- Hurts Recruitment of Businesses. Commercial and residential development agreements are often contingent on annexations and the extension of services that accompany them. Incentives packages often include extension of city services (utilities, fire protection, roads, etc.), and if a Kansas city cannot guarantee these services to a potential business, that business may look elsewhere. This is especially important for recruiting out-of-state businesses that require large amounts of land just outside city limits. Limiting annexation in Kansas by creating another administrative obstacle does not serve well the citizens or economy of Kansas.

- Ends Decades of Law Without a Hearing. The amended bill would end decades of annexation law without a single committee hearing on the issue. The Senate Local Government Committee met for less than five minutes and had no debate on the amendments.
 - No Mechanism for Appeals. These hastily added amendments do not consider any criteria for boards of county commissioners to use in considering annexations, nor is any mechanism provided to appeal a board's decision.
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2) Senate Committee Considers New Working After Retirement Rules

On Wednesday, the Senate Select Committee on KPERS held a hearing on proposed changes to the working after retirement rules. A copy of the proposed changes may be found [here](#). The League provided neutral testimony. Under the proposed changes, retired employees returning to work for a KPERS employer would not receive KPERS benefits once they made more than \$25,000 in a calendar year. A city may apply for a hardship exemption to this rule if an unexpected emergency occurs or the city is not able to fill the position. The exemption would apply for one year. The proposed legislation does not apply to employees who retired and returned to work for a KPERS employer before May 1, 2015, or members of KP&F. In addition, the changes would not go into effect until July 1, 2017. Click [here](#) to access a flow chart created by KPERS that further explains the changes. The Senate Select Committee on KPERS plans to work the bill on Monday.

3) Updates on Other Legislative Issues

Lawmakers returned to Topeka this week for veto session. Although we expected several city-related bills to be addressed this week, it appears many of those issues will be debated next week. If you have not already, it is important that you and your governing body members reach out to your legislators, attend their legislative breakfasts, and discuss the following issues:

- Elections - [HB 2104](#) would move city elections to the fall of even years and on to the same ballot as state and federal races. The League strongly opposes efforts to end 154 years of stand-alone city elections. Although not currently part of the bill, there has also been discussion about prohibiting cities from holding bond or sales tax question elections on any date other than an August or November election. Restricting bond elections will have a negative impact upon cities and counties because it significantly impedes the flexibility and timing on city projects and municipal finances. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask that they oppose [HB 2104](#) and the aforementioned restriction on bond and sales tax question elections. [HB 2104](#) will likely be debated in the middle of next week.
- Public Funds for Lobbying - [HB 2183](#), which contains the language from [SB 42](#), would mandate onerous reporting requirements on cities concerning public funds paid to associations that employ lobbyists. The original bill, which the League believed was a good compromise, would achieve the same transparency goals without creating unworkable administrative burdens on cities. The bill's current language is the result of an amendment on the Senate floor. A hearing was never

held on the amendments. The bill is now in conference committee. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask that they oppose the current version of this bill.

- Sign Regulations - [HB 2183](#) would also prohibit cities and counties from regulating the placement and number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way during the 30-day period before an election and for 7 days following the election. The League opposes this amendment. The amendment does not address visual and sight-line concerns, and the hazards posed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask that they support compromise language from KDOT. [HB 2183](#) is now in the Elections Conference Committee.
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4) Register Now for the Governing Body Institute in Topeka

Join us May 15 & 16 in Topeka for the 2015 Governing Body Institute (GBI) and Kansas Mayors Conference. Re-elected officials or longer-term appointed officials will value the up-to-date information on municipal operations and networking opportunities this conference offers. All attendees will receive a copy of the recently updated *Governing Body Handbook* with each paid registration. Member cities will be mailed two complimentary copies of the *Governing Body Handbook* after GBI. An order form to order additional books will be included with the copies.

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

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5) New Disaster Resource Page Available

As a service to our members, we have created a new page on our website to provide easy access to information concerning disaster preparedness and recovery help. In an emergency, things move quickly. Some seemingly small details can have large implications for cities if not handled properly on the front end. This new page is designed to provide cities with key contacts, recommended steps, and a sample ordinance and forms to prepare for and respond to disasters. You can see the new disaster resources page [here](#).

6) USDA Offers Grants for Farmers' Markets

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering grants for its Farmers Markets Promotion Program and its Local Food Promotion Program. To learn more information about the programs and the steps to apply for the grants, click [here](#) and [here](#). The deadline to apply for the grants is 11:59 p.m. ET on May 14, 2015.

7) Upcoming Hearings

Legislative Activities-May 4-8, 2015

Monday, May 4

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
11:00	S, SCKPERS	118-N			Pos: on b prev
1:30	H, CLED	346-S	<u>HB 2200</u>	Alcoholic beverages; expansion of retailer's licenses and the transfer thereof	Hea Ame

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