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LEAGUE NEWS



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Headlines (Click on the story title to go directly to that story)

- [1\) Property Tax Lid Update](#)
- [2\) House Tax Schedules Hearing on Property Tax Average Payment Plan](#)
- [3\) Hearing Scheduled for Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act](#)
- [4\) Local Government Day Quickly Approaching](#)
- [5\) Upcoming Hearings](#)

1) Property Tax Lid Update

There was no action regarding the property tax cap on cities and counties this week. The bill introduced in the House repealing the lid is now available. Neither it, [HB 2493](#), nor the Senate bill moving the effective date up to this July and removing several exemptions, [SB 316](#), has been scheduled for hearings.

Several legislators will be hosting their first coffees or “eggs & issues” meetings back home this weekend. These are great opportunities for you to meet with your local representative and senator and express your concerns. At the same time, your citizens at those events are able to hear about the problems with implementing a tax lid. To assist you, we developed talking points you can download [here](#). Whenever possible, you should also share with them concerns specific to your city.

2) House Tax Schedules Hearing on Property Tax Average Payment Plan

House Tax will hold a hearing on Thursday, January 28, on [HB 2377](#). This bill would permit counties to opt into a program allowing owners of qualified homesteads to enter into a property tax average payment plan. Property tax payments under this plan would be calculated by averaging the property tax levied against the homestead in the current year and the preceding four years. If the payment is less than the amount assessed, a lien would be created. An owner would be required to pay the lien plus

interest if he/she dies, sells the homestead, no longer claims the property as a homestead, or chooses to no longer participate in the program. The League will provide neutral testimony with some concerns. These concerns include: (1) cities cannot opt into the program – they are dependent on the county’s decision; and (2) the five-year average may hurt budgets in the short term if a city loses a large business or other tax base. Please contact [Larry Baer](#) with any questions.

3) Hearing Scheduled for Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act

On Thursday, January 28th, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on [SB 331](#). If enacted, [SB 331](#) would make it unlawful to “refuse to provide any goods or services of any kind, to refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with or otherwise discriminate against a person or trade association solely because a person is engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products...” The League is concerned about [SB 331](#), because it creates a protected class based on a specific industry. While the League objects to any actions of a discriminatory nature, we also object to providing protection to one specific industry. Municipalities are already prohibited from regulating firearms dealers and there is concern that the language of this bill could further erode local control. For the above reasons, the League will oppose [SB 331](#).

4) Last Chance to Register for Local Government Day

The League is proud to co-present Local Government Day with the Kansas Association of Counties on January 27, 2016. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to network with fellow city and county officials for an exciting and informative day! Contact your county (for KAC) officials and carpool together to Topeka and share local priorities with state officials. To see the full schedule of events and to register, click [here](#).

5) Upcoming Hearings

[Top](#)

Legislative Activities-January 25-29, 2016

Monday, January 25

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
9:00	H, EE	582-N		Wind Energy Update - Kimberly Svaty, The Wind Coalition	Upde
	H, EE	582-N		Oil and Gas Industry Update - Ed Cross, President, Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA)	Upde
1:30	H, EI	281-N	HB 2210	County commission boards; expansion of commissioners; special election	Hear
	H, EI	281-N		Kris Kobach, Secretary of State	Pres

Tuesday, January 26

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
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8:30	S, Com	548-S		Update on Governor's Council on Economic Advisors by Stan Ahlerich, Kansas Department of Commerce	Pres
9:30	S, CJJ	118-N	HB 2049	Amending penalty for first and second marijuana possession convictions; creating a program to research industrial hemp; authorizing hemp treatments for seizure disorders	Final
	S, LG	159-S		Current bills in committee	Briefi
10:30	S, WM	548-S		FY2016 Appropriations	Infor heari
3:30	H, ANR	346-S	HB 2479	Amendments to the Kansas noxious weed law	Hear
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2474	Extinguishing tax liens on personal property in certain circumstances	Hear
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2499	Authorizing public improvement districts to impose a retailers' sales tax within the district for certain purposes	Hear

Wednesday, January 27

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
8:30	S, Com	548-S		Labor Market Overview by Justin McFarland, Kansas Department of Labor	Pres
	S, NR	159-S		Kansas Water Authority, Gary Harshberger	Pres
9:00	H, PB	152-S		Technical Bills	Infor heari
9:30	S, AT	548-S	SB 332	Sales tax exemption for the Kansas DUI impact center, inc.	Infor heari
10:30	S, WM	548-S		Possible continuation FY2016 Appropriations	Infor heari
	S, WM	548-S		Legislative Post Audits, Scott Frank	Upda
1:30	H, CJJ	152-S	HB 2451	Expanding mandatory reporters of child abuse	Hear
3:30	H, ANR	346-S		Kansas Water Authority - Gary Harshberger; Chairman	Briefi
	H, Tax	582-N		Matt Turkstra, Manager - Legislative Affairs (Congress-House) at the National Federation of Independent Business	Infor briefi

Thursday, January 28

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
9:00	H, FSA	346-S	SB 224	Emergency medical services board authority to impose fines, investigate and issue subpoenas	Hear
	H, UT	582-N		Steve Dorf, Kansas Fiber Network	Gues
10:30	S, FSA	114-S	SB 331	Kansas firearms industry nondiscrimination act	Hear
1:30	H, GGB	218-N		Review of Legislative Post Audit - Kansas Public Employees Retirement System: Evaluating controls to Detect and Prevent Fraud and Abuse	Infor briefi
	H, GGB	218-N		Review of Legislative Post Audit - Kansas Public Employees Retirement System: Financial Audit of Fiscal Year 2015	Infor briefi
3:30	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2377	Providing for a property tax averaging payment plan and a property tax installment payment plan	Hear

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