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1) Hearing Scheduled for Telecommunication Siting Bill

On Monday, February 8th, the Senate Utilities Committee will hold a hearing on [SB 401](#), concerning the siting of wireless telecommunications equipment. Several cities have expressed concerns with this legislation. The bill institutes a "shot clock" to drive action by cities on applications for cell towers and equipment. The bill also mandates how cities must treat wireless telecommunications, which in some ways stands to be significantly different from how other right-of-way users are treated. Additionally, the bill seeks to limit zoning, as well as revenue derived from the siting of wireless telecom equipment on public facilities. The League will testify as an opponent.

2) Insurance Proceeds Bill Scheduled for Action

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee held a hearing on [SB 370](#). The League provided testimony in support of the bill. The bill is scheduled for possible action by the Committee on Wednesday, February 10th. Based on feedback from Committee members, the League expects the Committee to offer a recommendation for passage.

[SB 370](#) concerns the ability of municipalities to place a lien on insurance proceeds for damaged structures to assure the buildings are repaired or removed. The current law allows for such liens to be filed against claims for damage caused by fire, explosion, or windstorm. [SB 370](#), which was introduced by the League, would expand the process to include all covered claims for damage to a structure in excess of 75% of the face value of the insurance policy. By making this amendment, a municipality will be able to pursue liens against any loss regardless of the cause as long as the owner has insurance in place that covers the damage. For example, this would include seismic and flood damage if the owner has the insurance coverage and the damage is in excess of 75% of the face value of those policies. Under current law, a municipality would not be able to file a lien on proceeds from these types of losses.

The League will continue to monitor this bill. If you have any questions, please contact [Eric B. Smith](#).

3) Rehabilitation of Abandoned Property Bill

The Senate Commerce Committee held its hearing on [SB 338](#) this past Tuesday, February 2nd. This is one of the League's action items for the 2016 session. Topeka Mayor and League Governing Body President, Larry Wolgast, presented [testimony](#) on behalf of the League in support of the bill.

The bill gives cities an effective and efficient method for dealing with the procedural challenges that they face with abandoned properties where there are non-responsive owners or other interest holders, ownership is in question, or the city is not able to get an owner or interest holder to take responsibility for property maintenance. [SB 338](#) is the most recent in a line of bills on the subject dating back more than five years and is a rework of last year's [SB 84](#).

The Committee Chair did not give an indication as to when the bill may be worked, but the League will continue to monitor the bill's status. If you have questions, please contact [Larry Baer](#).

4) Senate Committee Works Two Gun Related Bills

This past week, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee took action on two conceal related bills that had been heard in the 2015 session.

[SB 65](#) would prohibit public employers from regulating the conceal carry of firearms by employees. Current law allows public employers to use written personnel policies to prohibit employees from conceal carry outside of public buildings. The bill would take away this important element of local control. The League opposed this bill last session and will continue to oppose this intrusion and elimination of local control.

[SB 66](#) was a bill that the League supported during the 2015 session. [SB 66](#) would allow for the prohibition of conceal carry in a portion of a public building without having to secure and prohibit weapons in the entire building. This bill is very similar to [HB 2440](#).

When the Committee took action there were some technical amendments to both bills and then they were combined into a single bill, [S Sub SB 65](#). The committee then passed

the substitute bill out to the full Senate with a recommendation for passage. The League will oppose this bill in the future because it contains the language of the original [SB 65](#).

5) Hearing Scheduled for Contaminated Property Redevelopment Bill

On Wednesday, February 10th, the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on [SB 365](#). This bill would provide a mechanism to allow real property with environmental contamination to be purchased without the purchaser being held liable for cleanup costs, if purchased after July 1, 2016. This bill would also include the establishment of the Contaminated Property Redevelopment Fund in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), to assist municipalities in the redevelopment of contaminated properties. Notably, KDHE has indicated that Brownfields revolving loan funds would be used to offer low-interest loans and grants to municipalities to help with the contamination removal.

The bill stands to protect the health and safety of our citizens, as well as be an economic development tool. For these reasons, the League will be testifying in support of the bill. If you have questions concerning this bill or if you would like to provide testimony to support [SB 365](#), please contact [Eric B. Smith](#).

6) Kansas Hometown Showdown Update

The Kansas Hometown Showdown brackets are filling up! We currently have 20 of the 64 brackets filled.

The first 64 cities to submit a photo will be eligible to participate in the contest. Each city photo will go head-to-head with another to see whose photo receives the most likes! Winners from each round will be chosen based on the number of likes your city's photo receives on our [Facebook](#) page.

The contest winner will have their photo placed on the cover of a future issue of the *Kansas Government Journal* and, of course, also earn bragging rights. To submit your photo and for more rules go to <http://lkm.org/showdown/>.

7) Save the Date for Leadership Summit & Mayors Conference

Join us for the annual Leadership Summit April 22nd – 23rd in Junction City! This year's Summit will focus on components of the Strategic Planning Process and basic strategies associated to that process. We will review the steps involved in strategic planning, and address why it is critical to plan for future challenges.

This two-day event will provide elected and appointed city leaders an opportunity to discuss challenges facing our communities and how leadership at the local level can appropriately address contemporary issues in local government.

Hotel rooms can be reserved by contacting the Courtyard by Marriot at 785-210-1500. The room rate for the event is \$86, plus tax. To receive the special rate, please be sure to

mention the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Be on the lookout for more information about registration in the coming weeks!

8) League Seeking Candidates for Legal Counsel Position

The League of Kansas Municipalities is seeking the position of Legal Counsel to join their staff. This position will strengthen cities in Kansas by providing legal guidance to elected city officials and municipal employees. This person will also analyze state and federal legislation concerning municipalities and advocates for the interests of Kansas cities at the Kansas Legislature and with state and federal regulatory bodies.

The Legal Counsel position will counsel elected city officials and municipal employees on legal issues ranging from personnel matters to rezoning issues. Other duties include advocating for the interests of Kansas cities at the Kansas Legislature and creating and presenting trainings for League members to assist in their professional development. This position also requires writing timely and accurate articles concerning legal issues impacting municipalities for the *Kansas Government Journal*, as well as updating and editing League publications concerning municipal law and policy.

Required qualifications include a Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school and a license to practice law in the State of Kansas. Preferred two years' experience in municipal or similar law, and two years' experience with utilities or telecom work. Candidates should also have the ability to clearly, accurately, and persuasively communicate complex information in written and oral presentations. Qualified candidates must be able to work collaboratively and independently, meet deadlines, and manage multiple projects at the same time.

The League offers great benefits, including KPERS, health/dental insurance, and paid leave and holidays. Salary range of \$52,000 - \$61,000, commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, three work-related references, and a writing sample to Rynae Plue at resumes@lkm.org or League of Kansas Municipalities, 300 SW 8th, #100, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin February 18, 2016. The League is an equal opportunity employer. To view the full job description, click [here](#).

9) Other Bills and Upcoming Hearings

- Waste Tire Grant Program - On Monday, the House Committee on Energy and Environment will hold a hearing on [HB 2517](#). This bill would eliminate the Waste Tire Grant Program that has provided recycled tire materials to cities, counties, and schools for outdoor uses, such as playground cover, park benches, picnic tables, and running tracks. The League is monitoring this bill and will keep you up-to-date with its progress.
- Scheduling Policies for Private Employers - The House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development will hold a hearing on Thursday on [HB 2576](#). This bill would prohibit cities from passing an ordinance requiring a private employer to alter or adjust their employee scheduling unless the adjustment is required by state or federal law. The League is monitoring this bill and will keep

you up-to-date with its progress.

Legislative Activities-February 8-12, 2016

Monday, February 8

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
9:00	H, EE	582-N	HB 2517	Vehicle tire tax and abolishing the solid waste grants advisory committee	Hear
	H, V2020	218-N	HB 2546	Allowing for quarterly property tax payments	Hear
1:30	S, Ut	548-S	SB 401	Telecommunications and wireless communications equipment	Pend heari
3:30	H, ANR	346-S		Water Reduction Energy Production Plan (WREP) Representative Bud Estes	Inforn briefi

Tuesday, February 9

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
8:30	S, Tr	546-S	SB 335	Increasing passenger vehicle registration fee and dedicating a portion of such fee to the law enforcement training center fund	Hear
9:30	S, CJJ	118-N	SB 376	Amending law enforcement duties concerning missing person reports	Hear
10:30	S, FSA	144-S	SB 226	Emergency medical services amendments	Discu possi actioi
1:30	H, CLED	346-S	HB 2325	Enacting the public employee bargaining transparency act	Discu possi
	H, Tr	582-N	HB 2450	Increasing the maximum speed limit on certain separated multilane highways to 80 miles per hour	Hear
	S, Ut	548-S	SB 401	Telecommunications and wireless communications equipment	Pend contii heari contii

Wednesday, February 10

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
8:30	S, Com	548-S	SB 365	Enacting the contaminated property redevelopment act	Hear
9:00	H, EE	582-N		Southwest Power Pool - Mike Ross, Senior Vice President fro Government Affairs and Public Relations	Hear
9:30	S, CJJ	118-N	SB 391	Creating the crimes of unlawful transmission of a visual depiction of a child and unlawful possession of a visual depiction of a child	Hear
	S, Fil	546-S	SB 370	Expanding the types of claims for payment of proceeds statutes	Poss on bi previ
10:30	S, Ju	346-S	SB 378	Employment discrimination or retaliation protections for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault; complaint procedure; application of Kansas act against discrimination	Hear
1:30	H, CLED	346-S	HB 2595	Reserving regulation of consumer incentive items in restaurants and vending machines to the legislature	Hear
	H, Tr	582-N	HB 2529	Increasing registration fees on electric and hybrid vehicles	Hear
	S, PHW	118-N	SB 245	Behavioral sciences regulatory board; licensure of professions	Hear
	S, Ut	548-S		Southwest Power Pool Update on Clean Power Plan	Presc
3:30	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2477	Requiring proof of payment of real and personal property taxes for motor vehicle registration	Hear
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2476	County treasurer to check claims against delinquent real and personal property tax lists	Hear

Thursday, February 11

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	Final
9:30	S, CJJ	118-N	SB 376	Amending law enforcement duties concerning missing person reports	Final
1:30	H, ANRB	142-S		Linda Craghead, Assistant Secretary of Parks and Tourism - Susan	Inforn

				Barnes, President, Travel Insurance Association of Kansas	brief
	H, ANRB	142-S		Travel Industry and Tourism Promotion Funding in Kansas - KDWPT and TIAK	Inforr brief
	H, CJJ	152-S	HB 2593	Requiring certain felony interrogations to be videotaped	Hear
	H, CLED	346-S	HB 2576	Prohibiting cities or counties from adopting employee scheduling policies for private employers	Hear
	H, Tr	582-N	HB 2563	Application fee for restricted motorized bicycle driver's license	Hear
3:30	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2475	Exempting the capital outlay mill levy from redevelopment districts	Hear

Friday, February 12

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
9:00	H, EE	582-N	HB 2623	Utilities and electric transmission lines	Hear

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