Date: March 8, 2020
Re: 2020 Legislative Session Update

**General Overview**

- Thursday, February 28th, marked the midpoint of the 2020 Session. Bill introductions are done at this point, except for bill introductions made in exempt committees.
- There are two more weeks of regular committees, then one week of floor debate, and then one week of conference committees before first adjournment on April 3rd. The Legislature then takes a three-week Spring Break. They will return for the wrap-up veto session on April 27th and that session lasts as long as it takes to resolve the outstanding issues.
- In addition to working bills in committees, budget deliberations will continue over the next few weeks, especially considering the increase in estimated tax revenues for the current fiscal year.

**Big Picture Issues**

- Action on the biggest items of the Session, such as Medicaid Expansion, continue to be at a standstill, until the supporters of a constitutional amendment on abortion either win over more votes, or change their strategy and move the placement of the constitutional amendment from the August to the November ballot. That change has not yet been made, but it likely will.
- New development this past week: Appropriations committee removed the State’s portion of funding required for Medicaid expansion. So, if the Legislature passes an expansion bill, there will be no funding for expansion; they would have to come back and add the funding in during Omnibus in late April or early May. It’s another strategy that now entangles the State budget into the Medicaid-abortion dynamic.
- Meanwhile, the diversity of issues still advancing narrows down during the final weeks. There will be a great many hearings in the next two weeks.

**Healthcare Issues**

- Bill introductions are done for the most part. Bills that have not had hearings and are in non-exempt committees (all committees except the budget and tax committees and Federal and State Affairs) are dead after Turnaround.
- Bills that have been published and the bill history can be found on the Legislature’s official website: [http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/measures/bills/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/measures/bills/)
- Short week last week, and thus little action on most items. Because Medicaid Expansion has been stalled for several weeks, there has been little to no movement on most other healthcare legislation.
- Currently there are no hearings of interest scheduled for healthcare related bills next week.
- There are two informational briefings scheduled—one in Senate Health discussing the “Impact of Medicaid Expansion in other states,” and the other in House Health examining the cost of health care.
Public Health

- **SB 252: Compromise Medicaid Expansion:**
  - Remains in Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.
  - Ultimately, the bill was not recommended for passage to the full Senate and remains in committee.
  - SB 252 is not exempt, was not approved for action in the second half of the session, and is not dead, although the issue is not.

- **HB 2563: Tobacco 21/Flavor Ban.**
  - The bill was amended to follow federal guidelines, essentially allowing for the menthol exemption to be put in statute.
  - House did not debate the bill this week, but the bill is still alive since it is in an exempt committee.

- **HB 2582: Creating the behavioral health intervention weighting as part of the Kansas school equity and enhancement act.**
  - New school finance formula to fund school positions and pay community mental health centers.
  - Includes funding of $12.5 million.
  - Bill was blessed for work.
  - Subcommittee appointed to review and make recommendations to House K-12 Education Budget Committee.

- **HB 2673: Conferring original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court to hear certain actions related to healthcare provider insurance availability act, healthcare stabilization fund and claims for noneconomic loss in medical malpractice liability actions.**
  - Bill was blessed and is alive for the second half of Session.

Scope for practice/regulatory

- **HB 2412: APRN scope of practice.**
  - Allows independent practice, prescription writing authority, but regulated by Board of Nursing not the Board of Healing Arts.
  - Exempt. Alive for second half of Session.

Rural Hospitals & Health

- **HB 2677: Establishing a primary health center and enacting the primary health center pilot program act contingent upon state acceptance into a demonstration program under CMS.**
  - Bill was blessed and awaits action during the second half of the Session.

- **HB 2522: Establishing the rural hospital innovation grant program.**
  - Grants can be used for market studies of community healthcare needs, new technology and infrastructure including telemedicine delivery methods, and additional medical personnel.
  - Program is eligible to any Kansas county except Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte.
  - Discussion & action in Appropriations on Thursday, March 12th.

- **SB 381: Authorizing medical student and residency loan assistance to encourage the practice of OBGYNs in medically underserved areas of the state.**
Passed Senate 25-15.

Children’s Issues
- HB 2187: Establishing the office of the child advocate.
  - Bill was blessed and is alive for the second half of Session.

- SB 364: Newborn Screening bill.
  - Senate Public Health this Thursday may work bills previously heard.

Upcoming Activities
- The legislative schedule of hearings is updated regularly throughout the week can be found in the House and Senate calendars on the Legislature’s website at: http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/chamber/calendars/
- Additionally, all hearings are now available on-line live and archived by the end of each day. You can find those hearings on the Legislature website at: http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/
- Link to House and Senate live video: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAg8A

Monday, March 9.
Senate Ways & Means. 10:30 AM.
- Budget recommendations for KDADS and DCF.

Tuesday, March 10.
Senate Public Health. 9:30 AM.
- Discussion on the Impact of Medicaid Expansion in Other States.

Wednesday, March 11.
House Appropriations. 9:00 AM.
- Budget recommendations for KDADS and DCF.

Senate Ways & Means. 10:30 AM.
- Budget recommendations for KDHE.

House Health. 1:30 PM.
- Presentation by KHI on the Cost of Health Care.

Thursday, March 12.
House Health. 1:30 PM.
- Informational briefing by KDHE on the Newborn Screening Program.