

Legislative Update
Week of February 24, 2014

This week the Kansas Legislature saw the conclusion of the hearings in the House Education Budget Committee. The Senate Ways and Means Education Subcommittee made additional requests for information in preparation for the committee's deliberations.

In other action during the week, House Bill 2557 was amended by the Kansas House of Representatives to allow students who purchase university textbooks to apply for a refund for the sales tax paid on the purchase. This is an initiative of the state university students who advocated the bill at State Higher Education Day in the State Capitol earlier in the month.

This week the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Committee will report out recommendations to the full House and Senate for final action later in March. This is the review of the Governors recommendations for higher education.

These recommendations include the restoration the salary cap reductions for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. In addition, the Governor recommended \$1.5 million to begin the planning for the College of Architecture Planning and Design renovations for Seaton Hall.

Also this week there will be a hearing in the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee on Senate Bill 411. This legislation will make significant changes to current law providing for counties to enter into districts for Extension program delivery. Several county commissioners from existing districts plan to testify in opposition to the bill.

Finally, this is the half-way mark for the 2014 Legislation Session. Friday, February 28, 2014 is Turnaround Day. This is the last day bills that originated in the House or Senate must be debated and sent to the opposite house.