

KPOA Weekly Legislative Report

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Ed Klumpp, Legislative Committee Chair

Home: (785) 235-5619

Cell: (785) 640-1102

E-mail: eklumpp@cox.net

This report will take a different format than my previous ones in order to be consistent with the shifting of gears in the legislative process as we reach the final phases of the session. I spent last week attending various conference committee meetings and a whole lot of waiting around for those meetings to take place. That gave me an opportunity to interact with a variety of other people we have worked with during the session. I also contacted numerous legislators on various topics, especially those legislators on the conference committees. This allowed us to get some bills moving that were likely to not get worked and to have some input into the conference committee processes.

We are now in the break which is to allow the governor to decide what action she will take on bills passed by the legislature. The legislature returns the end of the month to consider any vetoes by the governor and to work the omnibus funding bills. But this year there is a multitude of other work left to do as well. We have several bills we are interested in still in conference committee. They will work those bills when they return. And it looks like they will also work on the power plant issue and immigration.

So our work is not done and we have an opportunity to work with some of the legislators on some of our pending issues during the break.

ACTION NEEDED

If you have an opportunity to speak with your senators or representatives while they are home during the break, encourage them to support the COLA for retirees.

NEW INFORMATION ON CHART OF BILLS OF INTEREST

The "Bills of Interest" chart has some new links to it, also consistent with the developments as we near the end of the session.

CCR Briefs - The actual conference committee reports on bills are not published so they are not easily accessible. However, I have placed a link to the conference committee brief compiled by the Legislative Research Department which summarizes all of the actions leading to the conference report. Those links are titled "CCR Briefs" and are in the same column as the bill numbers. Note the links to the bills are still there, but that will reflect the bill as it went into the conference committee and not the changes made by the conference committee. Those will only appear after the governor acts on the bill.

Supp Notes - On bills not in conference committee I have included the link to the Supplemental Notes put together by the Legislative Research Department. Those links are titled "Supp Notes" and are also in the same column as the bill number. The link to the bills will take you to the actual bill language since it is not in conference committee.

GENERAL NOTES:

- **SB409 and related bills** – The actual SB409 bill is dead. But the provisions are spread out among several bills in the judiciary conference committee. While none of those have final agreement yet, it looks like some portions of the bill will be included, but in a different level of application than originally sought. The big issue is the House doesn't want to leave the door open for prison expansion.
- **Prescription monitoring** – The prescription monitoring bill, Senate Substitute for SB491, passed the Senate and the House and is on its way to the governor.
- **Electronic Solicitation Offenders Added to Offender Registry** – This is in SB477 which has been passed by the Senate and by the House and is awaiting action by the governor.
- **Retirement bills** – There were several bills moving forward relating to retirement. Several were rolled into House substitute to substitute SB309. It now contains some of the provisions of SB662, SB663, HB2077 and HB2673. None of those contain the COLA for retirees. This bill has passed both the Senate and the House and has been sent to the governor where it is awaiting action. The changes it makes are mostly technical. I don't see anything in it that is alarmingly good or bad for us.

The only other active retirement bill is House Substitute for SB385. This appears to be primarily a clean up bill. It is still on the House General Orders for debate.

Supposedly the legislature is going to consider the COLA as part of the omnibus bill when they return. I am not convinced they really want to approve a COLA or not, so we will see what their commitment is to it when they return. It didn't hurt things any when the new revenue report came in this week showing revenues above projections.

There was talk during the floor debate of having an interim committee study many of the issues in pending bills relevant to the retirement system. They were not specific about which provisions they intend to discuss in the interim.

- **HB 2617 DUI** – The bill is still in conference committee. They reached a quick tentative agreement to pass the Senate version without the SB409 provisions the Senate had attached. The sentencing and treatment provisions of DUI are proposed for an interim study.
- **Immigration** — During the conference committee debates most of the law enforcement provisions were removed from their recommended bill. The conference committee version is Substitute for SB329. However, they worked off of the Senate version which is Substitute for SB458. All of the requirements for law enforcement procedures were removed in conference committee. They did change the procedures for investigation of complaints about employers hiring illegal immigrants. Those complaints still go to the AG's office, but the investigation will be done by law enforcement. The original conference committee plan would have only local law enforcement investigate those complaints at the direction of the AG. Through our presence at the meeting we were able to convince them to strike the word "local" which will allow the AG to refer the complaint to any law enforcement agency for follow-up investigation. For example: ICE, KBI, local

agencies, etc. They are aware of our concerns about the impact on racial profiling concerns and community relations with the minority communities. But the state agencies don't want to be the only agencies investigating these complaints either, so the legislature is leaving the door open for any of us to be involved. The conference committee recommendations went to the house where it was not passed. One of the members of the conference committee was not in agreement on the bill so the house attempted to move it forward without that person signature. That action is called "agree to disagree" with the conference committee report. It failed by 2 votes so it remains in conference committee where they will go back and make some adjustments in an attempt to gain at least two more votes.

- **Firearms** – The Machine gun/silencer/short barreled shotgun issue was rolled into SB46 which passed the House and the Senate and will go to the governor for action. During conference committee the bill to restrict law enforcement from seizing weapons was amended into HB2280 and passed by the House and Senate. It also is on its way to the governor. HB2818, the bill to allow the AG access to expungements for the concealed carry records check has really gotten messed up with some defective amendments. It doesn't appear there is any interest in fixing it this session. So their is only a slim hope for it to be amended into another bill in conference committee without the erroneous amendments.
- **Stalking** – The stalking issue is a bill we worked hard at getting some progress in the conference committee. Thanks to a lot of work by many people, including the parents of the murder victim from Ark City, it was worked in the committee and a tentative agreement was reached. The bill is now House Substitute for SB414. The final agreement has not been signed yet and it will have to be finalized when the legislators return.
- **Drugs** – Besides the prescription monitoring bill, the bill on MDMA has been signed by the governor and the bill on Salvia and gypsum weed are awaiting action by the governor. The enhancements to the meth precursor logs and the attempt to make pseudoephedrine a scheduled drug both appear to be dead for this year. However, the prescription monitoring bill includes a task force to study the meth precursor, including pseudoephedrine, issue.
- **A special note for Johnson County** – The bill to extend the Johnson County sentencing program was passed by both the House and the Senate. The difference was the House proposed a one year extension and the Senate proposed a two year extension. What was SB2700 is now in SB411 through action in the judiciary conference committee. It will extend the program for two years with a requirement for a report early next session by the Sentencing Commission on implementation statewide.
- **Graduated Driver's Licensing** – The House killed SB294 by voting to remove it from the calendar along with several other bills. There is no chance for this to go anywhere this year.