



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: John J. Federico, JD
Stephen P. Duerst, JD

Date: January 10, 2023

Re: Weekly Update – Week of January 9, 2023

Please see our Weekly Update on Kansas Legislative activities:

A SPECIAL NOTE ON FINDING BILL LANGUAGE & BILL TRACKERS

If you need to find specific language of a bill, type the number in the box under “Bill number:” on the right-hand side of [this](#) webpage. Once you find the bill listed, click that specific bill. You will find the PDF logo under the “Documents” label - click the logo...this will lead you to the text of the bill.

If there are bills that you would like *removed* from or *added* to your bill tracker, please contact Stephen Duerst (Stephen@FedericoDuerst.com).

As always, our office is more than happy to send you specific language as well.

2023 KANSAS LEGISLATURE CONVENES

The 2023 Kansas State Legislature officially begin on January 9, 2023. After a busy election cycle in which all House seats were up for reelection, as well as all statewide offices, the makeup remains roughly the same, with Republicans controlling a supermajority in the House and the Senate and Democratic Governor [Laura Kelly](#) (D-Topeka) occupying the Governor’s office. As of today, Republicans hold an 85 to 40 majority in the House. In the Senate, there are 28 Republicans, 11 Democrats and 1 Independent.

2023 will also bring significant change to House leadership. After serving for an unprecedented 6 years as Speaker, former Rep. [Ron Ryckman](#) (R-Olathe) chose not to run for reelection and will be replaced by Rep. [Dan Hawkins](#) (R-Wichita) as the leader of the Chamber. Rep. [Chris Croft](#) (R-Overland Park) and Rep. [Blake Carpenter](#) (R-Derby) round out the rest of the brand-new leadership team. Further, of the 26 House Committees, 14 had new Chairs appointed – a stunning 54% turnover.

While the first week will be comprised of mostly informational briefings for new lawmakers, we expect the amount of business conducted to significantly increase in week two.

HAWK REPLACEMENT ELECTED; HILDEBRAND TO FOLLOW

Late last month, Sen. [Tom Hawk](#) (D-Manhattan) announced his retirement, prompting precinct committee members to elect his replacement. Former Manhattan mayor [Usha Reddi](#) was appointed last week to serve out Hawk's term, which runs until 2025. She has served on the Manhattan City Commission since 2013 and twice served as mayor. Hawk was the former Ranking member of the powerful [Ways & Means](#) and [Transportation](#) Committees. He previously worked in K-12 education administration, and was a member of the Kansas House from 2005 to 2011 and the Senate from 2013 until 2023.

Precinct committee members in Southeast Kansas will also be busy looking to appoint a new member to replace outgoing Sen. [Richard Hilderbrand](#) (R-Baxter Springs). Hilderbrand announced his retirement at the beginning of this year. He previously served as Chair of the [Public Health & Welfare Committee](#) and Vice Chair of the [Federal & State Affairs Committee](#). He was appointed in 2017 to serve after former Rep. and now Congressman [Jake LaTurner](#) (R-Pittsburg) stepped down to serve as State Treasurer.

MASTERTON SHUFFLES COMMITTEES

Senate President [Ty Masterson](#) officially announced last week that Sen. [Rob Olson](#) (R-Olathe) and Sen. [Mike Thompson](#) (R-Shawnee) would be changing the committees they chair. Olson, previously the Chair of the Federal & State Affairs Committee, will now serve as Chair of the [Senate Utilities Committee](#). Thompson, who was the former Chair of Utilities, will now take Olson's old post.

In other committee-makeup news:

- Sen. [Beverly Gossage](#) (R-Eudora) will serve as the Chair of the Public Health & Welfare Committee. Renee Erickson (R-Wichita) will be elevated to Vice Chair.
- Sen. [Pat Pettey](#) (D-Kansas City) will serve as the Ranking Member on the Senate Ways & Means Committee.
- Sen. [Chase Blasi](#) (R-Wichita) who replaced Sen. [Gene Suellentrop](#) (R-Wichita) will serve on the Senate [Education](#), Federal & State Affairs, [Assessment & Taxation](#) and Public Health & Welfare Committees. Blasi currently works for Evergy and was a former staffer for the Kansas Department of Revenue, former Senate President [Susan Wagle](#) (R-Wichita) and current President Ty Masterson (R-Andover).

OTHER PRESS RELEASES & UPDATES

- [Governor Kelly Announces Nearly \\$3 Million to Support Kids Exposed to Drugs](#)