

2016 Legislative Session Overview: Kansas

Kansas lawmakers adjourned in the early hours of Monday, May 2. It marked an end to one of the shortest sessions in recent memory, in contrast to the 2015 session which was the longest in state history. Legislators successfully passed a budget bill in the closing minutes of session. And Governor Brownback will continue to work with legislators in an effort to successfully balance the state's budget.

The Kansas STAR bond program was hotly debated this year. Kansas developed the STAR bond program in the '90s to help finance tourist destinations in the state. The STAR bond debate surfaced this year after some legislators questioned the governor's plan to transfer bonds attached to \$42 million in annual sales tax revenue in an effort to bring the American Royal to Kansas City, KS.

Below you'll find summaries of significant legislation considered this year.

State Budget ([SB 249](#)) - *This bill includes omnibus funding for FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018 expenditures for most state agencies.*

Kansas legislators approved a plan for balancing the state budget that gives Governor Brownback broad discretion to make spending cuts. The House & Senate approved the budget bill in the early morning hours of Monday, May 2.

Governor Brownback signed the budget into law on Wednesday, May 18, and will make \$97 million in allotment cuts in an effort to balance the state budget.

STAR Bond Program Reform ([HB 2632](#)) - *This bill addresses economic development financing programs, tax increment financing & STAR bond financing.*

Legislators passed STAR Bond reform legislation and the governor approved the bill on May 12. Under the bill signed by Governor Brownback, the state cannot include property that was part of a STAR bond district in a new economic development district with bonding.

The Department of Commerce will also be required to submit a revised report in January on each STAR bond project to House and Senate committees. The document will outline amount of bonds issued, bond payments, sales tax collected, new businesses attracted to the development district and number of people drawn to the area.

Workforce Preference ([HB 2574](#)) - *This bill requires employment of Kansas workers for certain state contracts and tax benefits.*

Lawmakers introduced Workforce Preference legislation this session. This bill requires at least 70% of a contractor's employees reside in Kansas if the contractor enters into a state contract for a project with an annual cost of at least \$100,000. This also applies to any contractor performing work on a STAR bond project. [HB 2574](#) was referred to the House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development, but no action was taken.

2016 Legislative Session Overview: Missouri

Missouri legislators introduced 2040 bills and 87 resolutions during the 2016 session that adjourned on Friday, May 13. Of those, 139 bills and one resolution passed.

Many of the issues we've tracked during previous sessions were considered again this year: paycheck protection; project labor agreement (PLA) reform; licensing requirements for electrical & roofing contractors; career and technical education, changes to construction delivery methods & right to work.

Below you'll find summaries of significant legislation considered this year.

Paycheck Protection ([HB 1891](#)) - *This bill gives members of public employee unions the choice each year to decide if they want to belong to a union*

Rep. Holly Rehder's 'Paycheck Protection' legislation, [HB 1891](#), was the most notable labor issue considered by the legislature this year. Lawmakers passed the bill in early March; however, [HB 1891](#) was quickly vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon. While the House was able to override Governor Nixon's veto, the Senate fell short by one vote.

PLA Reform ([HB 2148](#)) - *This bill modifies provisions relating to fairness in public construction.*

Rep. Rob Vescovo's PLA Reform legislation, [HB 2148](#), passed the House Select Committee on Labor & Industrial Relations in February; however, it did not come to a vote on the House Floor. ABC Heart of America testified in support of this bill during its committee hearing. Rep. Vescovo filed similar legislation in 2015.

Statewide Electrical Licensing ([SB 773](#)) - *This bill creates the Missouri Electrical Industry Licensing Board and licensure requirements for a statewide electrical contractor's license*

Sen. Bob Onder introduced legislation to create statewide licensing for electrical contractors in Missouri. The bill, [SB 773](#), was heard before committee at the end of February, but did not receive any further consideration. ABC Heart of America surveyed its electrical contractors for their thoughts on this piece of legislation - responses were mixed.

Licensing Requirements for Roofing Contractors ([SB 1022](#)) - *This bill requires any person acting as a roofing contractor to be licensed by the Missouri State Board of Roofers.*

Sen. Mike Parson introduced legislation to create licensing requirements for any person acting as a roofing contractor in Missouri. The bill, [SB 1022](#), passed the Senate Committee on Financial and Governmental Organizations & Elections in April; however, it did not come before a vote on the Senate Floor.

Career & Technical Education ([SB 620](#)) - *This bill modifies composition of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council and requires said council to establish minimum requirement for a career and technical education certificate.*

Sen. Gary Romine's CTE legislation, [SB 620](#), was truly agreed to & finally passed by the House on April 26th after several amendments were made in House & Senate committees.

Design-Build/Construction Management ([HB 2376](#)) - *This bill modifies provisions of law relating to design-build and construction management*

Rep. Lincoln Hugh's Design-Build/Construction Management legislation, [HB 2376](#), was truly agreed to & finally passed by the House on May 13th after several amendments were made in House & Senate committees.

Right to Work

Several 'right to work' bills were filed again this year. Most contained the same or similar language from previous years. None of the bills introduced this year continued the momentum from 2015, when lawmakers nearly overturned the governor's veto to pass Rep Eric Burlison's [HB 116](#). Depending on who is elected governor in 2016, 'right to work' may become a reality in the near future.