3\_3\_23 Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mark McCormick

Commissioners present: Davis, McCormick, New, Penn, Westbrook, Executive Director Knoell

Commissioners absent: Lewis, McRoy

Executive Director Knoell presented which of the legislative priorities have made it through “Turn Around.”

1. Executive Director’s report: None of our legislative priorities made it out of committee
   1. Bail reform; nothing came up
   2. Veteran’s Benefit Bill;
      1. HB 2036, hearing 1/31, referred to taxation
      2. HB 2199, Authorizing disabled veterans to receive a sales tax exemption for the purchase of up to two motor vehicles., no hearing
      3. HB 2200, Establishing a property tax exemption for retired and disabled veterans. No hearing
      4. HB 2204, Establishing a state tax credit for family caregivers of disabled veterans. No hearing
      5. HB 2281, Providing a sales tax exemption for certain purchases by disabled veterans. No hearing
      6. SB171, Creating the veterans first medical cannabis act to regulate the cultivation, distribution, sale, possession, and use of medical cannabis. No hearing but in Senate Fed & State
      7. SB 58, Providing a sales tax exemption for certain purchases by disabled veterans. No hearing
      8. SB 80, Excluding social security payments from household income for eligibility of seniors and disabled veterans related to increased property tax homestead claims. Hearing 1/31, unsure but it did not get to the floor
   3. Holiday for sales tax on school supplies
      1. HB2108, Providing a back-to-school sales tax holiday for sales of certain school supplies, computers, and clothing. hearing 2/2, not worked
      2. HB2111, hearing 2/7, not worked
      3. SB21, Providing an annual sales tax holiday for sales of certain school supplies. Testified at hearing 1/19, not worked
   4. Driver’s License fines and fees; SB2 – hearing 1/24, not worked
   5. Policing and training, in-depth stop data;
   6. CROWN Act, HB2044, Testified at hearing 2/16, not worked
   7. Voting Rights – one person’s election security is another person’s voter suppression
   8. Clean Slate – testified at hearing, not worked, on 2/23 “Stricken from Calendar by Rule 1507” – it’s dead - dead
   9. MLK to be recognized – Testified at hearing 2/7, through Senate Fed & State and passed on the Senate floor 38-0

The discussion moved to what the next priority/focus should be for the Commission. Chairman McCormick noted the Kansas historical tie to the struggle for voting equality, saying our constituency would want us to express concern about what is happening in the state. Commissioner Davis added that this Commission should say something as silence can be taken as compliance. It was suggested to table the discussion until next month’s meeting but Executive Director Knoell noted that any bills relating to voting rights would have been heard by the next meeting. Director Knoell could continue to provide testimony on the topic in committee and any individual Commissioner is always welcome to provide testimony directly. The consensus of the Commissioners present was to continue to focus on voting rights and access to the ballot.

Director Knoell informed the group of a potential town hall meeting in the Wichita area organized by Mary Dean to address issues within the child welfare system. The idea is in its infancy with more questions than answers at this point. Director Knoell will keep everyone up to speed on what is happening as well as ask the Commissioners to begin to look into what it would mean for KAAAC to host a town hall in the individual Congressional districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.