

March 30, 2020
First Adjournment

The 2020 Kansas Legislature adjourned Thursday, March 19, two weeks ahead of schedule. They passed a base budget, funded the transportation plan, and addressed unemployment insurance eligibility and other urgent issues. The Legislative Coordinating Council was given \$50 million to address COVID-19 needs in the current fiscal-year budget.

Revised Legislative Schedule

Last week, the last measure passed was the adjournment resolution. The Legislature is scheduled to return on April 27. The unique aspect of the resolution is that it gives the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) the authority to adjust the meeting either forward or back. The resolution makes it clear the LCC couldn't delay the return of the Legislature beyond May 21, which is the current date set for sine die adjournment.

The original Second House Consideration of bills was March 25. It is extended to May 1 in the resolution. The April 3 Drop Dead Day for consideration of all bills is extended to May 8 under the resolution.

CREG Meeting

On April 20, the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) will have its annual meeting prior to the start of the Legislature returning for the traditional Veto Session. The CREG has the responsibility to revise revenue estimates regarding anticipated receipts that provide the basis for the next fiscal year and beyond. The CREG economists and economic policymakers will have a daunting task with the emergency facing every state. The new economic forecast will look much different from their last meeting in October. Kansas unemployment claims have already drastically increased, reflecting the initial impact of the pandemic.

The March Kansas Department of Revenue numbers (KDOR) will provide our first glimpse of the initial impact of COVID-19 on our state economy. The numbers will be scrutinized by policy makers before finalizing the omnibus budget bill.