



# BRUNO & ASSOCIATES

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## L e g i s l a t i v e U p d a t e

### **FIRST ADJOURNMENT**

The regular session of the 2011 Kansas Legislature has been completed. The Legislature completed numerous bills, but it still has major items to wrap up.

The Legislature will return on Wednesday, April 27 for the veto session.

The FY 2011 budget has not been completed at this time. The House and the Senate's have both passed a budget bill, the next step will be for the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate ways and means committee to meet starting the week of April 18. The committees will come in to work on finalizing a budget based off of the final consensus estimating group projections the consensus revenue estimating group meets April 15 to determine the final revenue numbers for the current fiscal year and the first projection for revenues for the next school year. The legislature will have to pass an omnibus appropriations bill at the end of the session.

The veto session, which is scheduled to begin April 27, is scheduled to end on May 11, the 90th day.

### **KANSAS AFFORDABLE AIRFARES PROGRAM**

The Affordable Airfares Program funding is still working through the legislative process. AS stated above, the Legislature has not approved a budget bill as of yet, and the House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means Committee return next week to begin working on the Omnibus Appropriations bill for the 2011 session. Both committees will begin their work where they left off before the first adjournment.

The Senate included funding for the KAAP in their version of the budget bill that was approved in the Senate during the regular session. The House bill did not include the funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The Appropriations Committee removed the funding before the bill was voted out of committee. The House



approved a new rule regarding appropriation bills this session, referred to as “Pay-Go.” The rule requires that any increase in spending in an appropriations bill must include an equal reduction from the bill. KAAP has always been a target for legislators from areas where they have better access to competitive airfares, so it made more strategic sense to allow the House to concur with the Senate on the funding for KAAP. Representative Marc Rhodes has made it known, both publicly and privately, that he will agree to the Senate’s position.

## TECHNICAL TRAINING FUNDING

The House and Senate both approved the aviation training funding for Fiscal Year 2012. Both chambers included the \$5 million in their respective budget bills.

## NIAR FUNDING

The Senate and House both approved the \$5 million in funding for NIAR for FY 2012. However, the chambers differ in the approach to the funding. The NIAR funding was part of a package proposed by the Governor, which includes funding for the KU Cancer Center and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) at Kansas State.

The Governor proposed the funding to go through the Department of Commerce, due to the economic development aspect of the program. The House agreed with the Governor’s proposal and included it in their version of the FY 2012 budget.

The Senate felt that the funding should continue through the Board of Regents. It is unclear at this point what action the Governor may take if the senate’s version is approved by the legislature in the final funding bill.

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