

Week-ending February 1, 2019

The [Senate Select Committee on Education Finance](#) will hold a hearing on **SB 44**, this bill corresponds with the Governor education budget is expected to meet the expectations of the Supreme Court an end the education finance battle . The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6 at 1:30. If you are interested in testifying you can contact Sara Chinn in the USA-Kansas office and she can help you with the appropriate connections. Testimony needs to be submitted by 12:00 on Tuesday Feb. 5th.

On Thursday Republican senators advanced a tax cut bill primarily aimed at helping corporations. KASB testified as neutral on **SB 22**, but expressed serious concerns with the legislation because of the impact it could have on school funding.

The measure was approved on a voice vote by the [Senate Select Committee on Federal Tax Code Implementation](#) and will next be considered by the full Senate, possibly next week. Republicans supported the measure while the committee's two Democrats voiced opposition. Gov. Laura Kelly has urged the Legislature to hold off on tax cuts because of the state's fragile budget situation.

SB 22 would reduce revenue to the state by \$191.6 million in the next fiscal year. The measure would make a number of corporate tax changes and also allow Kansans to itemize their state tax deductions even if they didn't itemize on their federal returns. Of the \$191.6 million tax cut, \$137.2 million would go to corporations and \$54.4 million to individuals, according to a [state fiscal note](#).

The Senate Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday signed off on **SB 9** that would direct **\$115 million** from the state's general fund into the pension system.

The bill would send the money to the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System's school group, which has a funded ratio of 61.6 percent — a level that one senator described as near “red code” status. The school group's total unfunded liability is \$5.7 billion.

The bill makes up for the state's decision in 2016 to skip a \$97 million retirement system payment that now totals \$115 million when interest is added in.