In an early morning meeting, the House Commerce Committee quickly assembled a bill to assist with aviation layoffs and now the much-anticipated layoffs due to the economic crisis building as the result of the Covid-19
outbreak. Specifically, House substitute for SB 27 Unemployment Insurance does the following:

- Effective January 1, 2020 Unemployment Benefits will be extended from the current 16 weeks to 26 weeks.
- Claimants will no longer have to wait a week to receive their benefits. They will receive them the week they apply.
- These provisions are set to expire on April 1, 2021.
- Provisions are effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.

The House passed the measure 119-0 while the Senate passed it 29-4. It is expected the Governor will sign the bill immediately and as noted above will be effective upon publication in the Kansas register.

**Schools**

The Legislature also provided schools with the flexibility needed to address the school closure announced by the Governor today. SB 142 authorizes the state board of education to grant waivers for school districts from the requirement to provide a minimum number of school hours during the school term. An amendment by Rep. Sean Tarwater inserted a requirement that part-time, noncontract employees be compensated for what would be the remainder of the school year. This bill passed 117-2 in the house and in the Senate 30-2.

**Kansas 2020 Legislative Session will End this Week**

The 2020 Kansas Legislature will continue to meet this week working towards putting together a new State Transportation Plan as well as pass the constitutionally required state budget and then will adjourn until it is deemed publicly safe for them meet again for a Veto Session. The Session was not expected to officially end until April 3, 2020.
We will send a final report once lawmakers officially adjourn. Until then please feel free to email at natalie@brightcarpenter.com with any questions.

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