

Legislative Report
SouthCentral Section 99s
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States:

Kansas - Is currently in its legislative session. In 2023, senate bill 49 was signed into law. It requires that blinking lights on wind turbines turn off when there are no aircraft nearby. This is not yet in place as the FAA needs to approve it and I do not know what technology would be used to determine if aircraft are in the area or how far away. But it's an interesting idea.

New Mexico - My home state. In the legislative session in February a bill was introduced to supply funds (\$10 million) in support of the Air Races as Roswell is in the final 3 to be chosen to replace Reno. Pueblo and Casper, Wyoming are the other 2 finalists. The final decision will be made in April. This bill in New Mexico died in committee but I think it was a good attempt to draw attention to the air races and show support for it.

Colorado - HB24-1235 is the bill to watch. It's called Reducing the Impact of Aviation on Surrounding communities. It aims to reduce noise and lead exposure. I have discussed lead in av-gas in these reports before, and I knew then the issue would continue to return. A good part of this bill could create a tax credit for aircraft owners who switch out their engines to run on unleaded fuel. It would install noise monitors and develop a screening system for lead for people living near airports. It also would increase the number of people on the Colorado Aeronautical board and specifies that those extra people be non pilots who live in the communities surrounding airports. It adds 50 cents per gallon tax on av gas. This bill is getting a lot of attention and AOPA is monitoring it.

On the **Federal** level, the FAA reauthorization Act of 2023 is working its way through Congress. And the White House budget calls for increased taxes on jet fuel for business aircraft. The specifics of that will be interesting to see, but keep in mind there is often a wide gap between what the White House calls for and the budget that is finally passed.