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NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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Coming up in the Kansas Legislature

Next week, watch for the **Medicaid expansion** bill to hit the Senate floor. If it passes through the Senate, the bill will then be sent to the Governor.

Republicans in the Senate have said they will wait to act on an **education finance formula** until the House addresses it first. Conversations as to how to solve this issue are underway, with many ideas being introduced. A bill has been proposed this week in the Kansas House, and we expect action on that bill to begin next week.

A **tax plan** to restore the revenue in Kansas has not yet been enacted. Previously in the session, the House put forth and passed a tax bill, which then passed through the Senate. The bill essentially repealed Gov. Brownback’s “march to zero” tax experiment. The Governor vetoed the bill, after which the House overrode his veto. The Senate failed to override by just three votes. A new tax plan should be coming soon from the Senate side.

Working for Working Kansans

Kansas House Democrats proposed several amendments this week on the floor that would benefit the working men and women of Kansas. These amendments included Buy American, which places a preference on buying American products when possible, if those products met or exceeded certain specifications. This would apply to state contracts.

Another proposed amendment on the floor was for prevailing wage. This means setting the hourly wage on public project at the rate paid in the largest city in each county to the majority of workers, laborers and mechanics. Prevailing wages are established by the Department of Labor & Industries and they are established separately for each county, and are reflective of local wage conditions. The prevailing wage amendment would have applied to state funded projects only. It would ensure safe, trained, financially responsible, stable contractors to complete projects, fair wages, offer local control, and maximize our return on the dollars we invest in our local construction projects.

Unfortunately, these two amendments failed to pass, though both had overwhelming Democratic support and a few moderate Republicans.

This Week on the House Floor

This week, the House has been busy passing numerous bills. The many pieces of legislation ranged on issues from technology to healthcare to agriculture. A few of these bills are detailed below:

Sub HB 2331: An act concerning information systems and communications; creating the representative Jim Morrison cybersecurity act; relating to digital information security for Kansas executive branch agencies; establishing the Kansas information security office; establishing the cybersecurity state fund and cybersecurity state grant fund in the state treasury, creating the Kansas information technology enterprise.

[Read the full bill here.](#)

H Sub for SB 60: An act concerning agriculture; relating to the Kansas department of agriculture; certain fees, authorizing the Kansas secretary of agriculture to collect a fee for processing paper documents when online technology is present. [Read the full bill here.](#)

SB 20: An act concerning financial institutions; relating to certain acts under the administration of the state bank commissioner. [Read the full bill here.](#)

H Sub for SB 51: An act concerning controlled substances; the state board of pharmacy; relating to scheduling of controlled substance analogs, controlled substances and new drugs; emergency scheduling.

[Read the full bill here.](#)

HB 2313: An act concerning the Kansas lottery; dealing with lottery ticker vending machines; repealing the lottery sunset. [Read the full bill here.](#)

HB 2232: An act concerning adult care homes; relating to electronic monitoring. [Read the full bill here.](#)

SB 68: An act concerning health and healthcare; relating to hospitals; enacting the Kansas lay caregiver act. [Read the full bill here.](#)

HB 2353: An act concerning state contracts and purchases; relating to purchases of products and services from not-for-profit entities; employment of persons with disabilities. [Read the full bill here.](#)

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. It's a time to reflect on women's contributions to history and to the present, the inaugural holiday beginning in the United States in 1987. Join us this month in standing with and celebrating women in Kansas, across the nation, and the across the world.

[Read more about Women's History Month here.](#)

Visitors to my office



Page on 3/21/17
Ainslie Markle,
Governor Brownback
and Rep. Carlin

Westar Rate Increase (Reminder)

Westar has filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission requesting a \$17.4 million (1.2%) rate increase for Westar Energy's retail electric customers. Residential customers with average monthly consumption of 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity would have an average increase of \$1.54 per month.

Westar Energy's application indicates the increase relates to costs incurred to meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements, investment related to the extended operating license for Wolf Creek and investment in distribution assets to improve reliability.

An evidentiary hearing on **Westar Energy's request is scheduled to begin May 9, 2017, at 9am at the Commission's Offices, 1500 Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604-4027.** The public is invited to attend.

Keep in touch

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I value and need your input on the various issues facing state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is Room 451-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7657 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org

Proudly representing you in the Capitol

Sydney Carlin, 66th District