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**NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL**

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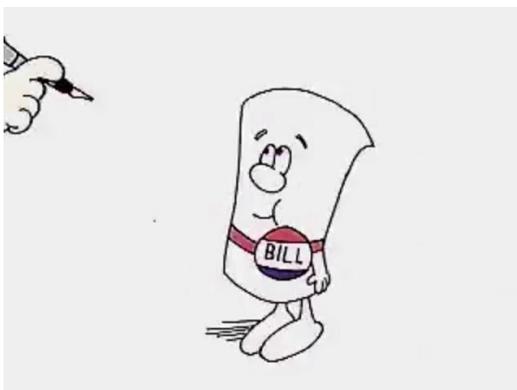


This week was the second week of veto session. While the major issues are still to be addressed, the K-12 Education budget committee continues to work on a school finance formula in attempts to comply with the Gannon ruling on adequacy. The Senate ran a tax plan on Thursday (those details below), and Kansas House Democrats continue to stand behind our message – schools first.

## On the Floor This week

**HB 2380** reduced sales tax on certain food items by 1 cent beginning July 1, 2020. We did it by removing state sales tax exemptions on the following:

- Towing
- Detective Services
- Security Guards and Patrol Services
- Security System Services
- Non-Residential Cleaning Services (real property – includes plumbing/drain cleaning & inground pool cleaning)
- Pet Daycare
- Mini Storage/Self Storage
- Collection Agencies



The following bills have been signed by the Governor. The Governor has signed 68 bills into law this session and vetoed two. [You can read about all the bills to hit the floor this week here.](#)

**H Sub for SB 101:** This bill adds sexual assault to the list of crimes which allow the issuance of a protective order, amends the notification of sexual assault examination law, and allows for victims of crime to receive compensation for mental health counseling.

**SB 205:** Establishes rules for calculating service credit for KPERS employees and provides an increase in death benefits to be paid to the surviving spouses of firefighters who die in the line of duty.

**HB 2096:** Amends restrictions on operation of transit buses in Wyandotte County and designates a portion of US-75 as the Eldon K. Miller Memorial Highway.

**HB 2098:** Names the Mined Land Wildlife Area bison herd the “Bob Grant Bison Herd”.

**HB 2353:** Clarifies definitions related to the Sate Use Law program.

**HB 2356:** Revises various definitions related to the state’s bidding process.

Several Conference Committee reports passed through the House, and today, three bills were debated, including:

**H Sub for SB 126:** An act establishing the foster care task force.

**SB 201:** An act concerning consumer protection; relating to the Kansas consumer protection act, definition of protected consumer; relating to the Kansas no-call act, restricting use of automatic dialing-announcing devices.

A fourth bill was up for consideration today – **HB 2418** – an act concerning health and healthcare; establishing an on-site state employee health clinic; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, for the department of administration. It was pulled from General Orders at the last moment, likely because it could have been a vehicle in which to bring back a Medicaid expansion debate.

### **Medicaid Audit Requested**

I have requested from Legislative Post Audit that an audit be made with objectives that examine issues related to KanCare and other important components of the state’s Medicaid system. Those objectives include:

- What effect did transitioning to KanCare have on the state’s Medicaid costs, the services provided, and client health outcomes.
- How does Kansas’ Medicaid and Medicare coverage compare to other states for a select sample of services.
- Are reports and notices produced by the Kansas Eligibility Enforcement System useful and reliable

The audit has been approved and I will share the results in a few months.

### **Senate Tax Plan Dies on Floor**

On Thursday, the Kansas Senate ran an amended version of **HB 2067**, a tax plan that was largely similar to what the House nearly voted on last week – this bill would not have solved our fiscal issues last week, nor would it this week. It is imperative that we address school funding first. The bill did not pass in the Senate, with a final vote of 18 in favor and 22 voting no. Kansas Democrats in the legislature will continue to work towards a fair tax plan.

### **Kobach Appointed to Trump Voter Fraud Team**

Just one day after a federal judge ruled against Kris Kobach, mandating that he turn into the courts the plan he prepared for a meeting with President Trump, Trump appointed Kobach to a new Voter Fraud Task Force. The Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has consistently claimed rampant voter fraud exists nationwide, but has not been able to produce any evidence thus far. He’s the only Secretary of State in the nation with prosecutorial powers.

### **Tax Reform Issues**

Research has been done regarding the repealing of the pass-through income tax exemption for business. Governor Brownback and others stick to their assertion; that it has created new business entities. They are correct, but according to a study regarding the impact on the Kansas business exemptions based on actual federal tax returns, those new businesses over-whelmingly were created to avoid taxes and resulted in little real economic growth. Evidence gathered through the U.S. Treasury Department, one of the authors, and economists at Indiana University and the University of South Carolina, shows many of those taxpayers received wages from a business before the tax cut and received contract income from the same company after

the tax cut, suggesting “recharacterization of income rather than new economic activity. A few of the findings from the study include:

- The tax reform had little effect on location choices of business. The researchers used census migration data from the American Community Survey to estimate migration into and out of Kansas compared to the surrounding states around the time of the policy change. They found no significant change in migration into or out of Kansas in the post-reform period.
- The reform had no measurable impact on the number of filers reporting income from @-corporations or partnerships.
- The researchers looked at business expenses reported on income taxes to determine how existing businesses were reacting. For example, purchasing equipment to expand and higher wage expenses would suggest a positive response. There are small increases consistent with the possibility that some sole proprietors increased employment. The researchers termed that increase “modest.”
- New capital investment decreased after the tax cut, not increased. That strongly suggests no impact.

### **Filing Deadline for Local Election Candidates Approaches**

Anyone interested in running for local office in Kansas – take note! The filing deadline for candidacy is June 1st, 2017. If you would like to file, or know someone who would, please [find all the details you need and the filing paperwork here](#).

### **Race/Ethnicity for Free & Reduced Price Lunches**

The number of students receiving free and reduced lunches is used to base the number of at risk students in a school district. Listed below is a breakdown of race/ethnicity for students approved for free and reduced price lunches. This information is self-reported by school districts. Let me know if you have additional questions.

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percent
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,799	1.2
Asian	5,216	2.2
Black	25,403	10.8
Hispanic	73,209	31.2
Multi-Ethnic	14,492	6.2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	584	0.3
White	112,628	48.1
TOTAL	234,331	100.0

Not all students in this group are at risk, but the number is a good predictor of budgetary needs.

### **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](mailto:sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov), or [www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com](http://www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com). You can also follow the legislative session online at [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org)

***Proudly representing you in the Capitol***  
***Sydney Carlin, 66<sup>th</sup> District***