

January 26, 2018



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

Sydney Carlin

State Representative 66th District

Room 451-S, State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-7657

1650 Sunny Slope Lane
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
785-539-6612

In This Issue

Agricultural Tour
Bills Discussed on the Floor
Transparency Press Conference
Lansing Prison Contract
Lt. Gov. Colyer Swearing In
Page Information

How to Schedule an Appt w/a Legislator
Kansas State Library Information
Special Events
Visitors to my office
Keep In Touch

Agricultural Tour

Last Friday I participated in the Joint House and Senate Agriculture Committee all-day tour of Ag industry sites to see how today's ag economy is growing and changing in Kansas. Some of the stops in the Manhattan region were:

- Mertz Ranch (diversified farming operation)
- Peddicord Land & Cattle Co (feed yard)
- Kansas Department of Agriculture offices
 - View of NBAF from the top floor was amazing
- Ks Wheat Innovation Center, KSU Campus
- K-State College of Veterinary Medicine
- MKC Cooperative (grain elevator and agronomy)

Bills Discussed on the Floor

HB 2439 – Creates a new crime of involuntary manslaughter committed while driving while intoxicated AND while driving with a license suspended because of previous DUI, driving in violation of restrictions imposed on driving privileges because of a previous DUE, or while being deemed a habitual violator for violations including at least one DUI. The penalty for this violation would be a level 3 felony; under current law the highest that this offense could be charged is a level 4 felony. The bill would increase the presumptive sentence for this offense by 2 ½ to 5 years, depending on the offender's criminal history. Final action vote will be taken on Monday. I invite your input.

HB 2482 – This bill would increase the number of hours that establishments licensed to serve alcohol would be allowed to sell drinks. Under current law, establishments may not sell drinks between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The bill would allow drinks to be sold starting at 6:00 a.m. The bill would define "day" to mean that period from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. the following calendar day. Final action vote will be taken on Monday. I invite your input.

Transparency

Many of my constituents have asked me over the past few months about State Government transparency. Many times it has been difficult to find out what is going on even when working in the capitol. Transparency – or the lack thereof - impacts every issue we address in every branch of state government. To support our positions, it is imperative that the public have access to information. We are working to make the legislative process more accessible by eliminating anonymous bills, recording all votes, and limiting other maneuvers used to avoid transparency.

We must also hold agencies accountable. For example, when a person in state custody is injured or dies, information needs to be made public. This includes prisons, the foster care system and our mental health facilities.

All too often, statewide office holders and legislators have turned to lobbying as a way to use their relationships to enrich themselves and benefit political supporters. This must stop. Democrats propose a 1-year waiting period before legislators can become lobbyists.

Good government goes beyond transparency. It is also important that voters get what they pay for when they elect a statewide leader. We will also motion to prohibit any statewide elected official from other employment while in office. By passing common sense transparency measures, we can take steps towards a more open and accountable government.

State Finance Council Passes Lansing Prison Contract

During the first procedural vote to confirm Brownback's nomination on Wednesday, another vote was taking place in Kansas – whether or not to approve a contract with CoreCivic to build a new corrections facility in Lansing.

The deal was approved 6-3 by the State Finance Council. Kansas now enters into a lease-to-purchase contract with a for-profit prison company. The three no votes were made by House Democratic Leader Rep. Jim Ward, Senate Democratic Leader Sen. Anthony Hensley, and Republican Sen. Carolyn McGinn.

While Democratic Leadership and caucuses understand that Lansing desperately needs a new corrections facility – and advocate that the facility must remain in Lansing – there was only one bid made, CoreCivic, and they have a questionable history nationwide. I look for legislation to be introduced to give the full legislature an opportunity to weigh in on this matter.

Lt. Gov. Colyer swearing in Wednesday

Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer will be sworn into office as Governor at 3 p.m. January 31, same time that the resignation of Gov. Sam Brownback becomes effective; Brownback is resigning to become U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom.

Brownback was confirmed Wednesday by the U.S. Senate for that post to which he was appointed by President Donald Trump.

Page Information

If you have a student that would like to be a page for the Legislature, please contact my assistant, Dixie Sypher either by phone (785-296-7657) or by email at dixie.sypher@house.ks.gov. The first available date is: Feb. 6, for 4 students. To become a page you must be 12 years of age or older.

How to Schedule an Appointment with a Legislator

Here are a few tips on How to Schedule an appointment with me.

1. Call 785-296-7657 or email dixie.sypher@house.ks.gov , my office to make an appointment. Because we are often out of our office attending to legislative business, it is best to contact my Assistant, Dixie Sypher in advance to schedule a meeting. This helps to ensure that I will be available to meet with you.
2. It is helpful to let my office know in advance the nature of the topic and/or issue you wish to discuss. This will help me to be better prepared for our meeting. If other persons will attend the appointment with you, please be sure to let Dixie know, so that adequate seating can be arranged.
3. My Office Assistant is usually the one who maintains my calendar while in session. Because of demands made on a Legislator's time, there may be times when I have several events/activities scheduled during the same time slot. My Office Assistant will assist you in finding a time that is mutually convenient for you to meet with me.

Kansas State Library Information

Kansas Day - January 29th

On January 29, 1861, Kansas became the 34th state. Explore the Kansas Territorial period through the Civil War with the **Kansas History** database. You'll find everything from digitized letters, maps and personal accounts, to photos, sermons and songs. Use Browse to scroll through the topics, Search, or click on one of five broad categories for an overview of the early Kansas years. Educators: each of the five categories includes an essay with corresponding primary source documents. <https://kslib.info/kshistory>

The **Kansas Constitution**, including the Ordinance, Preamble, and Bill of Rights, is available to print in a pocket-sized version from the State Library's website <https://kslib.info/constitution>. Just click on the link and follow the instructions. A helpful diagram shows how to fold and where to cut to assemble your pocket-sized constitution. Be sure you print double sided and check "flip on the long edge". A long reach stapler is helpful, but not necessary. Need help? Just Ask a Librarian - <https://kslib.info/Ask> .

Early Learning Resources from the State Library

BookFlix is an online resource for children in grades PreK-3 that pairs video storybooks with related nonfiction e-books. Imagine *Curious George* paired with a nonfiction book about monkeys. The read-along storybook highlights each word as it is read. This option can be turned off. Related word games and puzzles reinforces early learning reading skills. *BookFlix* requires Flash.

Britannica E-Stax (PreK-6) features nonfiction books that can be read online or downloaded to any Internet enabled device.

Both are available at no charge through the State Library's web site <http://kslib.info/storytime> .

If the page above asks for a Kansas Library eCard number, you may get one at any library in Kansas. Most people will be automatically recognized as inside Kansas and will not need this step. Questions: kslc@ks.gov or 785-296-3296.

Special Events

The League of Ks Municipalities & Ks Association of Counties members were in Topeka this past week. Mayor Linda Morse and Jared Wassinger came to my office.

The Public Accountants Association was also in town. Also several Mental Health workers were in town.

Keep in touch

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I both 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, or www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org

Proudly representing you in the Capitol

Sydney Carlin, 66th District