



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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2018 Republican State Convention

The 2018 Republican State Convention is being held this weekend in Wichita starting Friday at the Hyatt Regency.

Washington Days

The Kansas Democratic Party's annual convention, Washington Days, will be held at the Downtown Topeka Ramada on March 2nd and 3rd, 2018. It's the largest gathering of Democrats in the state and a guaranteed good time. Washington Days includes a rally, caucus meetings, a luncheon, a cocktail reception, and much more. The keynote speaker this year will be Paul Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, Indiana. He will speak on Saturday evening at Topeka High School.

[Find the schedule and answers to frequently asked questions here.](#)

UAS (Drones) Pilot Program Stimulates Local Economy

Kansas is expected to rank in the top ten states to profit from Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). Kansas was the first state to the UAS program has helped revolutionize both the Agriculture and Search and Rescue industries. All 138 airports and 37 higher education institutions extensively use a UAS system.

Kansas State Polytechnic has recognized the importance of providing students with research opportunities, cutting edge technology and new technology. Kansas State was one of the first institutions in the U.S. to allow students to participate in actual missions. The UAS program has access to restricted airspace at the Smoky Hill Weapons Range and has authorization to fly unmanned aircraft in the National Airspace System. Large and small businesses, as well as universities, generate over 3,700 jobs and \$2.9 billion dollars in economic development to the state of Kansas.

Source: *AUVSI Economic Impact Study 2013*

Pet Animal Act

HB 2477: Relates to the Kansas Pet Animal Act. It was passed out of the Agriculture and Natural Resource committee favorably with the following amendments:

- Licensure will not be required if an individual has a written and signed agreement to provide temporary care for one or more dogs or cats owned by an animal shelter.
- Animal shelters in first class cities (Manhattan is a first-class city) license fee will not exceed \$400.
- Animal shelters in second class cities license fee will not exceed \$335
- Animal shelters in third class cities license fee will not exceed \$285
- If the owner can't make their premise ready for inspection within 30 minutes before the inspection, a \$200 fine will be issued.
- If the owner of the premise fails to pass inspection a \$200 fine will be issued to the owner.

Medicaid Expansion Hearing

- A hearing was held on Wednesday in the Senate Health and Public Welfare Committee on Senate Bill (SB) 38. The bill, titled the [KanCare Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Program](#), would expand Medicaid services. SB 38 would expand Medicaid services to include adult applicants under 65 years of age, who are not pregnant and whose income does not exceed 133.0 percent of the federal poverty level (\$16,040 for a single individual or \$32,718 for a family of 4).
- Medicaid expansion passed through both the Kansas House and Senate last year but was vetoed by then-Governor Sam Brownback.

Bills Discussed on the Floor

This week, the House worked several bills on the floor. All of which passed through the chamber:

HB 2444: Repeals language that prohibited the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs or the State Employee Retirement System) from investing in companies with operations in Sudan and related reporting requirements to the Legislature.

HB 2456: Amends the statute governing probation term limits and overall case length limits in the Kansas Revised Juvenile Justice Code to clarify that when such limits are tolled due to the offender absconding from supervision while on probation.

HB 2505: Clarifies when a mayor is considered a member of a governing body based on the form of government utilized by a city. Manhattan is a first-class city and therefore can make their own decision.

HB 2506: Allows cities, as well as certain organizations as authorized by current law, to take temporary possession of abandoned property for purposes of rehabilitating the property.

HB 2476: Creates and amends law related to the sale of alcoholic candy and to the sale of domestic beer in refillable containers. The bill would define “alcoholic candy” as any candy or other confectionary product with an alcohol content greater than 0.5 percent alcohol by volume.

HB 2547: Extends the terms of current Kansas State Fair Board members to expire on October 15 in the year in which the member’s term would have expired.

Criminal Investigation into Kansas Juvenile Complex Superintendent

After the mishandling by the Kansas Department of Corrections of an incident involving the Topeka Juvenile Complex Superintendent, Kansas Democrats in the legislature held a press conference to bring the issue to light. The Superintendent allegedly assaulted a female subordinate at work in front of several witnesses. The KDOC Secretary, Joe Norwood, and the Secretary of Administration, Sarah Shipman, both said the incident had been handled appropriately. Thursday, the Topeka Police Department issued a citation of battery. Just fifteen minutes prior to the Democratic press conference -- also on Thursday -- the Superintendent was reassigned from the Topeka complex to the central complex. Democrats called for his removal from state employment.

Governor Announces Lt. Governor

Tuesday evening – two weeks after his inauguration – Governor Colyer announced his pick for Lieutenant Governor. The new Lt. Governor is Tracey Mann, a Salina businessman who aligned himself with the birther movement and the denial of climate change. Lt. Governor Mann ran a failed campaign for Congress in Kansas’ first district in 2010, losing the primary to Tim Huelskamp.

Influenza

The influenza (flu) virus is common and unpredictable. At least 101 children died from the flu during 2016-2017 nationally. Over 200,000 people were hospitalized nationwide due to complications from the flu. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends annual flu shots for people ages six months and older. Some people however, need a double dose of the influenza vaccine. The following children will require 2 doses of influenza vaccine, administered at least 4 weeks apart, for the 2017-18 season:

- Children aged 6 months through 8 years who have never been vaccinated against influenza or for whom vaccination history is unknown.
- Children aged 6 months through 8 years who have not received at least 2 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2017.

The best way to protect children from the flu is to get vaccinated for the flu.

Sources: [Kansas Child Care Aware](#); [CDC](#); [Kansas Department of Health & Environment](#)

[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: Mar. 7, for 4 students. To become a Page you must be 12 years of age or older.

[Black History Month](#)

Throughout the duration of February, we celebrate Black History Month.

“The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to ‘seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.’”

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[Special Events/Visitors to my Office](#)



Rep. Carlin & John Allard visiting at the Older Kansans Day on Tuesday, February 13 at the Capitol.



Senator Hawk & Rep. Carlin visited with the Older Kansans Day representatives.

Other Groups Visiting the Capitol this past week:

Community Mental Health Centers Advocacy Day
Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees
Kansas Occupational Therapists Association (KOTA)

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

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