



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

Session Break for Easter
Arming Teachers
School funding Bill Kicked out of Committee
Constitutional Amendment Introduced

This Week on the Floor
Kansas State Library Information
Special Events/Visitors to my office
Keep In Touch

Session Break for Easter

We are not in the Capitol Building today as we are on Easter Break. We will be back on Monday, April 2, 2018.

Arming Teachers

On Monday, the House Insurance Committee had a hearing on [HB 2789](#). The bill would create an act making teachers first responders in the case of a school shooting. If this bill should pass, it would encourage firearms in classrooms. Teachers would be allowed to carry concealed firearms in schools, with the logic that in a shooting, these teachers would be able to stop an active shooter.

I had a lot of messages from my district about HB 2789. The bill would allow educators & emergency responders to conceal carry on the job. It would make school districts liable if they were presumably sued following a school shooting. I want to do what ever I can to stop school shootings from happening. This bill did not make it out of committee, we are still searching for the best answers.

School Funding Bill Kicked out of Committee

Late Wednesday evening, the House K-12 Budget Committee kicked out a bill to fund schools. The Kansas Supreme Court struck down SB 19 last October, ruling it unconstitutional, and giving the legislature an April 30, 2018, deadline to present an adequate and equitable school funding plan.

Republican leadership commissioned a study to be done by Dr. Lori Taylor, which they hoped would provide an idea of how much money would be necessary to satisfy the Court. However, upon the presentation of that study, those same Republicans denounced the findings, which concluded that Kansas schools use their dollars efficiently and that more money is directly correlated with better student performance.

The bill kicked out of the K-12 Education Budget Committee would appropriate \$500 million dollars to schools, to be phased in over a five-year period. It is unclear whether the Kansas Supreme Court would find this amount constitutional.

Constitutional Amendment Introduced

In the House Taxation Committee, a Constitutional amendment was introduced that would strip the Kansas Supreme Court of any role in deciding what is deemed a suitable provision for finance of the educational interests of the state. The amendment – which would first have to pass both legislative chambers with a two-thirds majority before being placed on the ballot in August or November – gives the legislature the sole power to interpret the Kansas Constitution and decide how much money is enough money for schools.

Republican leadership has been in open defiance of the Court throughout the *Gannon* case over insufficient and inequitable funding for Kansas schools. This would remove the Courts from the equation.

This Week on the House Floor

This week, the House worked several bills on the Floor. Some of these are listed below.

[To view all of the bills worked in the House this week, click here.](#)

SB 328: Creates and amends law related to security operations of state correctional and juvenile correctional facilities, and would create law related to Department of Corrections participation in the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System as an eligible employer for certain employees. *Passed as amended.*

SB 281: Amends the Protection from Stalking or Sexual Assault Act to apply to victims of human trafficking. *Passed as amended.*

H Sub for SB 374: Amends law concerning driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. Specifically, the bill would amend statutes governing the crimes of operating or attempting to operate a commercial motor vehicle under the influence; implied consent; and tests of blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substance. The bill also would repeal the crime of test refusal. *Substitute passed.*

H Sub for SB 391: Establishes the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force. *Sent to Conference Committee.*

HB 2773: Creates the Kansas Safe and Secure Schools Act. *Passed the House, Senate sent to Ways & Means Committee.*

H Sub for SB 307: Amends the Kansas Amusement Ride Act. *Sent to Conference Committee.*

SB 282: Amends the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and certain statutes pertaining to crimes involving controlled substances. The bill would amend the definition of "marijuana" and authorize the sale of certain CBD (cannabidiol) products with "0" THC. *Sent to Conference Committee.*

HB 2644: Exempts postsecondary educational institutions that have implemented a performance agreement with the State Board of Regents from the performance-based budgeting requirements. *Passed the House, Senate sent to Education Committee.*

SB 394: Expands the definition of "lobbying" to include lobbying of the executive and judicial branches and make related changes. *Be Passed as Amended.*

H Sub for SB 57: Amends the qualifications for candidacy for several statewide elected offices. The bill would require every candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and State Commissioner of Insurance be a qualified elector of Kansas. The bill also would require a candidate for the office of the Attorney General to be licensed to practice law in Kansas. *Stricken from the Calendar.*

SB 331: Adds to the list of designated state parks the 100-mile-long Flint Hills Trail State Park located in Miami, Franklin, Osage, Lyon, Morris, and Dickinson counties, and the 200 acres in Logan County Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park located in Logan County. *SB 331 Recommended as amended, favorable for passage, Sent to Conference Committee.*

Kansas State Library Information

Job & Career Accelerator is an integrated online career and job search resource. With this job hunting system provided by the State Library of Kansas, you can create professional resumes and cover letters, practice and master interviewing skills, and along the way get job search tips and advice. Using Career Match take a quiz to learn what occupations are the best matches based on your skills and interests. Students have easy access to job and internship opportunities. <https://www.kslib.info/JCA>

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. Easy registration and self-supplied password is necessary in order to save your work and revisit any practice tests or tutorials. Questions: kslc@ks.gov or 785-296-3296.

Special Events/Visitors to my Office

Visitors to the Capitol this week:

- Women' History Month
- Interhab Advocacy Day – visitors Rudy and Lauren Haun came to visit
- Literacy Day at the Capitol



Page Jackie Johnson
3/28/18 – with Governor
Colyer and Rep Carlin

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

My Legislative Facebook Page>>RepSydneyCarlin

My Twitter Account>> @RepCarlin

My Website>> SydneyCarlinforKansas.com