



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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The 2018 Kansas Legislative Session is over. Here’s a wrap-up of the policy and happenings at the Capitol in our final week. Sine Die, the last day of session, was May 4.

Education Bill Revisited

Over the period between the end of the regular 2018 session and veto session, it was discovered that Republican Rep. Clay Aurand’s amendment to [HB 2445](#), the education finance bill signed by the governor, created an \$85 M hole in the plan.

The amendment would have caused Kansas schools to lose roughly \$85 M in the first year of the finance plan, also increasing the unconstitutional likelihood of the funding levels.

The House took up [SB 61](#), a new bill to “fix” HB 2445. House Democrats again tried to add more funding to the bill, as it is probable that it will be found unconstitutional by the Kansas Supreme Court. These efforts were again quashed by House Republicans. The bill passed 92-27 in the House.

On Monday, the Senate passed SB 61 as well, and the Governor Colyer has signed. The Kansas Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of the education finance plan before or on June 30, 2018.

2018/2019 Budget

The Kansas Legislature passed a budget for fiscal years (FY) 2018 and 2019, [SB 109](#).

1,900,000	KSU
845,506	Extension
<u>284,069</u>	Vet Med
\$3,029,575	TOTAL

To try to fix the pay issues from last year, the following 12.6M adjustments were made:

- ❖ 5% salary increase to state employees not included in 2017 adj
- ❖ 2.5% salary adj to state employees who received 2017 adj
- ❖ 5% salary adj pool for Judicial Branch Non-Judicial Staff and a 2% salary increase for judges
- ❖ 5% salary adj for Corrections Uniformed Personnel
- ❖ 15M (Restored 64% of 2017 cuts) Higher Ed
- ❖ Increased support for Tech Education
- ❖ 2.7M OITS (Office of Information Technology Services & Cyber Security upgrades)
- ❖ 200K Meals on Wheels
- ❖ 7% increase in Medicaid for Nursing Homes plus new Surveyor positions
- ❖ \$3.25Million for Kansas Water Plan
- ❖ Mental Health funding for Osawatomie, Larned, Community Mental Health Centers, Youth home facilities, and more
- ❖ 3M in 2018 WIGME and 5.9M in 2019 WIGME to fund medical residency program at Wichita State
- ❖ \$535,000 to continue the Registered Nursing Program at Emporia State
- \$1M in 2018 Tiny K and \$1M in 2019 Tiny K funding
- Parents As Teachers, \$750,000
- \$750,000 Workers Apprenticeship Program in Department of Commerce
- \$250,000 for Older Kansan Employment Program Department of Commerce

- \$82M KPERS payments and an additional \$56M year 2018 and 2019 if revenues are sufficient
 - ❖ Funding to complete the 23 remaining projects in TWorks Program for Highways
- [Read the full budget here.](#)

Transparency Initiatives Advance

On Monday, the House passed [SB 336](#), a bundled bill consisting of four other previously passed bills. These include [HB 2728](#), [HB 2571](#), [HB 2700](#), and [SB 295](#).

SB 336 accomplishes several things:

- Amends the statute in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children governing access to information concerning a child alleged or adjudicated to be in need of care and child fatalities. The Department of Children and Families must make public the records of child deaths under their care.
- Amends the statute governing disclosure of audio or video recordings made and retained by law enforcement using a body camera or a vehicle camera (law enforcement recordings). Body camera footage must be made accessible, within a reasonable amount of time, to both the public and to related family members of the person(s) recorded.
- Amends the law related to the disclosure of personal information on public records to require the redaction of all portions of an individual's social security number on any document or record before it is made available for public inspection or copying.
- Extends and eliminates certain Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) exceptions.

Discrimination Bill Passes House

On Thursday, despite overwhelming opposition to the bill, [SB 284](#) (originally a bill regarding the Kansas Money Transmitter Act that was gutted and stuffed with [HB 2481](#)), passed the House with a slim margin of 63-58.

This bill, disguised as "religious freedom" legislation, also passed through the Senate Thursday, and now heads to the Governor to be signed into law. SB 284 allows taxpayer dollars to be used to discriminate against Kansans who want to adopt who don't meet the criteria set by certain agencies – discriminated based on religion, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other criteria set forth. Every single Democrat in the Kansas House stood against this bill, and will continue to stand up for the rights of every Kansan.

Kansas State Library Information

Summer reading is right around the corner! The State Library has reading resources for all ages. Audiobooks, ebooks, and digital storybooks can be downloaded to personal devices. These are available to all Kansas residents. Visit <https://kslib.info/digitalbooks> to learn more. Since there is more than one option and some services may not work with all devices, we recommend clicking the "Instructions & Devices" link. Choose your device, and you'll see which services work with it along with an instructions link. Most will need a Kansas Library eCard, which you may get at any public, school, or academic library in Kansas. Need help with setup? Call 785-296-3296 or email kslc@ks.gov.

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 in the Capitol will be closed until January 2019. You can reach me at my address, 1650 Sunny Slope Lane, Manhattan, KS 66502 or by calling me at (785) 341-7455. 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

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