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News from the Capitol



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2021 Legislative Update Week #6

February 15 - February 19, 2021

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HotJobs

The new Manhattan/Junction City area Hot Jobs list may be found [here](#). They are also holding state-wide virtual job fairs.



Honor Some Teens

OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE TEENS IN YOUR COMMUNITY WITH \$5K

Join the Invisalign® brand in their search for **100** deserving teens dedicated to making a difference in their communities to be recognized as Invisalign® ChangeMakers!

Each of these teens will be celebrated at a virtual event and awarded **\$5,000 cash** to fund their service projects or help support their educational or personal goals. Help us celebrate those making a difference by sharing with the teens and parents in your life!

All teens ages 13 – 19 can apply now through March 31, 2021 by sharing how they're creating positive change in their communities, schools and world.

Frozen

This week Governor Kelly issued a State of Disaster Emergency due to wind chill warnings and stress on utility and natural gas providers. The Emergency Declaration authorizes the use of state resources and personnel to assist with response and recovery operations in affected counties. Fortunately, the sub-zero temperatures seem to be behind us, and hopefully warmer weather will take its place.

Governor Kelly also announced her plan to safely bring Kansas students back to in-person learning. On the House side, committees resumed and acted on sixteen bills. In the coming weeks, we anticipate working critical issue bills such as medical marijuana and addressing the Kansas Emergency Management Act (KEMA).

Back to School

Wednesday, Governor Laura Kelly announced her back to school plan which is committed to ensuring that schoolteachers and staff are given priority vaccination status in every county. This is a critical step in getting our kids back into the classrooms.

Counties will receive additional vaccine doses earmarked for K-12 teachers and staff and will provide free testing supplies that produce results in about 15 minutes. This combination of vaccinations, quick return testing, masks and social distancing will help bring back in-person learning to our schools.

Committee Work

Appropriations

This week was a busy one for me in [Appropriations](#). We reported out numerous budget reports including those for the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas State Fair Board. We also held hearings on [SB 1](#), which gives the State Fair Board additional state funds to continue payroll in hopes of having a Fair this fall. We passed out to the full House [HB 2101](#) to extend, for 10 more years, the University Engineering Initiative Fund that Kansas State University, Kansas University and Wichita State use to attract students and faculty.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

This week the [Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee](#) finished our budget recommendations for the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Environment Division), the Kansas Corporation Commission, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT). During deliberations we recommended approval of Governor Kelly's ERO to move the Division of Tourism from KDWPT to the Department of Commerce.

Agriculture

In the [Agriculture Committee](#) we held hearings on [SB 39](#) and [SB 40](#). These were bills passed by the full House last year but were lost in the Senate because our session was abruptly shortened by COVID.

Now that the two-year Kansas Industrial Hemp Research Program has ended, we passed [HB 2244](#) to shift the inspection and authority over legally growing Hemp for production in Kansas from the Kansas Department of Agriculture to the Kansas State Fire Marshall. We also passed [SB 27](#) to extend the Kansas Storage Tank Act.

Around The Dome

Final Action

This week the full House debated and passed the following bills (Final Vote, my Vote):

- [HB 2178](#) - vacating certain blocks in the original town plat set aside for a college and a park in the city of Americus and vesting fee simple title in the city **(121-1), Yes.**
- [HB 2187](#) - Enacting the first-time home buyer savings account act **(119-3), Yes.**
- [HB 2070](#) - Allowing certain private not-for-profit postsecondary educational institutions to recoup credit card fees by permitting a surcharge for credit card transactions in the same manner as municipal universities, community colleges, technical colleges and vocational educational schools **(119-3), Yes.**
- [HB 2087](#) - Limiting the review of certain rules and regulations by the director of the budget **(109-13), Yes.**
- [HB 2115](#) - Establishing the joint committee on child welfare system oversight **(118-4), Yes.**
- [HB 2158](#) - Making permanent provisions for the advisory committee on trauma and the statewide trauma system regional council to conduct closed meetings and keep privileged records regarding trauma cases **(121-1), Yes.**
- [HB 2172](#) - Modifying water usage calculations and fees for multi-year flex accounts and permitting alternative base average water use calculations and prorated terms **(122-0), Yes.**
- [HB 2096](#) - Authorizing department of corrections employees, local correctional or detention officers, judicial branch employees, municipal court employees and administrative hearing officers to have identifying information restricted from public

access on public websites that identify home addresses or home ownership **(122-0), Yes.**

- [HB 2007](#) - Updating motor carrier laws and the regulation of motor carriers by the state corporation commission **(122-0), Yes.**
- [HB 2076](#) - Clarifying that bond agents seeking discharge as a surety are required to return the person released on bond to the court in the county where the complaint subject to the bond was filed **(122-0), Yes.**
- [HB 2104](#) - Modifying the sales tax exemption for construction materials by allowing certain educational institutions a sales tax exemption for purchases thereof **(114-8), No.**
- [HB 2114](#) - Establishes the Kansas senior care task force **(113-8), Yes.**
- [HB 2124](#) - Clarifies the authority of healing arts school clinics to provide healing arts services **(121-0), Yes.**
- [HB 2155](#) - Provides for department of health and environment response operations for water and soil pollutant release, discharge, or escape **(85-36), No.**
- [HB 2151](#) - Creates Kansas elder and dependent adult abuse multidisciplinary teams and a coordinator **(121-0), Yes.**
- [HB 2125](#) - Allows a copy of a will to be filed and admitted to probate and allows a will or a copy of a will filed within six months after the death of the testator to be admitted to probate at any time **(118-3), Yes.**

Upcoming Issues

We are almost halfway through the 2021 Legislative Session and have many important issues to address. Below are some issues expected to come up in the coming weeks.

- The Kansas Emergency Management Act reauthorizing the Governor to declare Emergencies.
- [SB 22](#) – (a Brownback Tax plan copy 2.0) - cutting taxes for giant corporations that return to Kansas from other countries but not for hardworking Kansas families.
- [SB 61/HB 2068](#) and [HB 2119](#) - education bills that would funnel tax funds to private schools and away from public education that serve all Kansas children.
- [HB 2058](#) and [HB 2059](#) - gun bills that would allow individuals from other states to carry guns in Kansas.

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 our community and the state government. Please contact me with your comments and questions.

My office address is Room 451-S, 300 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612.

You may reach my office at (785) 296-7657, or the legislative hotline (800) 432-3924 to leave a message.

[Email](mailto:sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov) at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov

Please follow [my legislative activity](#) or the [entire session](#).


Thank you!

Sydney Carlin

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 #RepSydneyCarlin

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