



News from the Capitol

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Legislative Update - Week #8

March 6 - March 8, 2019

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Kansas Works - Hot Jobs Listings

Attached [here](#) is the weekly Hot Jobs List from KansasWorks for the Manhattan area. Statewide listings may be found [here](#).

Page Information

If you have a student that would like to be a page for the Legislature, please contact my office at 785.296.7657, or via [email](#). Dates are available in March. To serve as a page you must be 12 years of age or older.

Save The Date - Saturday, March 30th at 7:30 am

It was great to see all those who joined us for the February Legislative Coffee sponsored by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. I urge all of you to save the date for the next meeting: **Saturday, March 30th at 7:30 am at the Sunset Zoo Visitor's Center.**

To Voice Your Opinion

If you have concerns about any bills or Legislative activity, do not hesitate to contact myself and/or the respective leadership. Once a bill has passed through the legislature, it is not law until the Governor signs the bill. Contact information for respective leaders follows:

HOUSE

Speaker of the House

[Ron Ryckman](#) - 785.296.2302



House Majority Leader

[Daniel Hawkins](#) - 785.296.7662



SENATE

Senate President

[Susan Wagle](#) - 785.296.2419

Senate Vice President

[Jeff Longbine](#) - 785.296.7361



Governor

[Laura Kelly](#) - 785.368.8500



Among those bills "blessed" and still alive are:

[HB 2173](#) - **The Industrial Hemp Act**

[HB 2066](#) - **Updating requirements for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses**

We now wait potential committee action, or for the Speaker to place these bills before the House for a vote.

Turnaround

With last week's "Turnaround" the legislature adjourned for an extended mid-session break. The House was only in session three days this week, thus this week's newsletter will be short. However, this allows for the chance to more closely examine important issues plaguing the legislature this session.

[SB 22](#): Brownback Tax Plan is Back

On Friday, March 8th, the House voted largely along GOP party lines to pass SB 22 by a vote of 76-43. This corporate tax giveaway is a continuation of the failed revenue experiment

inflicted upon the state by former Governor Brownback. The first year alone, it is expected to cost the state \$209.1 million in lost revenue and nearly \$4.0 million in administrative costs. Our state's financial situation is tenuous at best, and I believe there are far better ways for us to rebuild Kansas, than a tax giveaway to a select few: the super-rich.

The House Taxation Committee did amend the original [SB 22](#), by reversing the "Gut-n-Go" legislation process. Instead of stripping a bill of its original language, they "Combined to Coerce and Confuse." They added language from [HB 2261](#) and [HB 2352](#), reducing sales tax on food and taxing internet sales and use tax respectively. This was done in attempt to dress up the original bill, and make it more difficult for Governor Kelly to veto. While [HB 2261](#) and [HB 2352](#) deserve to be debated individually, attempting to package [SB 22](#) as a cost saver for working class families is deception at its worst.

On the House floor, Democratic amendments were attempted. These included reinstating working class deductions, eliminating the corporate tax handout, and an increase of the food sales tax rate reduction; all of which failed to receive any Republican support. [SB 22](#) remains a disastrous return to the failed Brownback tax plan that bankrupted our state.

Department of Corrections Budget

Wednesday, March 6th, the Appropriations Committee was given the budget report for the Department of Corrections. At a time when the Governor has declared a state of emergency at the El Dorado Correctional Facility, due to staff shortages and prison riots, it seems a good time to look at this budget.

In 2013, the Department of Corrections spent \$1.7 million in overtime expenses. FY2018 saw overtime costs rise to \$8.2 million, and FY2019 is already over \$5.0 million for its first half alone. One has to ask themselves "Why?" The answer is the Brownback budget policy. The Department of Corrections (and other agencies) were forced to leave a high percentage of vacant jobs unfilled to meet budget constraints. This means 411 positions are unfilled, about 25% of the uniformed officer positions at El Dorado. These vacancies create dangerous living conditions for the inmate population, and an exhausting working environment for the staff. This issue, along with education funding, social services, foster care, mental health funding, Highway construction, and others, are why I cannot justify voting to give away hundreds of millions in multinational corporate tax breaks.

Upcoming Legislation

The House has the following bills scheduled for hearings:

March 12 - [SB 49](#): Allows the secretary of the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism to establish fees for cabins and camping permits at state parks. ([Agriculture Committee](#))

March 13 - [HCR 5009](#): Making application to the US Congress to call a Convention of

States. ([Federal and State Affairs Committee](#))

March 14 - [SB 113](#): Legalized Medical Cannabis ([Public Health and Welfare](#))

If you would like to provide testimony or input, contact the respective committee chair.

The remainder of session will be spent voting on Senate bills and finalizing the budget.

My committee's schedules and pending issues may be found below.

[House Appropriations Committee](#)

[House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget](#)

[House Agriculture Committee](#)



This week it was a pleasure meeting with students from the Kansas State School for the Deaf. Both educators and students visited the Capitol meeting with Legislators about their areas of concern.



In honor of International Women's Day on March 8th, the Representatives Winn and Carlin sponsored [HR 6014](#) recognizing the day and its "Better the Balance, Better the World Message." Appearing with the legislators were 14 women presented by the co-sponsors as international women making a difference in their new home state of Kansas.



Governor Kelly and Dr. Hira Nair, one of those mentioned on the House Floor in conjunction with [HR 6014](#).

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 Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612.

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

Email at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov

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

Thank you!

Sydney Carlin

Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative



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