



News from the Capitol

Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative

Room 451-S, State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612
785.296.7657

1650 Sunny Slope Lane
Manhattan, KS 66502
785.539.6612

Legislative Update - Week #9

March 11 - March 15, 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](#). **March 20th** is the final page date for the session. 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.**

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:

[Laura Kelly](#)

Governor

785.368.8500



HOUSE

[Ron Ryckman](#)

[Daniel Hawkins](#)

Speaker of the House

785.296.2302



House Majority Leader

785.296.7662



SENATE

[Susan Wagle](#)

Senate President

785.296.2419



[Jeff Longbine](#)

Senate Vice President

785.296.7361



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.

[SB 32](#) - Allows the Kansas Farm Bureau Association Health Plan

This week, the House Insurance Committee held a hearing on [SB 32](#). This bill would allow the Kansas Farm Bureau to create and market, non-ACA compliant health coverage plans. These plans are a new type of Association Health Plan, which the ACA eliminated because of limited coverage and questionable financial positions. It also exempts the plan from oversight by the Insurance Commissioner, which would leave participants with few options for review of denied claims.

The House Rural Caucus met on Tuesday, March 12th and heard arguments against the bill from representatives of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS). When pressed by Representative Carlin, the speakers from BCBSKS, explained their opposition due to new rules issued by the Trump Administration regarding [association health plans \(AHPs\)](#). The new rules allow AHPs to form without being fully-funded, increasing the risk of insolvency and leaving insured people without recourse or coverage. It also allows AHPs to cover less than required services under the ACA including: preexisting conditions, autism diagnosis and care, and pediatric care. This would create an uneven playing field and further destabilize the limited insurance offerings for the state of Kansas.

On Thursday, the [House Insurance Committee](#), tabled the bill for reflection. It is currently scheduled to be worked on **Monday, March 18th**. Interested parties should reach out to the Chairman and members of that committee.

[SB 142 and HB 2395 - School Funding for FY 2020 and FY 2021](#)

Late on Thursday, March 14th, the Senate approved [SB 142](#), which covers K-12 education spending on a 32-8 vote. The bill is in line with Governor Kelly's education plan, and will add roughly \$92 million into the general state aid to public school funding. It is hoped these funds will meet the Kansas Supreme Court's order to provide "adequate" funding for K-12 education. The bill will now be sent to the House for approval. House Democrats have repeatedly advocated to address school funding this session, and are eager to resolve the cycle of litigation and provide Kansas children with the quality education they deserve.

[HB 2395](#), sponsored by House Republicans, worked its way through the House K-12 Education Budget Committee. It is a private school voucher bill, poorly disguised as a public-school funding bill. It would remove hundreds of millions of dollars from base state aid. It would make policy changes and cut money from schools, all but guaranteeing an unconstitutional ruling is passed. It also allows for students who suffer from "bullying" to be allowed to transfer to schools outside their residential districts. This is ludicrous, if anyone should leave because of bullying, it is the perpetrators of the bullying not the victims.

[SB 22 - Brownback Tax Plan 2.0 Update](#)

Thursday, the Senate concurred with the House amended [SB 22](#) on a 24-16 vote. This bill is a massive tax giveaway to giant multi-national corporations. It now heads to the Governor's desk for signature or veto. The Governor issued this statement shortly after the Senate's passage:

"Just two short years ago, the state of Kansas was on the brink of financial disaster. Our state faced a massive, self-inflicted budget crisis that caused three credit downgrades and devastating budget cuts. The consequences of those cuts were real and painful...In

2017, we defied the odds, acknowledged the mistake, and ended the experiment in historic act of bipartisanship. Since then, Kansas has seen a gradual recovery. My administration has only just begun to repaid the severe damage done in the last eight years.

Our recovery is tenuous; our budget is fragile. This is not the time to make significant changes to our tax code."

SB 49 - Allows the Parks Secretary to Establish Fees for Cabins and Campsites

[SB 49](#) authorizes the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism to establish fees for cabins operated by the department and camping permits at state parks. It changes the current method of rate adjustments being made at public meetings held six times a year, and allows the Secretary to use dynamic scoring/pricing. This allows for 10% rate fluctuations based on demand for state park accommodations. This will apply to campsite rentals for nightly to two week periods. It does**NOT** include rates for annual leases. Secretary Loveless acknowledged the recent \$100 annual increase, and stated the department does not foresee future increases anytime soon. It also does not impact existing reservations, once they are confirmed rate cannot be increased.

HB 2066 - Requirements Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

This bill has aroused strong feeling from many of you in the district. On Thursday, March 14th, the House Health and Human Services Committee amended the bill, the updated version may be found [here](#).

FY 2019 Budget

I have received numerous emails regarding budget proposals for FY 2019 and FY 2020. House Democrats are making tough but fiscally responsible choices across all agencies and departments. The Republican tax cut takes \$200 million out of our budget for FY 2020. While we wait to learn whether this bill becomes law, and actual state revenue is known; we continue to work towards final budgets that will be approved in May.

Bills of Interest

The House has the following bills scheduled for hearings:

March 18: [HB 2396](#) - Allowing use of certified drug abuse treatment programs for certain offenders convicted of unlawful cultivation or distribution of controlled substances. ([Corrections and Juvenile Justice](#))

March 18: [SB 162](#) - Requiring notification to the governor and legislature of missing foster care youth. ([Children and Seniors](#))

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](#)

Office Visits



Tuesday, March 12th, the House recognized the Small Business Development Center's Businesses of the Year. The Winged Lion in Manhattan was among the honorees. Pictured left to right: Laurie Piper, SBDC Advisor; Senator Tom Hawk; Ralph Diaz, The Winged Lion Owner, and Representative Sydney Carlin.



The weekly House Democrats summit on March 14th hosted the Kansas City based Mexican Consulate delegate. Members were provided a presentation with such facts: 2018 saw Mexico become Kansas' largest export market and that 18.2% of Kansas exports go to Mexico.



Case managers and clients from Pawnee Mental Health were at the Capitol on March 14th to advocate for Medicaid expansion and budget increases for disability programs. Pictured left to right: Anna Wells, Charles Boyce, Dennis Cyre, Representative Carlin, Glenn Lewellen, Cynthia Arganbright, Angela Hoopper, Norma Moore, Amanda Smith, and Jennifer Huerta. It was a pleasure to speak with all of you!



This past week, several Kansas House and Senate Democrats presented a resolution and hosted a press conference on the Keep Families Together Act. Resolution 1260 urges the federal government to end their separation and detainment practices of children and their families. The legislators felt compelled to speak out because it impacts many of their constituents.

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](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

Sydney Carlin - 66th District Representative



Our mailing address is:

Sydney Carlin

Kansas House of Representatives

300 SW 10th Street

Suite 451-S

Topeka, KS 66612