



Since we last mailed a newsletter the House version of the state budget for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 passed without a veto-proof majority.

SB 244, the transgender bathroom and license bill, went into effect. Transgender Kansans have begun receiving letters from the Division of Vehicles notifying them that starting Thursday their driver's licenses will be invalidated, if it reflects a different gender than a person's "sex at birth".

In the Capitol:

On February 25, Kansas Action for children organized advocates, childcare providers, and families gathered at the Kansas Capital for **Early Childhood Day**. The event focused on the importance of child-care policies and strong early-learning, emphasizing the ability of early-learning policy decisions can have on children's development, long term community outcomes, and family stability.

Veterans and Military Committee:

Veterans and Military heard **HB2732**, creating a law requiring the state registrar to maintain a roster of Kansas veterans with a service-connected disability to upon their death prepare death certifiers that would indicate that the disability was related to the death.

HB2214 which allows private companies to charge assisting veterans in seeking benefits for a percentage of the money they get each month. The Safeguarding America Veterans Empowerment (SAVE) Act, I offered an amendment to require accreditation and training of sales personnel which fail. The bill passed out of committee, I voted no.

Taxation Committee:

HB2408 (which I introduced a year ago at the request of Habitat board member Donna Schenk- Hamlin and Josh Brewer, Director) allows the house and the lot it sits upon to be appraised separately, if the home is owned by one and land by a land trust. This

allows the house to be sold by the homeowner at fair market value based on the contract. This passed without dissent and will now work its way through the Senate. The Tax committee passed **HB2745** which encourages property tax levies be held at or below a 3% increase each year. Rather than calling on an election regarding local budgets, it 1.) allows for a protest petition by the public when the budget exceeds 3%. 2.) It removes the Revenue Neutral Law. 3.) Requires the government to redo the budget to max 3% increase only if the petition is ruled valid/sufficient.

We heard **HB2162**, which would exclude the service of installing or applying tangible personal property for the reconstruction, restoration, remodeling, renovation, repair, or replacement of a building or facility from sales taxation.

Tax heard **HB2782** which would permit county appraisers to request lease agreements from taxpayers when valuing property for property tax purposes.

We also heard **SB434**, the bill would provide a new determination of disability for the purpose of certain retailer's sales tax exemptions.

SB197 was passed which renewed STAR Bonds for five years.

HB2406 passed of committee – expanding the Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment property tax exemption to include equipment acquired before June 30, 2006.

HB2470 also passed out of Taxation committee, it would allow municipalities of under 10,000 people to designate their entire city as a neighborhood revitalization area.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee:

Our budget committee worked well with the agencies and were able to negotiate with them and come out with most of their requests. I am pleased that we were able to add money for the arts, The Sunflower vacation plan and fully fund the State Water plan. KSU – the budget allotted \$11 million for debt service on the Vet Medicine Lab. Added \$28.7 M for community and technical colleges.

No employees raises have been awarded at this point – but I hope to see it approved by the conference committee.

Judiciary Committee:

House Judiciary committee held a hearing on **SB358**. Brave women constituents from our region testified before the committee requesting changes in sentencing law that

allowed the perpetrators against them to leave the court on bond after being convicted of Level 1,2,3, or 4 person felonies. I have been working with these victims for weeks and Senator Titus introduced it to the Senate. Where it passed then went to the Senate and passed 40-0. House Judiciary committee is voting on it today.

Federal and State Affairs Committee:

A hearing was held on **HB2771**, the bill expands Kansas Sheriff's ability to enter into agreements with Federal agencies. Authorizing local jails to honor ICE detainers and enter interlocal cooperation agreements without the county commissioner's approval. House Democrats on the committee raised constitutional and fiscal concerns.

An amendment granting immunity to law enforcement officers working with ICE detainers was adopted with reservations expressed about risk of increasing litigation risk and weakened accountability. While multiple amendments, including a bipartisan amendment to add warrant requirements, and limit detention time, were rejected.

Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee:

Commerce Labor and Economic Development held a hearing on **HB2768**, requiring landlords to accept multiple payments amounts for rent, as long as the full rent is paid on time. The bill aims to make rental housing more accessible for tenants, specifically those with varied streams of income.

On the House Floor: These bills will now move to the Senate.

On the floor we heard the budget bill, which passed by one of the closet votes in my tenure. **HB2434**, concerning supplemental appropriations for the 2026 fiscal year. As well as appropriations for the 2027 and 2028 fiscal years for various state agendas, certain capital improvement projects, transfer, and fees.

Much of the dissent centered on SPED funding, this is the 15th straight budget ignoring the SPED funding level requirements. SPED was not fully funded.

The SNAP error rate projects were not funded and \$10 million is withheld until soda and candy waiver is approved and implemented.

- **Voted no**

HB2329 would provide increased placement of juvenile offenders in non-foster home beds in youth residential facilities and require the secretary of corrections to pay for the costs associated with placements

- **Nonconcurrent**

HB2331 authorizes the disposition of unclaimed remains by district coroners and provides exemption from liability for actions.

- **Nonconcurrent**

The House voted to pass **HB2745** repealing the revenue neutral rate notice and hearing requirements for taxing jurisdictions

- **Voted yes**

On the floor we passed **HB2223** which modifies certain provisions of optometry law pertaining to the scope of practice, definitions, and credential requirements

- **Voted yes**

The House passed **HB2274**, designating Kansas as a Purple Heart state and allows homeless veterans to use alternative forms of identification and residency when applying for nondrivers identification cards.

- **Voted yes**

SB197 from Taxation committee was passed, the bill would extend the STAR Bonds Financing Act's sunset to July 1, 2031. The bill requires the project to attract 30% of visitors from at least 100 miles and 20% from outside of the state in order for the Secretary to approve the STAR project. Passed the house on 3/3/2026.

- **Voted yes**

HCR5033 was passed which ratifies and provides continuation of the state of emergency declaration issued on February 24, 2026, for certain counties, due to the recent fire.

- **Voted yes**

In Tax we continue to work to try and reform property tax for our constituents. **HB2757** is one approach being considered at this time

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about bills in this section please reach out to my office.

REMINDER:

All committee hearings and chamber proceedings can be found on the Kansas Legislature's [YouTube](#) page.

All legislation, committee membership, and meeting times can be found on the Kansas Legislature's [Website](#) page.

It is a pleasure to serve as your State Representative. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work with you on issues that matter most to our community.

Sydney Carlin
(66th District)