

# From the Dome to Home

Kansas House of Representatives

3/17/2023

House Appropriations, Chairman

## House Floor Action

This week the Kansas House of Representatives debated twelve bills on the House Floor.

Here are the details for some of the bills that we debated.

On Tuesday, we started with Senate Bill 83, which would establish Education Savings Accounts (ESA) allowing for public dollars to be utilized if the student attends a private school. This was one of the

House Bill 2225, which limits cost recovery for certain electric public utilities' transmission related costs.

Senate Bill 229, creating the legislative compensation commission and prescribing powers and duties of the commission and the legislature.

House Bill 242 eliminates the statutory qualifications listed for the chief inspector for boiler safety

*"I can't change the direction of the wind,  
but I can adjust my sails to always reach  
my destination."*

*Jimmy Dean*

most contentious bills that we heard so far this session. I voted "No" due to the reallocation of public dollars and the uncertainty this would have on our rural school districts. Senate Bill 83 passed 64-61.

Wednesday, we debated House Bill 2400 enacting the Kansas Adult Learner Grant Act to facilitate workforce development by providing grants and workforce retention incentive payments to adults who pursue baccalaureate degrees from eligible postsecondary educational institutions in certain fields of study.

appointed by the State Fire Marshall.

House Bill 2331 designates Lehigh Portland State Park in Allen County.

Thursday, we discussed House Bill 2247, which prohibits banks from requiring a cosigner for an account of a child in the custody of the Secretary of the Department of Children's and Families.

I voted "Yes" for all of the bills, except for House Bill 2247 and Senate Bill 83, I voted "No."

## Infrastructure Hub

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There has been much discussion regarding the \$220 million that Governor Kelly has in her budget for the Infrastructure Hub. The Infrastructure Hub would allow for the state to provide local match funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that was passed by the US Congress. These dollars would be used by local forms of governments, cities and counties, to submit for infrastructure projects. Those projects could include transportation, energy, power, broadband, water, sewer, resilience, and cybersecurity. The current estimate of federal funds that the state of Kansas will receive from BIL over five years is \$3.8 billion. The Infrastructure Hub will not select projects as the Federal agencies will make those selections. The Hub will, however, assist with projects where communities would otherwise be unable to apply due to a lack of local funding for the Federal match requirements or grant writing assistance. On Wednesday, March 15, we had an in depth briefing on the Hub.



## *Appropriations Committee*

This week, the House Appropriations Committee completed our work on the budget committee reports and held hearings on several bills.

Tuesday, March 14, we conducted two bill hearings. House Bill 2277 would increase the limitation on awards or bonuses for state employees within agencies and departments. House Bill 2449 provides that all members of statutory boards or commissions, who are authorized to receive compensation, will receive the per diem amount paid to legislators.

We also had an informational hearing regarding the medical center that is being considered by a joint effort with Wichita State University and the University of

Kansas. We then finished with the budget recommendations from Higher Education Budget Committee on Postsecondary Education. We continued with the budget recommendations on Wednesday, March 15, as well.

Also, on Wednesday, we held a briefing and the discussion on the Infrastructure Hub, as described earlier in the newsletter, though we also conducted a more in-depth discussion on the items in the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

Thursday, March 16, we held a hearing on House Bill 2418, eliminating certain statutory boards and commissions that no longer conduct meetings or have not met recently. We also had a briefing on the 2022 Interim Committee Report regarding State Employee and Board Member Compensation, a

committee that I served as Chairman during the interim.

Anytime that you would like to participate and listen to the developments of committee hearings or discussion on the House floor, you can tune in by video or audio at [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

As always, if you have any concerns, feel free to contact me (785) 296-7672, follow on twitter at @waymaster4house, or email me at [troy.waymaster@house.ks.gov](mailto:troy.waymaster@house.ks.gov).

It is a distinct honor to serve as your representative for the 109th Kansas House District and the state of Kansas. Please contact me with your thoughts, concerns, and questions. I always appreciate hearing from the residents of the 109th House District and others from the state of Kansas, as well.

*Representative Troy L. Waymaster represents the 109<sup>th</sup> Kansas House District.*

*Paid for by Troy L. Waymaster for Kansas House, James Malone, Treasurer.*

