

2026 SENATE SCENE – 1st Adjournment – Part 1

This week marked the final stretch of legislative activity before veto session. Early Friday morning, the Senate adjourned and will reconvene on April 9th. When we return, the Legislature will consider any bills vetoed by the Governor and perhaps review more tax bills and any remaining legislation needing to be looked at. While the wrap-up period is expected to be brief, a few key items remain.

APPOINTMENTS – Senate Confirmations

Harold Schorn: Nomination by the Governor to the Human Rights Commission. *Confirmed 39-0.*

Rodney Sheaba: Nomination by the Governor to be Brigadier General, Kansas National Guard. *Confirmed 39-0.*

Joseph Deeds: Nomination by the Governor to be Brigadier General, Kansas National Guard. *Confirmed 39-0.*

Paul Schneider: Nomination by the Governor to be Adjutant General. *Confirmed 39-0.*

Debbie Wilkerson: Nomination by the Governor to the University of Kansas Hospital Authority. *Confirmed 39-0.*

Mark Uhlig: Nomination by the Governor to the University of Kansas Hospital Authority. *Confirmed 39-0.*

Donald (Rick) Wiley: Nomination by the Governor to the Kansas Public Employee Relations Board. *Confirmed 39-0.*

SENATE FLOOR ACTION – Bills and Conference Committee Reports

As we worked through committee bills on the floor, we will also begin to have Conference Committee reports to vote on as well. A conference committee is a small, bipartisan, and bicameral committee that works to smooth out the differences between the House and Senate's version of a similar bill. Once the conference committee reaches a compromise, the negotiated bill is sent to both the House and Senate for a final vote before advancing to the governor's desk.

BUDGET SENT TO GOVERNOR

With the passage of [CCR 2513](#), the budget is now on its way to the governor, fulfilling the legislature's primary constitutional responsibility. Adopted on a vote of 23-16 in the Senate, the budget spends \$26.8 billion in total expenditures, including \$10.7 from the State General Fund. For details on the budget, please review the [Supplemental Note](#). *I voted yes.*

[HB 2416](#) creates the Kansas Motorsports Venue Protection Act, which is designed to protect racetracks and similar facilities from certain types of lawsuits. Specifically, if a racetrack was already established before nearby homes or developments were built, the bill shields the track from being sued over issues like noise or other "nuisance" complaints by those newer neighbors. In plain terms, if someone moves near an existing racetrack, they generally can't later sue to shut it down or claim it's a problem just because of its normal operations. However, the track can still be sued if it's breaking laws, violating permits, or hasn't been actively operating in recent years. Overall, the bill is meant to provide certainty for racetrack owners by protecting long-standing venues from legal challenges tied to new development, while still holding them accountable for following the law. *Passed 38-2. I voted yes.*

[HB 2378](#): creates the Removal of Squatters Act to help property owners deal with people who are living in a home without permission. Under the bill, an owner (or their agent) can file a sworn affidavit with law enforcement stating that someone is unlawfully occupying the property. From there, the sheriff can issue a notice to vacate and remove the person without requiring the owner to go through the full, often lengthy eviction court process. *Passed 39-1. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2528](#) is a sweeping reform of the Kansas State Board of Nursing aimed at protecting nurses from what many described as overly punitive discipline for minor or non-patient-care issues, by voiding past disciplinary actions tied to nonpractice violations (like paperwork or renewal errors), allowing late license renewals with fees, narrowing the definition of “unprofessional conduct” to actual patient care, and prohibiting retaliation by the Board while increasing oversight through Senate confirmation of members. The push for the bill was driven heavily by powerful testimony from nurses who said they were being punished for technical mistakes and that the current system is contributing to workforce shortages - one nurse warned “we are losing nurses every day,” highlighting the urgency to fix a system that is driving people out of the nursing profession at a time when nurses are needed more than ever. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2727](#) strengthens Kansas’ informed consent protections for women considering an abortion by making it easier to hold providers accountable when those requirements aren’t followed. The bill allows a woman to bring a claim under the Woman’s Right-to-Know Act and choose a streamlined path to recovery. *Passed 31-9. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2729](#) also strengthens Kansas’ informed consent laws by ensuring that women receive clear, consistent, and state-approved information before an abortion. The bill requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to create standardized forms and notices that must be provided to patients. It also standardizes required signage, including notices related to medication abortion and reversal options. *Passed 31-9. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2462](#) aids in planning for Kansas’ long-term water supply by allowing the safe reuse of treated wastewater as drinking water. The bill requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to develop clear rules and standards for both direct and indirect potable reuse, meaning water that has been highly treated can be safely returned to the drinking supply. The bill doesn’t immediately change what comes out of taps, but it sets the groundwork for future water reuse systems as supplies become more strained, especially in areas impacted by declining groundwater like the Ogallala Aquifer. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2595](#) creates the Attorney Training Program for Rural Kansas Act, a targeted effort to address the shortage of lawyers in rural parts of the state by offering financial incentives to both law students and practicing attorneys who commit to working outside major metro counties. The bill provides stipends of up to \$3,000 per year for law students at KU or Washburn who agree to practice in rural Kansas after graduation, along with a separate loan repayment program offering up to \$20,000 per year (and up to \$100,000 total) for attorneys who make the same commitment, with repayment penalties if they don’t follow through—altogether aiming to build a pipeline of legal professionals in underserved communities where, as lawmakers noted, retiring attorneys are leaving entire areas without adequate legal services. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2374](#) is designed to help Kansas address shortages in key medical specialties by creating a new student loan program for future doctors who agree to practice in underserved areas. Under the bill, the University of Kansas School of Medicine can offer loans (and stipends) to medical students who commit to working full-time in needed specialties—like psychiatry or other high-demand fields—in parts of the state that lack sufficient providers, particularly rural areas. The bill also streamlines existing programs by combining separate funding streams (like those for OB-GYN and psychiatry) into one flexible specialty medical loan repayment fund, allowing the state to better target workforce needs as they evolve. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2594](#) modifies the elements of the crime of blackmail related to threatened dissemination of any image, video or other recording of another identifiable person. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[SB 20](#) creates the Kansas Consumer Prescription Protection and Accountability Act, which sets up rules for how pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) - the companies that manage prescription drug benefits - must operate. It lays out how they can be audited, what information they must report to the state, and allows regulators to review their finances and make sure they're following the law. The bill also changes how PBMs handle drug pricing and payments. It requires PBMs to charge insurance plans the same amount they pay pharmacies for a prescription, instead of keeping a markup. It also says payments to pharmacies must be based on a national benchmark for drug costs and that pharmacies must be paid at least that amount plus a \$10.50 dispensing fee. If a drug isn't listed in that benchmark, the bill sets up a separate way to determine payment. In addition, the bill updates definitions, adjusts penalty amounts for violations, and includes standard legal language to ensure the law still stands even if part of it is challenged. *Adopted 32-8. Having also passed the House, it is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[SB 364](#) makes changes to Kansas hunting and fishing licenses for both seniors and kids. First, it requires the state to offer a discounted combination hunting and fishing license for Kansas residents age 65 and older, setting the price at a lower rate than the standard lifetime license. This essentially brings back a more affordable option for seniors who want to hunt and fish. The bill also expands the state's "Kansas Kids" lifetime license program. It raises the age limit for eligibility from 7 to 15 years old, lowers and standardizes the cost for the older kids, and removes the expiration date so the program continues permanently. *The Senate passed the bill 40-0; having already passed the House, it is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2323](#) establishing procedures for a civil action instituted by the commissioner of insurance related to fraudulent insurance acts, providing that expunged criminal records will be disclosed in any application for licensure as an insurance producer or public adjuster. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2482](#) would change specific statutory references to exams provided by ACT to examinations provided by a nationally recognized college entrance exam or preparatory exam. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2412](#) strengthens Kansas law by increasing criminal penalties for child endangerment when the victim is under the age of six. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2518](#) strengthens Kansas law against invasions of privacy, especially those involving recording or sharing intimate images. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[SB 454](#) creates the Crush Transnational Repression in Kansas Act, which adds protections for Kansans against foreign intimidation and coercion carried out on U.S. soil. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[Sub for HB 2018](#) creates a new crime in Kansas for intentionally interfering with a religious assembly, establishing criminal penalties and allowing victims to pursue civil damages when a service is disrupted. *The bill passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[SB 329](#) raises the standard for how property values are defended when a homeowner files an appeal. When a case goes before the State Board of Tax Appeals, the county appraiser must now rely on a single-property appraisal, which is a more detailed, individualized analysis that looks at the specific characteristics of that one property, as opposed to mass appraisals, which rely on statistical techniques to value groups of properties. *Passed 38-2. I voted yes.*

[HB 2644](#) aims to rein in sharp increases in property valuations by requiring county appraisers to either adjust a property's value after a final appeal decision or obtain a more rigorous "fee simple" appraisal when a residential or commercial property's value rises more than 5% over a three-year period. *Passed 36-4. It's headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2700](#) creates the Kansas Digital Right-to-Repair Act, giving consumers and independent repair shops the legal right to fix their own electronic devices. The bill requires manufacturers (like those that make phones, computers, and other digital equipment) to provide replacement parts, tools, and repair instructions to owners and independent repair providers—on fair and reasonable terms—just like they already do for their own authorized repair networks. This allows Kansans to actually repair devices without being forced to go back to the manufacturer or replace it entirely. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[SB 415](#) would make certain violations of the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act subject to the remedies and enforcement provisions of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. The bill would amend the RLTA to provide that a violation of the act involving intentional action or a failure to act by a landlord that results in a dwelling unit being deemed uninhabitable by a governmental agency. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[HB 2762](#) protects students by clearly defining who counts as an adult in a position of authority at a school. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[SB 513](#) directs the Kansas department for children and families to develop, procure and implement software to provide direct child care subsidy payments to child care providers. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2761](#) would direct the Kansas Department for Children and Families to administer the child care subsidy program and procure a modern child care subsidy management and payment system

that would support direct-to-provider payments. *Passed 38-2. Having passed the House, it's headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2471](#) designates a portion of I-35 as the deputy Sam Smith memorial highway and redesignates a current portion of the 35th infantry division memorial highway for I-35. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2615](#) designates a portion of U.S. highway 75 as the Brig Gen George H Wark memorial highway and redesignates a current portion of the purple heart/combat wounded veterans highway for U.S. highway 75. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2468](#) electing in to participate in the federal tax credit for individual contributions to scholarship granting organizations and increasing the aggregate tax credit limit on the tax credit for low-income students scholarship program. *The bill passed 27-12. It also passed the House, so it is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2622](#) would amend the requirements for filing a protest petition to require an election on the question of whether a municipality shall enter into a lease purchase agreement. *Passed 40-0. Having passed the House, it's headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2533](#) would enact the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. *Passed 38-2. I voted yes.*

[S Sub for HB 2099](#) would authorize the Secretary of Corrections for and on behalf of the Department of Corrections and the State of Kansas to convey a 57-acre parcel of land by quitclaim deed to Leavenworth County, Kansas. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[HB 2511](#) would amend law that directs the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to establish separate accounts of the State Agricultural Production Fund for each state-owned property under the control and jurisdiction of the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks. The bill would require the separate accounts to be used for habitat management costs and expenses associated with the management of all state-owned properties. *Passed 40-0. Having passed the House, it is headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2519](#) continues certain exceptions to the disclosure of public records under the Kansas open records act. *Passed 40-0. Having passed the House, it's headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2606](#) would clarify the definition of “conviction” in the Kansas Uniform Commercial Driver’s License Act and align it with the definition in federal law establishing standards for commercial driver’s licenses. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2534](#) enacts the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact, which is an agreement among participating states to allow licensed respiratory therapists to practice across state lines more easily. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2763](#) enacts the Athletic Trainer Licensure Compact, allowing licensed athletic trainers in Kansas to more easily practice across state lines. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2647](#) authorizes the Kansas department of transportation to establish a statewide conduit system for fiber optic transmissions of broadband connections. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2393](#) would extend the Judicial Branch surcharge on various docket fees through June 30, 2030. *Passed 25-15. I voted yes.*

[HB 2702](#) updates how physician assistants (PAs) are licensed and regulated in Kansas. It requires background checks for new applicants, clarifies collaboration between PAs and physicians, and modernizes state law. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2579](#) designates a portion of K-49 highway as the Pvt Michael E Gerber memorial highway. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2737](#) enacts the taxpayer agreement act to provide for an alternative method of tax increment financing of municipal economic development projects through taxpayer agreements. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2320](#) aims to provide more stability for students in foster care or state custody. It allows greater flexibility in school enrollment, requires timely transfer of student records. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2467](#) prohibits past convictions or sanctions for failure to comply with a traffic citation that is more than five years old from being considered by courts and the division of vehicles in determining suspended or restricted driving privileges and eliminating certain notice requirements for the division of vehicles. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[HB 2618](#) requires the Kansas State Board of Education to provide the Legislature with regular, detailed reports on all federal education dollars coming into the state—including how much money is received, where it comes from, how it's used, and whether programs will continue once federal funding runs out. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2535](#) helps regular citizens who desire to help control and care for the feral cat population by providing that certain portions of the crime of cruelty to animals do not apply to any person who catches a feral cat to provide vaccination, spaying or neutering and subsequently returns the cat back to the location where the cat is caught. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2590](#) allows married couples in Kansas to create a new type of legal arrangement called a "community property trust," which lets them treat their assets as jointly owned during their marriage and the bill updates trust laws more broadly by giving people more flexibility to customize how their trusts work. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2534](#) enacts the respiratory care interstate compact to provide interstate practice privileges to respiratory therapists. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2587](#) authorizes a licensed private psychiatric hospital to maintain a stock supply of emergency medication kits for pharmaceutical emergencies. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2760](#) enacts the esthetics licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for estheticians. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2542](#) designates a portion of United States highway 56 as the Bill Tucker memorial highway. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2505](#) provides an exception for Kansas department of wildlife and parks records regarding the location of any species that is threatened, endangered or in need of conservation from the disclosure requirements of the Kansas open records act. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2564](#) provides for the election of alternative payment methods by a dental provider and allows such a payment method to remain in force for the duration of a contract with a dental benefit plan. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2560](#) authorizes the Kansas Board of Regents to sell and convey certain real property in the city of Manhattan on behalf of Kansas State University. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2719](#) would add to the Rules and Regulations Filing Act exceptions for technical amendments to existing rules and regulations and procedures, give priority status to certain rules and regulations. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2569](#) prevents judge shopping by requiring actions challenging the constitutionality of an election statute to be brought in the District Court of Shawnee County. *Passed 26-14. I voted yes.*

[Sub HB 2731](#) would require the Secretary for Children and Families (DCF) and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to exchange documents related to cash assistance, child care assistance, and food assistance fraud investigations. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[Sub HB 2435](#) would amend the Gas Safety and Reliability Policy Act, which is the law governing the Gas System Reliability Surcharge. The bill would allow gas utilities to recover growth-related capital investments through the GSRS, make adjustments to the timing of certain Kansas Corporation Commission proceedings, and raise the cap on monthly charges to residential customers. *Passed 28-12. I voted yes.*

[HB 2237](#) would amend the Employee Award and Recognition Program which authorizes hiring, recruitment, and retention bonuses to state employees for “distinguished accomplishment, meritorious service, innovations, Kansas quality management, volunteerism or length of service.” It would increase the maximum total gross value of awards that an employee could receive in a single fiscal year from the current limit of \$3,500 to \$10,000. *Passed 29-11. I voted yes.*

[HB 2606](#) would clarify the definition of “conviction” in the Kansas Uniform Commercial Driver’s License Act and align it with the definition in federal law establishing standards for commercial driver’s licenses. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2603](#) limits what local governments can regulate when it comes to certain types of high-tech security fencing used by businesses. Specifically, the bill says that cities, counties, and other local entities cannot create their own rules, permits, or restrictions on “battery-charged security fences” if those fences meet a detailed set of state-defined standards—such as having a low-voltage power source, warning signs, an alarm system, and being installed behind a physical barrier. *Passed 29-11. I voted yes.*

[S Sub for HB 2501](#) is designed to protect federally licensed firearm dealers (gun shops) from being sued when they return a firearm to its lawful owner after a temporary hold. Specifically, if a gun was held (for example, for safekeeping or another legal reason) the bill says the dealer cannot be held civilly liable for giving the firearm back once the hold ends, as long as they are following the law. The bill gives gun dealers legal protection when they’re simply returning someone’s property after a lawful hold period is over, helping ensure they aren’t exposed to lawsuits for carrying out that responsibility properly. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[HB 2562](#) would add physical therapists, licensed to practice under the Physical Therapy Practice Act, to the list of authorized practitioners who can certify to the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles, that an individual has a disability. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2653](#) requires the secretary of corrections to assist inmates with obtaining identification and employment-related documentation prior to release from custody. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2509](#) would amend the Health Care Provider Insurance Availability Act to add advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to the list of health care providers participating in the Health Care Stabilization Fund and add a member who is an APRN to the Board of Governors of the Fund. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[S Sub for HB 2571](#) would increase the cost threshold for when a county is required to use public bids, from \$25,000 to \$100,000, for construction of any county building, bridge, highway, dam, turnpike or related structure, or stand-alone parking lot. The bill would establish a threshold for bonding that is separate from the cost threshold above which bids are required. *Passed 36-3. I voted yes.*

[HB 2520](#) would amend the Adult Care Home Licensure Act to allow a maximum of 16 individual residents, increased from 12, in Home Plus facilities. *Passed 37-3. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2487](#) defines what it means for a parent to be “employed in Kansas as a teacher or paraprofessional” for purposes of qualifying a student for the scholarship. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2627](#) would expand the permissive hiring preference in private employment to include current Kansas National Guard members, current reserve forces members, and eligible spouses of military servicemembers. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2626](#) is similar to HB 2627 but would update the veteran's preference in *government* employment programs to include certain Kansas National Guard and U.S. military reserve members and eligible spouses of military servicemembers. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2536](#) would prohibit a court from appointing a person as a guardian for an adult diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a similar neurological condition until the person to be appointed files an affidavit with the court verifying completion of an approved training program. The bill would authorize the court to waive the training if it is in the best interest of the adult diagnosed with the condition, and any such waiver would be entered into the record of proceedings. *Passed 39-1. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2524](#) is designed to make it easier for Kansas to keep and support foster families by adding flexibility to the licensing process. The bill allows the state to approve or continue a foster care license even when certain individuals are living in the home, as long as safety considerations are addressed. It also creates a clear appeal process so foster parents can request a review if their license is denied. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2601](#) would establish a Child Abuse and Neglect Registry maintained by the Secretary for Children and Families and require administrative hearings, including the opportunity for appeal, before placing an individual on the Registry. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2444](#) clarifies that when someone is serving multiple sentences in a row, they can't apply the same jail time credit to reduce more than one case, ensuring time served is counted only once. It also creates tougher sentencing rules for individuals who commit a new felony while already on probation, parole, or post-release supervision, making it more likely they will face stricter consequences. Finally, the bill requires secured (cash or surety) bonds for certain defendants who commit new felonies while already under supervision or out on bond, unless a judge makes specific findings to allow otherwise. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2574](#) strengthens Kansas' cybersecurity framework across state government by making existing security requirements permanent and expanding oversight of how agencies protect sensitive data. *Passed 38-2. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2639](#) would change the name of juvenile crisis intervention centers to juvenile stabilization centers throughout the Revised Kansas Code for the Care of Children (CINC Code) and the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code (Juvenile Code). *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2470](#) would clarify that nothing in the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act would prohibit a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 people from designating the entire municipality as being within a neighborhood revitalization area. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2464](#) would extend the sunset for tax credits associated with the aviation industry and for contributions to the Eisenhower Foundation and the Friends of Cedar Crest Association to 2029. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2593](#) Requiring that a political subdivision hold an open meeting to discuss a contingency fee contract for legal services before approving such contract and requiring the attorney general to approve such contracts. *Passed 23-17. I voted no. This approach reduces the local process by shifting certain decisions to the state level.*

[SB 393](#) would authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages 23 hours a day, seven days a week, for the duration of the FIFA 2026 World Cup. The bill would authorize the Board of County Commissioners of any county by resolution, or the governing body of any city by ordinance, to elect to allow such sales. Each county would have to op-in. *Passed 21-19. I voted yes.*

[HB 2591](#) would allow a financial institution to establish a trusted contact program, allow for reporting of suspected financial exploitation, and allow a financial institution to temporarily delay a suspicious transaction for up to 10 business days when the institution has reported the suspected exploitation to law enforcement or the Kansas Department for Children and Families. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2515](#) would establish the Virtual Currency Kiosk Consumer Protection Act as part of the Kansas Money Transmission Act. The bill would outline disclosure requirements for virtual currency kiosks (also referred to as cryptocurrency ATMs) and their operators, require several fraud prevention measures, and establish a cap on certain fees. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2497](#) would amend the Kansas Contracts and Promises statute by limiting the existing prohibition on prepayment penalties to only apply to consumer-purpose home loans. The bill would amend the statute to provide that no prepayment penalty could be assessed against any party more than six months after the execution of a note evidencing a home loan made primarily for personal, family, or household purposes secured by a real estate mortgage. *Passed 36-4. I voted yes.*

[HB 2537](#) creates “Caleb’s Law”, providing Kansas additional tools to respond to the growing problem of sexual extortion—especially crimes targeting children. The bill expands the definition of sexual extortion to clearly include threats to share intimate images, including AI-generated or altered content, when used to coerce someone into providing money, images, or other things of value. It also significantly increases penalties, particularly when adult offenders target minors or vulnerable individuals, and creates new, more serious crimes when sexual extortion leads to serious injury or even death. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2747](#) ensures courts use a clear and consistent standard when considering prior DUI-related offenses during sentencing. This bill requires courts to look at specific factors—like what the out-of-state law says and how it compares—to decide whether those prior offenses should count toward a person’s criminal history score. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2539](#) creates a clear process allowing either the library board or local voters to place a question on the ballot to decide whether board members should be appointed or elected. In addition, the bill specifically transitions the Eudora Community Library District board from an appointed body to an elected one, reflecting local support for giving voters a direct voice over a board that has taxing authority. *Passed 37-3. I voted yes.*

[SB 517](#) promotes better literacy outcomes for Kansas students by improving accountability and coordination across the education system. The bill expands reporting requirements under the *Every Child Can Read Act* and updates the *Kansas Blueprint for Literacy*, requiring the State Board of Education, Board of Regents, and local school districts to more clearly track and report progress in reading education. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2485](#) creates clear, statewide rules for partnerships between high schools and community or technical colleges offering college courses. It sets standard payment structures for teachers and coordinators, requires agreements to follow consistent policies, and ensures compensation goes directly to the educators providing the instruction. *Passed 25-15. I voted yes.*

[Sub for HB 2346](#) would establish the Kansas Sports Tourism Grant Program to be administered by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of the Program would be to provide dollar-for-dollar matching grants to support and enhance sports tourism events held in Kansas through the Kansas Sports Tourism Program Grant Fund. The bill would require all sponsored events to be held in Kansas to be eligible for a grant, and an event could be a new planned event or an existing recurring event. *Passed 28-12. I voted yes.*

[HB 2769](#) requires that when a city or county creates a taxing district—like one that can levy property taxes or spend money on local services—the people making those decisions must live in that area. If someone is appointed to the governing board but doesn't live in the district, they can still serve, but only as a nonvoting member. *Passed 33-7. I voted yes.*

[HB 2602](#) would establish requirements for portable benefit plans for independent contractors and provide subtraction modifications for Kansas income tax purposes for contributions to such plans. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2440](#) would allow the property tax exemption for certain low production oil leases, as defined in continuing law, to be approved by county appraisers without requiring the owners of such leases to file an application for exemption with the State Board of Tax Appeals. *Passed 40-0. It is now headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[SB 366](#) restricts the use of handheld cell phones while driving in certain high-risk areas, specifically school zones and active road construction zones. Under the bill, drivers would not be allowed to use a mobile phone in these areas except in limited situations (like hands-free use or emergencies), and law enforcement would be allowed to stop and cite drivers who violate the rule. *The Senate concurred 31-9 and it is on its way to the governor. I voted yes.*

[SB 524](#) updates how Kansas handles public funds deposited in banks by requiring financial institutions to enter formal agreements with the State Treasurer, increasing collateral requirements to 102% of deposited funds. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2767](#) would establish the Kansas Military Affairs Commission within the Office of the Governor. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2613](#) would authorize the Crime Victims Compensation Board to establish and charge fees for conducting a sexual assault examination and to adopt rules and regulations necessary to establish and charge such fees *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2651](#) would amend the Kansas Parentage Act to authorize a challenge to a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity (VAP) as soon as is practicable after discovery of fraud, duress, or mistake of fact; specify that genetic testing results would constitute a change of circumstances that warrants a court finding of a material mistake of fact; and provide for the recovery of actual damages in exceptional circumstances. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2596](#) would allow the Kansas Secretary of Corrections to enter into contracts with private entities to have incarcerated individuals manufacture or assemble modular and manufactured homes under the state’s prison-made goods program. *Passed 36-4. I voted yes.*

[HB 2573](#) updates Kansas law governing certified public accountants by creating an alternative pathway to licensure with more flexible education and experience combinations, while also making it easier for out-of-state CPAs to practice in Kansas by recognizing licenses from other states with similar requirements without additional registration or fees. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2481](#) would require transient guest taxes to be collected for lodgings of one or more bedrooms and, between May 15 - July 25, 2026, require the collection of transient guest taxes for any short-term rental or vacation unit and prohibit city and county governments from limiting the number of permits or other authorizations. *Passed 33-7. I voted yes.*

[HB 2781](#) authorizes the state historical society to acquire the junior officers' quarters at Fort Dodge and provide for the use, preservation, improvement, control and maintenance thereof. *Passed 39-1. It's headed to the governor. I voted yes.*

[HB 2114](#) makes a series of updates to Kansas water law by clarifying what structures qualify as “water obstructions” (such as dams and similar features), giving the state’s chief engineer clearer authority to adopt rules and regulations under the watershed district act, and establishing or adjusting inspection and permitting requirements, including fees, related to dams and other regulated structures. *Passed 39-1. I voted yes.*

[HB 2466](#) extends Kansas’ existing angel investor tax credit program—which gives tax credits to individuals who invest in certain Kansas startups—by pushing back its sunset to allow the program to continue for several more years, while also setting aside a minimum amount of those credits specifically for investments in smaller, rural counties (under 50,000 population), with the

goal of encouraging more private investment and economic development in underserved parts of the state. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2521](#) would modify the definition of “governmental entity” in the Kansas Tort Claims Act to add a child placement agency, as defined in current child care facilities law, if the child placement agency had an active contract with the Secretary for Children and Families. *Passed 31-9. I voted yes.*

[HB 2527](#) would create and amend law in the Kansas Offender Registration Act to make it unlawful for certain sex offenders to enter onto school property or attend a school activity, as defined by the bill and would prohibit courts from assigning work release to certain persons required to register as a sex offender under the Act and would restrict such persons from the privilege of leaving actual confinement of the custody of the Secretary of Corrections. *Passed 38-0. I voted yes.*

[HB 2553](#) provides for the PBS Kansas distinctive license plate. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[HB 2739](#) provides that fire sprinkler systems shall not be required for multi-family dwellings of four attached units or fewer, prohibiting municipal fire sprinkler requirements for multi-family dwellings of four or fewer attached living units and defining apartment buildings for purposes of the fire code. *Passed 38-2. I voted yes.*

[HB 2357](#) makes changes to eviction cases in Kansas by requiring courts to consider mediation before proceeding, while also allowing certain eviction records to be sealed or later expunged. The bill also treats improper use or reporting of sealed eviction records as a violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. *Passed 33-7. I voted yes.*

[S Sub for HB 2402](#) would require local school boards to annually consider whether eligible schools within the school district should participate in the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Program. The bill would also require the Kansas State Department of Education to assist qualifying districts seeking to participate. *Passed 38-2. I voted yes.*

[SB 521](#) would modify credit percentages, allowable credit amounts, and expenses eligible for the tax credit for employer expenses for child care and provide an additional refundable tax credit for employer contributions to a third party that expands the availability of community child care. The annual allowable amount for the two credits combined would be \$100,000 per taxpayer. *Passed 34-6. I voted yes.*

[Sub HB 2111](#) This bill limits local regulation of certain registered agritourism operations that are not open to the general public, exempting invite-only activities from some building codes, permits, and fees. It also narrows definitions to apply only to qualifying agricultural uses. *Passed 26-14. I voted no. This approach limits how decisions can be made at the local level and shifts direction to the state.*

[HB 2552](#) standardizes how key criminal case documents are handled in Kansas by requiring presentence investigation reports, journal entries, and similar records to be completed and submitted in the exact format and method prescribed by the Kansas Sentencing Commission and

preventing courts from accepting documents that don't meet those standards. *Passed 40-0. I voted yes.*

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Thank you for the honor of serving you!

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