

# THE ADVOCATE

A WEEKLY UPDATE  
FROM THE KANSAS  
LEGISLATURE

ADVOCACY THAT WORKS



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WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



## Intro

Legislators and lobbyists alike can relax for a week and a half, as first adjournment is upon us. After a week of long nights, many conference committees, and a few floor outbursts, the legislature concluded its regular session on Friday. The legislature will return the second week of April to hold a three-day “veto session” where they work to overturn any potential vetoes by Governor Laura Kelly.

A variety of major issues were addressed by the legislature, from property tax reform, STAR Bonds, and aviation tax credits to Pharmacy Benefit Manager regulation, school cell phone bans, and much more. While many issues were addressed, others saw their legislation fail to reach the finish line, and they will start fresh next year with a new biennium and potentially new faces in the Capitol.

## **Sports Authority Passes**

In a banner day for economic development in Kansas, the House and Senate both passed the conference committee report for [HB2466](#) on Friday. This bill was turned into a package for both the sports authority to manage the construction and operation of the Kansas City Chiefs' new stadium project in Wyandotte County, and an extension of the STAR Bonds program. The sports authority would oversee the project, which is the largest in Kansas history and is endorsed by both labor unions and the Chamber of Commerce for the large number of jobs and out-of-state money it will bring to the Wyandotte area. The project will include not just the stadium and headquarters but also a mixed-use development featuring restaurants, bars, and more.

Some legislators felt that the bill represented a giveaway to the Hunt family, while Rep. Sean Tarwater (R-Stilwell), the Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development, reminded the body of the myriad ways the Chiefs and its owners have contributed to the development and welfare of the Kansas City region. He also explained the massive tax revenue boost that would come from not just the construction of the stadium, but also the income of the NFL players and staff, including those who travel to the state to play on Sundays. Chairman Tarwater, a vocal champion of the Chiefs deal and the STAR Bond program as a whole, also pointed out that the vote on the bill was not a referendum on the Chiefs stadium deal, but a vote on whether or not the legislature had a say in the oversight of the deal, or whether it would be left entirely to the Department of Commerce.

The package, which passed both chambers with large majorities last week, would give appointments to the legislature, governor, Chiefs, and local governments involved in the project, to the board which oversees the multi-billion-dollar project.

## **PBM Reform Heads to the Governor's Desk**

Kansas pharmacists and many other stakeholders worked hard all year to accomplish a major piece of reform designed to save struggling independent, small-town pharmacies and bring savings to health plans. The package of reforms, which includes mandating rebate passthrough, banning the practice of spread pricing, establishing a standard \$10.50 dispensing fee, which matches the Medicaid fee, and many other transparency and reporting requirements, made it across both floors in a conference committee report on Monday and Tuesday, putting it just one final step away from entering the statute books. Once thought to be a long shot, Kansas is now poised to join a host of other states in passing this regulation.

The negotiations were tense for a moment on Monday morning, with Senate FI&I Chairwoman Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka) standing firm on the critical dispensing fee piece of the legislation, explaining to the skeptical House Insurance Chairman Bill Sutton (R-Gardner) that the Senate had made it clear they supported all provisions in the bill with their extensive floor debate and bipartisan 32-8 supermajority vote. The House agreed to the Senate position on the bill after a few technical amendments were added. The House passed it on Monday by a strong 104-17 vote, followed by the Senate again passing it 32-8 on Tuesday. It now goes to the Governor's desk.

# Budget

The legislature passed the budget last week by tight votes in both chambers, reaching 67 votes in the House and 23 votes in the Senate. HB 2513 adjusts total state expenditures to \$26.8 billion, including \$10.7 billion from the State General Fund (state taxes and fees), for FY 2027. The contention over the bill was put well by Senator Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), the Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, when he said, “We heard across the aisle we’re not spending enough. Now, I just heard... that we spend too much.” The comments came in response to Senator Virgil Peck (R-Havana) who declared himself “Mr. No” for his refusal to approve an increase in spending, and several other senators, including Senators Ethan Corson (D-Fairway) and Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), who said that the 1% pay raise for state employees was not enough. Others, such as Senator Joe Claeys (R-Wichita) were concerned with specific line items they viewed as misappropriations, such as increased funding for public broadcasting. It was much the same on the House side, with some concerned over the 1% state employee pay raise, others concerned that not enough was being spent on special education, school lunches, and other programs, while still others decried the legislature for spending too much.

The budget itself was agreed upon by the conference committee between the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, which met late into the night early in the week to hash out a variety of differences. Eventually, they agreed to a set of funding increases and policy adjustments across multiple state agencies. A 1% pay raise for all state employees was approved, along with a \$25 million SGF reappropriation for evidence-based programs within the Department of Corrections. Regarding health and human services, the committee added \$750,000 for CPR and AED grants through KDHE and significantly increased funding for KDADS programs, including \$56.5 million for CHIP, bringing the total to \$266.8 million with \$66.8 million SGF. Additional KDADS investments include \$400,000 for the construction of a Heartspring outpatient care and research center focused on neurodevelopmental conditions. The committee also removed \$4 million SGF in CCBHC planning grants to limit eligibility to community mental health centers and added targeted support for foster care stabilization in Sedgwick County with \$200,000 for fiscal year 2026 and \$500,000 in 2027.

Economic development and infrastructure items included transferring \$20 million SGF to the Build Kansas Matching Grant program and allocating \$60 million in ARPA funds for the Moderate-Income Housing Grant program, with language prioritizing ARPA and EDIF funds before SGF. Additional investments include \$2 million EDIF for the Level Up program and language directing up to \$800,000 in existing resources for Jobs for America’s Graduates Kansas. The committee also added proviso language to allow use of \$28 million in ARPA funds for the Kansas City 2026 World Cup, limited to transportation and security needs as determined by the organizing committee. In education, the committee prohibited administrative fees on university funding transfers and barred tuition increases, while adding \$2.7 million SGF to continue the Blueprint for Literacy program with requirements for teacher coaching tied to funding. And the end of the negotiations, the approved budget is estimated to spend \$475 million more in the 2027 fiscal year than the total revenue. See the budget overview [here](#).

# Tax

The Taxation Conference Committee met throughout last week, but due to scheduling conflicts and perhaps more than a little political posturing, meetings were delayed again and again. The committee didn't truly sit down for a discussion until Thursday, which led to negotiations dragging on late into the evening Thursday and Friday. Following the busy week of conference committees, [HB2745](#), the House's proposed revenue cap, has passed both chambers.

The House and the Senate proposals remain, for the most part, the same as they have been all session. The Senate's preferred method of property tax relief is a valuation cap as proposed in [SCR1616](#), the proposed constitutional amendment which would cap assessed values of real property at 3%, which was voted down by voice vote two weeks ago. To replace it, the conference between the two side's tax committees agreed on a proposal for [SCR1603](#).

Throughout Thursday and Friday's meetings, the Senate and the House went back and forth on an ideal cap, and whether to have a rolling average. The Senate's position started at 3.5% without a rolling average, while the house at 7.5% and a 6-year cap on rolling average. The end result was a compromise to eliminate the rolling average entirely and switch to a 9% fixed cap and a 2024 baseline for assessment value.

As part of a deal worked out between the two sides, they ran both [SCR1603](#) and [HB2745](#) value. The Senate was first to take up the challenge, running the House's plan. There was significant debate on the Senate floor on [HB2745](#), particularly regarding the protest petition piece of the legislation. Vocal opponents included Senator William Clifford (R-Garden City), who argued that the protest petition could create "a tyranny of the minority" which, in his words, means, "It'll be 2027 revenue neutral until I'm dead, at this point." Assessment and Taxation Chairwoman Senator Caryn Tyson (R-Parker) as carrier of the bill argued, "This is a choice. Do we run government as we've been doing, or do we put this in the hands of our constituents?"

After the debate, the bill passed the Senate in a tight vote, 22-18. It passed as amended by Senator Francisco (D-Lawrence) to allow copies of the revenue neutral notice to be shown to signed by anyone who is a registered voter, not necessarily exclusively to property owners.

Around 11 PM Friday night, the Conference Committee Report on [HB2745](#) and [SCR1603](#) were finally brought to the House Floor. Both were brought by House Taxation Chairman Representative Adam Smith (R-Weskan) and were suggested to the body of the whole as tangible solutions to property tax relief. [HB2745](#), the House plan, was brought first as a motion to concur. Though the initial bill passed the house 76-45 on February 26th, Representative Tom Sawyer (D- Wichita), the Ranking Minority Member on the House Taxation Committee, said he could not support the measure any longer on account of changes made by the Senate. Due to changes, the late hour, and the need to push out any kind of property tax relief, the motion to concur on [HB2745](#) succeeded, barely, at 63-59.

This narrow vote raised tension even higher for SCR1603. By the time the measure was brought to the floor, the Senate had already adjourned until April 9th without taking a vote on the proposal, leaving a lot of questions. If the Senate had stayed in recess instead of adjourning, they could have voted on SCR1603 following its passage in the House. Nonetheless, as he did when he carried the first proposed constitutional amendment, SCR1616, Representative Adam Smith (R-Weskan) emphasized that no matter your opinion, this puts the measure to the voters. This sentiment was echoed by the Speaker of the House, Rep. Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) who made a rare appearance on the House floor before the final vote at the eleventh hour. Speaker Hawkins spoke highly of his Taxation Committee and said accusations made that “the House does not negotiate in good faith,” was “just not true.” He spoke to the difficulties of passing legislation, especially tax legislation, and said that this proposal is “probably not the best place to be... but whatever decision’s made, I’m good with that.” Ultimately, SCR1603 failed in the house, 59-63.

In the final seconds before the vote, Representative Nick Hoheisel (R- Wichita), Majority Whip for the House Republicans, changed his vote from aye to nay for procedural reasons, to be on the prevailing side of the motion in order to make a motion reconsider the CCR. This motion passed by voice vote, then in a follow-up substitute motion, SCR1603 was sent back to conference committee, again by voice vote. This move keeps the bill alive, presumably with the goal of continuing negotiations after the legislature returns in April to find a solution that can reach the needed 2/3rds majority. As the dust settles, HB2745 will go to the governor for a signature or veto. Time will tell if we will hear more about SCR1603.

Property taxes weren’t the only thing considered by the conference committee, however. SB33, which would provide a potential fix to the countywide retailers' sales tax apportionment formula, was discussed late on Friday. The committee agreed continue the freeze on the formula that was enacted last year and then add HB2712 to the bill, which would increase the authority for a countywide retailers' sales tax and provide for the dedicated apportionment of special purpose tax revenues up to 2% and limiting special purpose city and countywide retailers' sales taxes to 10 years. While agreement was reached, no action was taken before the bodies adjourned. Also discussed was SB82, which was used as a shell for several other tax pieces. There was discussion about adding SB498, which provides for ethanol and gun safe tax credits, to the bill. Also discussed was HB2773, which was a negotiated compromise regarding single factor apportionment for alcohol manufacturers, and SB521, an income tax credit for child care providers, though no agreement was reached on those pieces. No formal action was taken on these bundles by the conference committee.

HB2644 - Requiring a county appraiser to adjust the value of residential and commercial property upon final determination or obtain a fee simple appraisal if the appraised value exceeds 5% increase over three years. Passed the Senate 36-4 and the House 119-0.

Senate Substitute for HB2745 - Providing a protest petition to contest certain increases in property tax revenues and continuing reimbursements from the taxpayer notification costs fund for an additional five years. Passed the Senate 22-18 and the House 63-59.

# Health & Safety

The Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance and the House Committee on Insurance started last week off with a bang, agreeing to a conference committee report on [SB20](#), which had the contents removed and replaces with the language of [SB360](#), the aforementioned Pharmacy Benefit Manager reform.

The House Committee on Health and Human Services conferenced with the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare throughout the week, with the two sides agreeing on several packages of legislation and a few more controversial, standalone ones. For example, the conference committee signed an agree to disagree on [HB2365](#), which had its contents replaced by annual rescheduling bills, as well as a contentious ban on Kratom. This bill passed 76-49 through the House after extensive debate. Rep. Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), the Chairman of House Health and Human Services committee, pointed out that the completely unregulated substance was sold in highly concentrated amounts in places like gas stations, leading to the overdose deaths of children and other abuse, while opponents such as Rep. Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee), the ranking minority member of the committee, cited examples of people using the substance to kick addictions and fight chronic pain. It was not voted on by the Senate before they adjourned.

Chairman Carpenter had also intended to include language from HB 2218, which upon approval by the FDA and DEA would allow people with severe treatment resistant depression, as well as severe PTSD to receive in-patient therapies using a synthetic psilocybin. The drug has shown significant promise and is in phase 3 trials and has been touted by RFK Jr. and the Trump administration. However, at the 11th hour Attorney General Kris Kobach inserted himself in the process by voicing his opposition to the measure's inclusion in the CCR.

The conference committee between the House and Senate health committees agreed to packages on licensure compacts, a bundle of several pharmacy bills including a standard of care expansion, and a major set of reforms for the embattled state Board of Nursing. These and other conference committee reports in the health and safety realm were adopted, listed below.

[SB20](#) - would enact the Kansas Consumer Prescription Protection and Accountability Act (Act). The bill would provide for the regulation of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), defining auditing procedures, outlining reporting requirements, and allowing compliance and financial examinations. Passed the Senate 32-8 and the House 104-17.

[HB2329](#) - would amend provisions in the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code (Juvenile Code) relating to sentencing alternatives, the placement matrix, and detention length limit. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to contract for beds for juvenile alternative sentences to out-of-home placements, direct the funding for such placements to come from the Evidence-based Programs Account (EBPA), and remove expired sunsets regarding such out-of-home placements. The bill would also authorize the Secretary to enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to provide money from the EBPA to additional types of facilities with a program purpose of behavioral health crisis intervention for juveniles. Passed the Senate 27-12 and the House 89-32.

HB2521 - 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 when the act or omission giving rise to the claim occurred. Passed the Senate 32-8 and the House 83-38.

HB2068 - would amend various provisions in the Pharmacy Act of the State of Kansas and the Pharmacy Practice Act regarding pharmacist scope of practice, pharmaceutical compounding, authority to delegate access to the state’s prescription monitoring program database, and the remote practice of pharmacy. Passed the Senate 32-8 and the House 83-38.

HB2528 - would amend statutes regarding the Board of Nursing (Board), including voiding certain non-practice disciplinary actions based upon a violation of certain statutes, providing a grace period for nursing license renewal and a process for late renewal, and amending the definition of “unprofessional conduct” under the Kansas Nurse Practice Act (Act), and make additional changes. Passed the Senate 32-8 and the House 87-38.

HB2509 - 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 (Fund); add a member who is an APRN to the Board of Governors of the Fund (Board); and permit licensed physical therapists to perform certain capillary blood tests. Passed the Senate 37-2 and the House 92-33.

HB2365 - would make amendments to the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (CSA) by adding and removing certain substances in Schedules I, III, and IV; modify language related to fentanyl and cannabis to conform state statute with federal law; add 7-substances related to kratom to Schedule I of the CSA; and make conforming amendments to the definition of “fentanyl-related controlled substance” in the Kansas Criminal Code. Passed the House 76-49 and awaits a vote in the Senate during Veto Session.

HB2602 - Establishing requirements for a portable benefit plan for independent contractors, determining types of contributions to such plans and providing a subtraction modification for Kansas income tax purposes. Passed the Senate 40-0 and the House 101-21.

HB2613 - Providing for the crime victims compensation board to establish fees chargeable for conducting examinations of persons who may be victims of sexual assault, authorizing the board to adopt rules and regulations to administer such fees and to use moneys in the crime victims compensation fund for the payment of such fees and allowing certain exceptions to the confidentiality of records and information given to the board. The House concurred in conference to Senate amendments by a vote of 96-27.

HB2731 - would establish data-matching and eligibility verification requirements for the Secretary for Children and Families and the Secretary of Health and Environment for certain public assistance programs; permit continuous eligibility provisions for select individuals; prohibit certain exemptions, waivers, and self-attestation; and change eligibility requirements for certain public assistance programs. Passed the Senate 28-11 and the House 80-43.

HB2601 - would establish a Child Abuse and Neglect Registry (Registry) maintained by the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) and require administrative hearings, including the opportunity for appeal, before placing an individual on the Registry. The bill would also amend law concerning reporting of child abuse and neglect in the Revised Kansas Code for the Care of Children (CINC Code) to require such reports include information about any known custody dispute involving the child subject to the report and would require certain reporting information be submitted to specified legislative committees each year. Passed the Senate 39-0 and the House 124-0.

HB2372 - would create the crime of unlawful approach of a first responder and create law related to immigration enforcement to allow sheriffs to detain persons subject to a facially sufficient immigration detainer request, require certain municipal insurance pools cover federally approved immigration detainer operations conducted by a law enforcement agency, require the State to pay for certain federal civil judgment costs, require the Attorney General to represent law enforcement in certain civil lawsuits, and provide civil immunity to officers or agencies acting in good faith under a 287(g) agreement or detainer. The bill would amend the Interlocal Cooperation Act to specify that a sheriff does not need approval of a county commission to enter into a federal 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The bill would also incorporate federal law enforcement officers, their vehicles, and enforcement of federal law into certain traffic, criminal, and tort laws. Passed the Senate 30-9 and the House 85-39.

HB2479 - would create and amend law within the Kansas Code for Criminal Procedure to require a court to consider ordering electronic monitoring with victim notification as a condition of release for persons charged with certain domestic violence-related offenses and would establish parameters for the use of such monitoring. The bill would increase the penalties for the crimes of endangering a child and aggravated endangering a child when such child is less than 6 years of age; and amend provisions of the Kansas Criminal Code related to the crimes of breach of privacy, blackmail, and unlawful sexual relations. The bill would also define necessary terms and make technical amendments. Passed the Senate 39-0 and the House 124-0.

## **Economic Development**

The Commerce Conference Committee met sporadically throughout the week, with most of the effort focused on HB2466, which had originally included the Angel Investor Tax Credit, now placed within HB2464, but was gutted and replaced with a STAR Bond renewal and the creation of the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority to oversee the Chiefs' stadium. The Authority would consist of 11 voting members appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and House. The mayors of Wyandotte and Olathe may serve on the authority or appoint a member, and the Secretary of Commerce would also have a seat. The Chiefs will fill the final seat. The initial Authority members must be appointed by August 31, 2026.

For any STAR Bonds project approved on and after July 1, 2026, the bill would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish project-specific visitation goals for visitors from at least 100 miles away and from out-of-state. Starting in the fifth year after the creation of a new STAR Bond district, the bill would require the Secretary to monitor visitation data annually. If it is determined that the project is not meeting the applicable goals, the Secretary would be required to review visitation performance with the developer and discuss reasonable strategies to increase visitation at the developer's cost, which could include marketing efforts, programming adjustments, or other measures. The bill would prohibit the issuance of additional STAR Bonds for a project in which a developer fails to address visitation performance issues to the Secretary's satisfaction. The new sunset for STAR Bonds would be July 1, 2031. The package passed 30-10 in the Senate and 78-44 in the House.

SB229 - would discontinue a calculated negative debt write-off and forgiveness provision for certain employers related to unemployment insurance. Passed the House 88-34 and awaits a vote in the Senate during Veto Session.

HB2596 - would create a limited exception to the Prison-made Goods Act of Kansas to authorize the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to establish a pilot program at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) to enter into contracts for production of manufactured or modular homes. Passed the Senate 36-3 and the House 111-10.

HB2346 - would establish the Kansas Sports Tourism Grant Program (Program) to be administered by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary). 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 (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 the Senate 26-13 and the House 105-16.

HB2464 - would extend, to 2031, the sunset dates of the Angel Investor Tax Credit, tax credits for contributions to graduates of aerospace and aviation-related educational programs and employers of program graduates, and tax credits for contributions to the Eisenhower Foundation and the Friends of Cedar Crest Association. Passed the Senate 33-7 and the House 98-26.

HB2595 - Enacting the attorney training program for rural Kansas act, providing stipends to law students who meet certain requirements and agree to practice law in rural areas and providing loan forgiveness to lawyers who meet certain requirements and practice law in rural areas. Passed the Senate 34-6 and the House 119-3.

HB2700 - would create the Kansas Digital Right-to-Repair Act (Act), which would create requirements for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and legal authorization for consumers as it pertains to the maintenance and repair of certain digital electronic equipment. Passed the Senate 40-0 and the House 123-2.

HB2481 - would authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages 23 hours a day, seven days a week, for the duration of the FIFA 2026 World Cup, and between May 15, 2026, and 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 required for the operation of such units. Passed the Senate 23-17 and the House 86-39.

# Local Government

The Local Government Conference Committee met once last week on a few bills, but most local government action happened in Commerce, where the committee agreed to language on SB418, the by-right housing act, with amendments that moved most municipalities to a neutral stance on the bill, and placed [HB2343](#), the no-impact home-based business act, within SB197. After extensive debate on the House floor, the bill did not reach a veto-proof majority, and was not even debated on the Senate side before they adjourned.

An important fix for local County Treasurer's budgets was agreed upon by the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and placed in [SB325](#), providing temporary authority to increase in fees, as well as creating a task force to work on long term solutions to a variety of inefficiencies in motor vehicle services in Kansas.

[HB2116](#) - would require cities and counties of certain population sizes to use standard contract provisions prescribed by the Department of Administration (Department) as used in state contracts. Passed the Senate 39-0 and the House 122-0.

[HB2099](#) - Authorizing the secretary of corrections on behalf of the state of Kansas to convey certain real property located in Leavenworth county, Kansas, to Leavenworth county. The House concurred in conference to Senate amendments by a vote of 113-4.

[HB2571](#) - Increasing the cost threshold for when a county shall use the public bidding process in awarding a construction contract. The House concurred to Senate amendments by a vote of 122-0.

[SB197](#) - would allow the use of a residential dwelling for no-impact home-based businesses, as defined by the bill. This permitted use would supersede any deed restriction, covenant, or agreement restricting the use of land or any master deed, bylaw, or other document applicable to a common interest ownership community entered into by a no-impact home-based business or a rural no-impact home-based business on or after July 1, 2026. Passed the House 75-48 and awaits a vote in the Senate during Veto Session.

[SB418](#) - would enact the By-right Housing Development Act and make various changes to law regarding residential housing planning, development, and construction. Passed the Senate 35-4 and the House 117-5.

[SB325](#) - would create the Vehicle Services Modernization Task Force; specify limits for the use of the special fund for county treasurers, the Division of Vehicles (Division), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), or contractors of the Division (contractors) in paying for necessary help and expenses incidental to the administration of duties in collecting motor vehicle registration and certificate of title fees; and rename certain fees related to vehicle registration and authorize an increase to a transaction fee, with approval by the board of county commissioners, to not more than \$10 in calendar years 2027, 2028, and 2029. Passed the Senate 33-7 and the House 109-12.

[HB2739](#) - would exclude the construction of certain types of residential housing from specified requirements in law and create a limited exception to the requirements for proposed rules and regulations promulgated by the State Fire Marshal for purposes of updating the Kansas Fire Prevention Code. Passed the Senate 38-1 and the House 97-24.

HB2331 - would amend laws relating to coroner procedures for the disposition of remains by creating a process that would allow a coroner to relinquish custody or dispose of unclaimed cremated remains and specify whether civil liability would arise from such disposition. Passed the Senate 38-0 and the House 122-0.

SB462 - would prohibit certain public nuisance claims, require special injury for certain public nuisance actions, and provide an accrual period for the statute of limitations in public nuisance actions. The bill would also prohibit persons who engaged or participated, or attempted to engage or participate, in wrongful conduct from bringing an action for negligence, or collecting damages for negligent conduct, related to such wrongful conduct. Passed the Senate 29-10 and the House 86-37.

## **Utilities**

The Utilities Conference Committee met just once last week and agreed on the following conference committee reports.

HB2462 - would require rules and regulations for potable reusable water to be adopted and make changes to the sunset, funding transfers, and the grant process for the Water Technical Assistance Fund (Technical Fund) and Water Projects Grant Fund (Grant Fund). Passed the Senate 39-0 and the House 121-3.

HB2647 - would establish the Statewide Conduit System (System) for fiber optic transmissions of broadband connections, establish the Kansas Broadband Revolving Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury to create and maintain the System, establish a schedule of fees to be charged to entities installing or using the System, and require the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to provide annual reports to the Governor; Senate Committee on Utilities; Senate Committee on Transportation; House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications; House Committee on Transportation; and House Committee on Transportation and Public Safety Budget. The bill would state the Legislature's intent that the Department of Transportation (KDOT) shall not compete with the private sector in the provision of broadband infrastructure or services. Passed the Senate 40-0 and the House 120-1.

SB380 - would require retail electric suppliers to offer fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory rates and services to all charging stations and certain costs could not be included in the rate base of the retail electric supplier, with certain exclusions. Passed the House 125-0 and the Senate 39-0.

SB92 - would amend parallel generation law to extend an exclusion regarding large-load facilities from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027. Under current law, a utility is not required to make parallel generation service available to any customer who has a new or expanded facility that receives electric service at a voltage of 34.5 kilovolts or higher and commences such electric service on or after July 1, 2025. In determining a utility's historic peak demand for purposes of the law's subsection on aggregate export capacity, a utility's peak demand does not include the additional demand of any new or expanded facility of an industrial, commercial, or data center customer that receives electric service at a voltage of 34.5 kilovolts or higher and commences such electric service on or after July 1, 2025. Under current law, this subsection expires on July 1, 2026. The bill would change the expiration date to be July 1, 2027. Passed the House 114-0 and the Senate 39-0.

## Veto Overrides

[SB368](#) - Enacting the health care sharing ministries tax deduction act to provide a subtraction modification for qualified health care sharing expenses paid by a qualified individual and certain qualified health care shares received by a qualified individual. Originally passed the Senate 33-7 and the House 87-36. Veto Overridden 30-9 in the Senate and 87-37 in the House.

[HB2635](#) - Enacting the pregnancy center autonomy and rights of expression act to protect the ability of private pregnancy centers to provide life-affirming care. Originally passed the House 87-37 and the Senate 31-9. Veto overridden 87-35 in the House and 30-9 in the Senate.

## Helpful Links to Monitor the Action

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# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS INVESTORS

## PINNACLE



## VISIONARY



## PROSPERITY



## LEADERSHIP



## SUCCESS



## OPPORTUNITY

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas