

## First Adjournment Reached

To friends and neighbors in the 77th,

This update is rather lengthy with lots of details. For some of the 77-highlights and photos, skip to the end. Here we go... let's dive in...

The Legislature has concluded the majority of its work for the session, though a few key items remain to wrap up during the Veto Session. We spent the past week working through differences in versions of bills between the House and Senate. All bills passed up to this point will be presented to the Governor for her consideration. Should the Governor veto any bills during the April break, the Legislature will have the opportunity to consider veto overrides when we return to Topeka on April 25.

## Redistricting Maps Advanced to the Governor

This week the House passed the **SB 563** conference committee report, [83-40](#). The report contained the Senate maps and House maps, which the House had previously approved. The report also added the State Board of Education (SBOE) map, reapportioning the 10 SBOE districts. **SB 563** awaits consideration by the Governor.

With passage of SB 563, the Legislature has completed its work on reapportioning State House, State Senate, State Board of Education, and Congressional Districts, meeting the requirement of adjusting districts to reflect population changes resulting from the 2020 Census.

## Monumental KPERS Legislation Approved

The Republican response to the Governor's State of the State laid out several priorities, including stabilizing the KPERS retirement fund, so that it will be there for our teachers, our firefighters, and other public employees when they need it. **SB 421** transfers up to \$1.125 billion directly to the KPERS Trust Fund. The first \$253.9 million pays off the 2017 layering payment. The bill then appropriates two more payments totaling \$600 million. This brings the FY 2022 appropriation to \$853.9 million. In FY 2023, another payment of \$146.1 million will be made on August 1 and \$125 million on December 1, subject to approval by the State Finance Council. At Omnibus, the resulting savings by reducing the state's share of employer contributions, will be reviewed. Preliminary figures estimate savings of \$463.5 million over the first five years. By investing a portion of the budget surplus into the KPERS Trust Fund, the funded ratio for KPERS will rise above the 80 percent threshold this Fiscal Year, a significantly stable level for a pensions system. The Legislature has worked for several years to clean up unfunded liabilities in the KPERS system, and I'm pleased that we've been able to accomplish that.

**SB 421** passed the House with overwhelming support, [106-10](#). **SB 421** was not acted upon by the Senate prior to First Adjournment.

## Responsible Budget Passes, Maintains Key Republican Priorities

The House passed **SB 267**, the appropriations bill, with a vote of [104-12](#). The Senate also passed the bill, sending it to the Governor for her consideration. Any line-item vetoes in the budget can be considered by the Legislature when it returns for the Veto Session. The priorities include:

- Securing the Rainy Day Fund, so that our families will not be on the hook for higher taxes as the economy ebbs and flows. \$500 million was appropriated directly to the Fund.
- Taking a “save more” instead of “spend more” approach, resisting the urge to overspend one-time federal stimulus dollars. Federal SPARK dollars were allocated to true one-time expenditures, not creating future years of expenditure growth.
- Continuing to invest in mental health, so our children, our veterans, and our families can access services when and where they need them. Additional funds were put in to increase reimbursement rates for those caring for our most vulnerable citizens (the Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled Frail Elderly waivers, behavioral health services).
- Making smart economic decisions that do not drive up debt by utilizing federal ARPA funds to spur economic development and critical infrastructure at the state’s universities and independent colleges, community colleges and technical colleges, and Washburn.
- Keeping businesses and good-paying jobs in our communities, at a time when many are still trying to rebound from the Governor’s closures. Included in the budget is \$50 million set aside for business closure rebates, providing claims from small businesses shut down during the pandemic. There is also a total of \$40 million provided for the Moderate Income Housing program and the Rural Housing Revolving Loan Program.

## Highlights of Legislation Headed to the Governor

- **HB 2717**: the bill prohibits municipalities from restricting law enforcement cooperation with Federal authorities. **HB 2717** also prohibits the use of municipal identification cards from being utilized to satisfy state proof of identity requirements, including for voter identification. The bill was brought to the Legislature by Attorney General Derek Schmidt. The House passed the bill last week, [84-38](#). The Senate passed **HB 2717** this week and the bill goes to the Governor for her consideration.
- Two new permanent displays at the State Capitol were endorsed by the Legislature. **SB 330** and **SB 479** authorize memorials that have been previously advanced by the Capitol Preservation Committee. **SB 330** endorses the Gold Star Families Memorial, which will place a marker on the south side of the Capitol along the Veterans’ Walk. **SB 330** was approved by the Governor on April 1. **SB 479** allows for a permanent memorial commemorating the Kansas suffragist movement. The location and type of memorial will be determined by the Capitol Preservation Committee.
- Established the Sand Hill Plum as the State Fruit in **HB 2644**. The bill originated from Sabetha Elementary school children. They researched and identified four native fruits to choose from - the American permission, gooseberry, red mulberry, and Sand Hill plum. A teacher reached out

to other Kansas school children over the summer, and received replies from 24 schools, representing more than 400 Kansas kids. The students selected the Sand Hill plum over the red mulberry. The House Federal and State Affairs Committee heard testimony from several students from across the state. The House concurred with the Senate amendment to the bill, [108-5](#), sending the bill to the Governor for her consideration.

## **Upcoming—Revenue Estimating and Omnibus Appropriations Meeting**

The Consensus Revenue Estimate (CRE) will be finalized on April 20. The CRE is a tool used by the Legislature and the Governor to determine State General Fund (SGF) revenue. The estimate is produced by the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, comprised of representatives from the Legislative Research Department, Division of the Budget, Department of Revenue, and consulting economists from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University. The CRE Group estimates SGF revenue in November and April. The House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees will meet separately prior to the Veto Session to receive the CRE and make decisions on items deferred until Omnibus for consideration.

## **Veto Session Priorities**

When the House returns later this month, consideration may be given to legislation that was agreed upon in conference, but not yet acted upon by the House. That legislation includes:

- Creating comprehensive tax legislation, including responsibly addressing a lowering of the food sales tax rate (**HB 2106**)
- Building upon on the safety and integrity of our Kansas elections system by addressing ballot boxes (**HB 2056**), elections, voting and audits (**HB 2138**), and preventing the Governor from modifying elections laws or procedures without Legislative consent (**HB 2252**)
- Fully funding K-12 education and directing policy, including: strengthening the Promise Act; addressing school safety and security; increasing proficiency, especially in reading (Every Child Can Read Act); providing greater educational opportunities through open enrollment; honoring spouses and dependents of public safety officers and military personnel through the Kansas Heroes Scholarship (**HB 2567**)
- Extending the KanCare contracts for Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), allowing the next Governor to consider how best to serve Kansans being served by MCOs while providing Kansans on Medicaid with continuity leading up to the bidding process. Additionally, the bill continues limits on the Governor's power regarding firearms or ammunition, and prohibits the Governor from closing places of worship. (**HB 2387**)

## **Legislation considered by the Kansas House this week**

**HB 2005** Relating to the duties of the state fire marshal; amending the boiler safety act; relating to exceptions to the applicability of the act; specifications for certain hot water supply boilers;

creating the elevator safety act; relating to safety standards for elevators; licensure requirements for elevator inspection, installation and repair; establishing the elevator safety fee fund. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [73-45](#). **HB 2005** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2075** Allowing venue for an adoption when the state is the agency to be where the state agency or its subcontracting agency has an office. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [121-0](#). **HB 2075** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2087** Requiring the review of rules and regulations by state agencies every five years; relating to review by the director of the budget; requirements for adoption of rules and regulations; providing an alternative procedure for revocation of certain rules and regulations. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [105-12](#). **HB 2087** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2109** relating to personal information about affiliation with certain nonprofit organizations; prohibiting a public agency from disclosing information related to such affiliation and providing exemptions; relating to disclosure of records under the open records act; continuing in existence certain exceptions to disclosure. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [92-20](#). **HB 2109** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2228** Requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy regarding submission of sexual assault evidence kits and allowing evidence collection at child advocacy centers or other facilities. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [121-0](#). **HB 2228** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2239** Amending law related to property tax, income tax, and sales tax. Contained provisions of 29 bills to provide tax relief to Kansans. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [103-10](#). **HB 2239** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2279** Amending the advanced practice registered nurse authorized scope of practice to permit the prescribing of drugs without a supervising physician. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [80-34](#). **HB 2279** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2299** relating to criminal history record information; requiring the retention of fingerprint information; participation in the rap back program; limiting access to fingerprints and records relating to fingerprints; relating to privacy rights on real property; imposing restrictions on surveillance by employees of the Kansas department of wildlife and parks; expanding the jurisdiction and powers of law enforcement officers; relating to search and seizure; extending the time within which a search warrant may be executed; clarifying information exchange in investigations of child abuse between the Kansas department for children and families and law enforcement agencies; directing the department to release certain information to law enforcement agencies. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [110-3](#). **HB 2299** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2361** relating to specialty court programs; authorizing the supreme court to adopt rules related thereto; establishing the specialty court funding advisory committee and the specialty court resources fund; relating to law libraries; removing the requirement that all district court judges serve on the board of trustees of the Douglas county law library; authorizing courts to order defendants to participate in specialty court programs; allowing expungement of certain convictions when defendants complete the requirements of such programs. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [113-0](#). **HB 2361** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2377** creating and amending law related to operating an aircraft under the influence, driving under the influence (DUI), diversions, and commercial driver's licenses. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [101-12](#). **HB 2377** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2386** Establishing requirements for the payment and reimbursement of dental services by a dental benefit plan. The House concurred with Senate amendments, [120-3](#). **HB 2386** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2448** Requiring able-bodied adults without dependents to complete an employment and training program in order to receive food assistance. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [70-46](#). **HB 2448** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2456** Establishing the Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [93-20](#). **HB 2456** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2458** Limiting the liability of optometrists and ophthalmologists who report information to the division of vehicles relating to a person's vision. The House concurred with Senate amendments, [121-0](#). **HB 2458** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2476** Adding several distinctive license plates, authorizing the creation and issuance of new distinctive plates for: Silver Star; Bronze Star; four Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; City of Hutchinson; and Daughters of the American Revolution. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [115-5](#). **HB 2476** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2478** Designating four portions of highway in honor of deceased public servants, a bridge in Pittsburg in honor of a private citizen, and two bridges in Cherokee County in honor of veterans. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [120-0](#). **HB 2478** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2489** Amending provisions of the technology-enabled fiduciary financial institutions act relating to out-of-state financial institutions, banks and trust companies conducting fidfin transactions, fees and assessments, examinations, disclosures to consumers and requiring such institutions to be mandatory reporters for purposes of elder abuse. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [117-0](#). **HB 2489** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2508** relating to definitions in the Kansas criminal code; modifying the definition of possession; relating to abuse of a child; modifying the elements of the offense; increasing criminal penalties thereof; relating to conditions of release prior to trial; requiring a forfeiture of an appearance bond to be set aside in certain circumstances; relating to preliminary hearings; permitting witness testimony through two-way electronic audio-video communication devices; relating to competency to stand trial; mobile competency evaluations. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [113-0](#). **HB 2508** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2537** Requiring the insurance department to hold a hearing in cases involving an order under the Kansas administrative procedure act. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [121-0](#). **HB 2537** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2559** Creating the Kansas cotton boll weevil program; relating to the powers and duties thereof; requiring the program to levy an assessment upon Kansas-produced cotton in order to monitor and mitigate the risk of boll weevils; relating to plants and seeds; seeds treated with certain substances; definitions; labeling; unlawful actions; certain registrations; inspections; live plant dealers; relating to industrial hemp; testing services; creating an advisory board. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [102-15](#). **HB 2559** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2564** Updating the version of risk-based capital instructions in effect. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [123-0](#). **HB 2564** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2595** Amending law regarding titling procedures for certain antique vehicles. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [119-1](#). **HB 2595** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2605** Increasing the rural population requirement maximum for the veterinary training program for rural Kansas and creating a food animal percentage requirement that may be fulfilled in lieu thereof. The House concurred with Senate amendments, [119-2](#). **HB 2605** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2607** Clarifying the time limitations for habeas corpus claims, requiring earlier notice of anticipated release from custody of a person who may be a sexually violent predator to the attorney general and a multidisciplinary team and specifying where such person will be detained during civil commitment proceedings. The House concurred with Senate amendments in conference, [123-0](#). **HB 2607** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**HB 2703** relating to the employment security law employment security fund; employer contribution rates; revising the definition of employment for conformity with federal law; making changes to the my reemployment plan program including making the program mandatory with specified exceptions; providing that the secretary of labor is to request that claimants create resumes in the Kansasworks system and that the secretary of commerce shall provide assistance to claimants through Kansasworks and may require claimants to participate in

reemployment services; providing claimants with additional time to respond; enacting the Kansas targeted employment act to facilitate employment of persons with developmental disabilities through a tax credit incentive for employers. The Senate passed the conference committee report, as did the House, [110-3](#). **HB 2703** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 2** Relating to the Kansas state fair; sales during the state fair; issuance of temporary permits; liquor enforcement tax and liquor drink tax; crediting a portion of such tax moneys collected to the state fair capital improvements fund; relating to the sale and delivery by retail liquor stores of alcohol and cereal malt beverages; increasing the percentage of alcohol by volume in domestic table wine and domestic fortified wine; relating to cereal malt beverage retailer licenses; requiring issuance thereof to a licensed farm winery that satisfies the statutory requirements for such retailer license; permitting farm wineries and producers to hold cereal malt beverage licenses; allowing farm wineries and producers to have alcoholic liquor such as wine on their premises while holding a cereal malt beverage license; removing the good character and reputation requirement for a cereal malt beverage license; providing that applicants for a farm winery or a producer license who are registered as agritourism operators shall be issued the license notwithstanding any zoning or other regulations of any city or county; providing that registered agritourism operators shall be issued a license as a drinking establishment notwithstanding any city or county zoning or other regulations. The conference committee report was passed by the House, [86-31](#), as did the Senate. **SB 2** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 58** relating to schools and school districts; establishing the parents' bill of rights. The House passed the conference committee report, [67-46](#), as did the Senate. **SB 58** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 62** Amending state standards for free school-administered vision screenings, establishing the Kansas Children's Vision Health and School Readiness Commission, authorizing the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to adopt rules and regulations, establishing a sign language interpreter registration process, and providing guidelines for communication access services. The House passed the conference committee report, [123-3](#), as did the Senate. **SB 62** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 84** relating to the Kansas expanded lottery act; Kansas lottery and Kansas racing and gaming commission, rules and regulations; authorizing sports wagering; creating the sports wagering receipts fund, the white collar crime fund, the attracting professional sports to Kansas fund, the privilege fee repayment fund and the facility manager licensee repayment fund; authorizing parimutuel licensees to operate historical horse race machines. The House passed the conference committee report, [63-49](#). **SB 84** awaits action by the Senate.

**SB 160** relating to student athletes; enacting the fairness in women's sports act; restricting participation on women's teams to female students; providing a cause of action for violations. The House passed the conference committee report, [74-39](#), as did the Senate. **SB 160** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 200** expanding the pharmacist's scope of practice to include initiation of therapy for certain health conditions; authorizing the collaborative drug therapy management advisory committee to adopt a statewide protocol for such therapy; adding to the list of persons who may receive prescription monitoring program data; providing requirements for data security and user and delegate access; increasing the number of members of the prescription monitoring program advisory committee. The House passed the conference committee report, [112-2](#), as did the Senate. **SB 200** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 215** Authorizing the board of education of a school district to contract with transportation network companies to provide certain transportation services; specifying requirements therefor; transferring authority over driver's education programs operated by certain postsecondary institutions and driver training schools to the department of revenue; authorizing the department of revenue to promulgate rules and regulations therefor. The House passed the conference committee report, [117-0](#), as did the Senate. **SB 215** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 261** Prohibiting the use of identifiable meat terms on the labels of meat analogs when such labels do not include proper qualifying language to indicate that such products do not contain meat. The House adopted the conference committee report, [113-0](#). **SB 261** awaits action by the Senate.

**SB 267** Appropriations for FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 for various state agencies. The House passed the conference committee report, [104-12](#), as did the Senate. **SB 267** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 286** relating to the governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Kansas; crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; crimes against the public peace; creating the crime of interference with the conduct of a hospital; increasing the criminal penalty for battery of a healthcare provider; extending the expanded use of telemedicine and expiring such provisions; extending the suspension of certain requirements related to medical care facilities and expiring such provisions; modifying the COVID-19 response and reopening for business liability protection act; extending immunity from civil liability for certain healthcare providers, certain persons conducting business in this state and covered facilities for COVID-19 claims until January 20, 2023. The House passed the conference committee report, [64-51](#), as did the Senate. **SB 286** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 343** preserving families that include a parent who is blind; providing for certain considerations relating to cases involving legal custody, residency, parenting time, children in need of care, adoption, foster care and guardianship; relating to statutory terminology; updating the term "hearing impairment" to "hard of hearing" and other related terms concerning persons with hearing loss. The House passed the conference committee report, [115-0](#), as did the Senate. **SB 343** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 366** relating to the Kansas offender registration act; providing a mechanism to seek relief from registration requirements for drug offenders; expungement for such offenses; requiring registration for certain violations of breach of privacy, internet trading in child pornography and



aggravated internet trading in child pornography. The House passed the conference committee report, [116-0](#). **SB 366** awaits action by the Senate.

**SB 408** relating to theft; increasing criminal penalties for multiple thefts of mail; relating to burglary; including locked or secured portions of dwellings, buildings or other structures; relating to supervision of criminal offenders under supervision of both court services officers and the department of corrections; providing guidance for consolidation of supervision into one supervision entity or agency; requiring the department of corrections and the office of judicial administration to enter into a memorandum of understanding related to the supervision of such offenders; relating to sentencing guidelines; criminal history calculation; requiring an offender who raises error in calculation for the first time on appeal to show prejudicial error; authorizing jurisdiction of the court to correct an illegal sentence while a direct appeal is pending; relating to the certified drug abuse treatment program; program qualifications; transferring certification duties from the department of corrections to the Kansas sentencing commission. The House passed the conference committee report, [114-2](#), as did the Senate. **SB 408** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 421** eliminating certain level-dollar employer contribution payments; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023; authorizing certain transfers from the state general fund to the Kansas public employees retirement fund; allowing the state finance council to stop such fiscal year 2023 transfers. The House passed the conference committee report, [106-10](#). **SB 421** awaits action by the Senate.

**SB 446** Allowing restricted driver's license holders beginning at age 15 to drive to and from religious activities held by any religious organization; providing for the electronic renewal of nondriver's identification cards. The House passed the conference committee report, [87-30](#). **SB 446** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 453** relating to unlicensed employees working in adult care homes; requiring unlicensed employee training courses to be taught and evaluated by professional licensed nurses; requiring a demonstration of skills to successfully complete training courses; licensees of the behavioral sciences regulatory board; allowing board-approved postgraduate experience to count toward graduate level supervised clinical practicum of supervised professional experience; permitting current master's and clinical level licensees to take the addiction counselor's test. The House passed the conference committee report, [116-0](#), as did the Senate. **SB 453** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

**SB 563** Redrawing the State's 40 Senate districts (map name: Liberty 3), 125 House of Representatives districts (map name: Free State 3F), and 10 State Board of Education (BOE) Districts (map name: Apple 7) using data obtained from the 2020 Census. The conference committee report passed the House, [83-40](#). The Senate also passed the report, and **SB 563** goes to the Governor for her consideration.

That's a lot of information! Hope it's helpful. Please contact me with your thoughts and concerns. It's an honor to serve the 77th!

Serving you,

Rep. Kristey Williams