



# Legislative UPDATE

March 8, 2019

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## THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

Legislators returned this week after a short break following the turnaround deadline last week. The Senate as a whole has now taken action on 41 bills, most of which were noncontroversial.

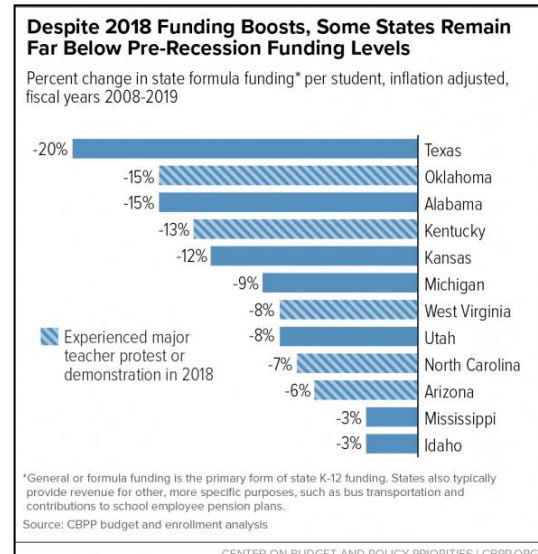
There is now just a month left of regular session and still plenty of work to be done. In fact, the priorities outlined by Governor Kelly have yet to be addressed. School funding is likely to be debated on the Senate floor next week. We are still waiting on a hearing on Medicaid expansion. Republican leaders are still pushing for massive tax breaks for giant multinational corporations – a step backward for Kansas.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 785-296-7387 or by email at [oletha29th@aol.com](mailto:oletha29th@aol.com). Or, stop by my legislative office located in room 135-E of the Statehouse.

## SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE

Kansas is one of 12 states that funds schools at less than pre-recession funding levels, according to a new analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities release this week. (See chart to the right.)

“As of the current 2017-18 school year, at least 12 states have cut ‘general’ or ‘formula’ funding — the primary form of state support for elementary and secondary schools — by 7 percent or more per



student over the last decade, according to a survey we conducted using state budget documents. Seven of those 12 — Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Oklahoma — enacted income tax rate cuts costing tens or hundreds of millions of dollars each year rather than restore education funding.”

It is for this reason the 2017 Kansas Legislature overturned the Brownback tax experiment and began working on restoring school funding. It is also for this reason that Governor Laura Kelly has made fully funding schools a top priority.

The Senate Select Committee on School Finance approved Senate Bill 142 this week. It

BASE AID FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE (SY 2019-2020 through SY 2022-2023)		
School Year	Current Law	SB 142
2019-2020	\$ 4,302	\$ 4,436
2020-2021	4,439	4,569
2021-2022	4,576	4,706
2022-2023	4,713	4,846

now goes to the Senate floor for consideration. It is likely to be on the debate calendar next week. The bill includes the Governor’s funding plan - \$92.7 million for FY 2020 and \$89.7 million for FY 2021. It also outlines the base state aid per pupil for the next four years (as noted in the chart to the left). I plan to support this plan.

## BILLS OF INTEREST

February 27 marked the mid-point of the 2019 Legislative Session. The turnaround deadline marked the last day for bills to clear their house of origin. Here are a few bills of interest the Senate acted on:

- **SIGNATURE CORRECTIONS** Introduced by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D-Wichita), Senate Bill 130 amends existing law to require election officials to contact individuals to correct advance ballots that have been submitted without a signature or with a signature that doesn’t match the signature on file. The bill passed unanimously.
- **MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS CHANGES** Senate Bill 131 changes when township officials take the oath of office and the deadline for filing for municipal office when no primary is being held. The bill passed unanimously.
- **SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS** Senate Bill 7, introduced by Senator Tom Hawk (D-Manhattan) moves school board officer elections, organization of the board to on or after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in January. The bill provides flexibility to school boards to decide when to hold internal leadership elections and meetings. The bill passed 39-1.
- **ELECTIONS/VOTER REGISTRATION** Senate Bill 43. This bill will assure every vote counts. The bill was passed unanimously.

- **SAFETY DRILLS** Senate Bill 128 requires schools to conduct at least 9 safety drills each year. These drills include fire, tornado, and crisis drills. Current law requires 16 emergency preparedness drills; this bill provides a more balanced approach. The bill passed unanimously.
- **MISSING FOSTER CARE CHILDREN** Senate Bill 162 requires foster care contractors with DCF to notify DCF within 24 hours of a child in foster care that has gone missing. DCF would be required to notify the Governor within 24 hours and each member of the Legislature and the official newspaper of the county where the child went missing. A fine of \$500 would be assessed for each day a contractor fails to report the missing child. The bill passed unanimously.
- **LIGHTS & SIRENS** Senate Bill 62 authorizing the violation of certain rules of the road by the driver of police vehicles by permitting drivers to engage in certain actions without using audible or visual signals. The bill passed 34-4.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month! March 8 is International Women's Day – a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women across the globe. Kansas is unique in that women had the right to vote in school district elections in 1861 and municipal elections in 1887; Kansas was the first state to expand voting rights to municipal elections. Then, in November 1912, Kansas voters approved the Equal Suffrage Amendment to the state constitution, becoming the 8<sup>th</sup> state to grant the rights to women. Kansas women could vote 8 years prior to the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Here are a few notable Kansas women:

- **Clarina Nichols** moved from Vermont to the Kansas Territory in October 1854. She was a recognized leader in the women's rights movement and later became associate editor of the Quindaro Chindowan, an abolitionist newspaper. In 1859, she presented to the delegates of the Wyandotte constitutional convention a petition calling for equal political and civil rights for Kansas women. Nichols was given a voice, and the final version of the Wyandotte Constitution included three provisions of hers: women's rights in child custody, married women's property rights, and equality in matters pertaining to public schools. She left Kansas in 1871, and died in California in 1885.
- **Susanna Madora Salter** was elected mayor of Argonia, Kansas, in April 1887; she was the first woman mayor in the United States. Kansas women gained the right to vote in school district elections in 1861 and municipal elections in 1887. Soon after, several men nominated Salter as a joke. She won the election with two-thirds of the votes at the age of 27. She was the daughter of the town's first

mayor and the daughter-in-law of a former Kansas lieutenant governor. Salter died in Oklahoma in 1961 at the age of 101.

- **Minnie Johnston Grinstead** was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1918, the first woman to serve in the Legislature. She served three terms. In 1921, she served on the Judiciary Committee, becoming the first woman in the country to ever do so. Her legislative victories included a bill to require "auto-gates," or cattle guards, instead of wire gates where fences cross highways and a Free Library Bill allowing small towns to levy funds for libraries. In 1921 and 1922, she also served on the first state school code commission, which examined statutes relating to education and recommended changes to the Legislature. Grinstead died in 1925. At the time of her death she was being considered by the Coolidge administration for the post of United State civil-service commissioner.



Senator Faust-Goudeau met with members of the Energy Fairness Act in regard to Senate Bill 124. Pictured (L to R) Kent Rowe, Jennifer Connelly, Senator Faust-Goudeau, Kay Johnson and Scott Cromwell.



Senator Faust-Goudeau met with members from SPEEA, Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace. Pictured (L to R) Earl Carter, Senator Faust-Goudeau, Derek Milligan and Ronda Cockrell.

Senators Faust-Goudeau, Senator Dinah Sykes and Detective Shannon Leeper of the Lenexa Police Department testifying in regard to Senate Bill 150 which pertains to domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking or stalking, relating to housing protection and notification requirements.



Sein Kina, President of Keep Girls Safe Foundation, Senator Dinah Sykes, Senator Faust-Goudeau and Michelle McCormick, Program Director for Safety and Empowerment of the YWCA. All of us testified in regard to SB150.

It's an honor to serve you!

Sincerely,

*Oletha Faust-Goudeau*

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau

### **IMPORTANT STATE PHONE NUMBERS**

Here is a list of numbers I often receive requests for during the Legislative Session. I hope you will find this information helpful.

Attorney General (888) 428-8436	(888) 275-5737	(877) 626-8203
Child Abuse Hotline (800) 922-5330	Governor's Office (877) 579-6757	Social Security (800) 772-1213
Consumer Protection (800) 432-2310	Highway Conditions (800) 585-7623	DCF (785) 296-1491
Crime Tip Hotline (800) 572-7463	Housing Hotline (800) 752-4422	Suicide Prevention Hotline (800) 273-8255
Crime Victim Referral (800) 828-9745	KanCare Consumer Assistance (866) 305-5147	Tax Refund Status Info (800) 894-0318
Department on Aging (800) 432-3535	Kansas Jobs (785) 235-5627	Taxpayer Assistance (785) 368-8222
Driver's License Bureau (785) 296-3963	Kansas Lottery (785) 296-5700	Unclaimed Property (800) 432-0386
Fraud Hotline (800) 432-3919	Kansas State Library (800) 432-3924	Vital Statistics (Birth Certificates) (785) 296-1400
KPERS	Legislative Hotline (800) 432-3924	Victims of Human Trafficking (888) 373-7888
	School Safety Hotline	