



Legislative UPDATE

January 25, 2019

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THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

Between the holiday on Monday and the winter storm that delayed work on Wednesday, it's been a short week at the Capitol and progress has been slow. No action was taken on the Senate floor. Committee work was light as we continue to have bill introductions and informational briefings.

Committee hearings and legislative proceedings are now live streamed from the Kansas Legislature's website. Archived recordings are available as well. Visit www.kslegislature.org and click on "Audio/Video" in the upper righthand corner, next to the search box on the home page, to reveal a drop-down menu. To view a full schedule of committees, choose "Statehouse Live & Archive" from the drop-down menu. To listen to legislative proceedings, select either the House or Senate audio stream.

You can also track bills on the Legislature's website by clicking on the "Bills & Laws" link. You are welcome to testify before a committee on any issue important to you. A written copy of your testimony is required at least 24 hours prior to the committee hearing.

I am honored to serve as your Senator. My office is located in Room 135E. Please feel free to visit or to contact me at 785-296-7387 or Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@Senate.ks.gov, if you should have any questions or concerns.



MEET MY INTERN

I would like you to meet my Legislative Intern, Mayela Campa. She is a student at Washburn University majoring in political science.

KPERS: GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL STRENGTHENS SYSTEM

Many Kansas families make tough decisions every day when it comes to their finances. Governor Kelly is doing the same thing when it comes to the state's finances. She's choosing to refinance the biggest expense to ensure the cash flow is there to pay the bills on time and meet the needs of Kansans.

Her proposal to refinance KPERS is much like refinancing a mortgage. While the term is longer and more interest is likely to be paid, it reduces the payment and eases the burden on cash flow.

Additionally, it makes it much more affordable in the long-run by reducing the risk of skipping payments in the event of an economic downturn. As fiscal stability improves and if there's more revenue coming in, the legislature could pay extra – much like with any loan payment – in order to pay down the debt faster.

It's important to note that this does not jeopardize anyone's KPERS retirement. A KPERS retirement is a contract that the state will keep, no matter what. Whether working or already retired, KPERS retiree payments are safe. This is a common sense move to get Kansas back on steady financial ground.

For a more in-depth look at Governor Kelly's full proposed budget, I encourage you to [watch this video](#) produced by Loud Light.

REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Kansas Legislature closed Monday to observe the holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His work remains an inspiration today.

An excerpt in the [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#) – written in response to criticism from white clergy throughout the nation accused Martin Luther King, Jr. of being an extremist when he was jailed for joining the protesters in Birmingham, Alabama – is appropriate for the current climate in our country.

King writes, "The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice? In that dramatic scene on Calvary's hill three men were crucified. We must never forget that all three were crucified for the same crime-the crime of extremism. Two were extremists for immortality, and fell below their environment. The other, Jesus Christ, was an extremist for love, truth and goodness, and thereby rose above his environment. The South, the nation and the world are in dire need of some creative extremists."

BILLS OF INTEREST

The second week of session has come to an end and many bills have been introduced. The deadline for bill introductions is Friday, February 15. The following are bills that may be of interest:

- **SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION** - Senators Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D-Wichita) and Pat Pettey (D-Kansas City) along with 11 other Senators introduced a bill Thursday that creates same-day voter registration. Senate Bill 43 allows eligible voters to go to their polling place on Election Day, register to vote, and cast a provisional ballot all in the same day. Under current law, voters must be registered on or before the 21st day before the election. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections.
- **MANDATORY REPORTING** – Senator Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City) introduced a bill Wednesday that mandates that duly ordained ministers of religion, employees of or volunteers for religious organizations report suspected abuse or neglect to authorities. Senate Bill 37 provides an extra layer of protection for all Kansas children. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs.
- **THREE DAY WAITING PERIOD ON PURCHASE OF FIREARMS** - I introduced a fiscal note for SB8 which would establish a three-day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of any firearm from a person or retailer. The bill also requires each purchaser of a firearm to be subject to a national criminal history records check, including an inquiry of the national instant criminal background check. This bill would not apply to law enforcement officers of individuals with a

PAGE OPPORTUNITIES

Each session, Senators are allowed up to 20 Senate Pages. Pages spend the day running errands for legislators and sit on the Senate floor during daily proceedings. It's a great opportunity for students to get a first-hand experience in Kansas state

government. If you know a middle school or high school student who would be interested in paging, please contact my office at (785) 296-7387.

It's an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
District 29

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