



# Legislative UPDATE

News & Information for the People of the 29<sup>th</sup> District

**February 21, 2020**

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Senator Faust-Goudeau with Dr. Cheryl Harrison-Lee with the Kansas Board of Regents.



## **THE WEEK BEFORE TURNAROUND**

Next week is turnaround – the midway marker for session and the last day to consider non-exempt bills in their house of origin. Although committees have been holding hearings and working proposed legislation to accommodate the pending turnaround deadlines, work on the Senate floor has been minimal. This week we considered seven bills from the consent calendar and seven bills on general orders.

To date, the Senate has debated and passed 17 pieces of legislation, the majority of which were noncontroversial or had appeared on the consent calendar; they all will now go to the House for consideration. In past years, by this point in the session, the Senate has debated and voted on more than 30 pieces of legislation.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 316-210-4380 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.

## **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES IN COMMITTEES**

Committee meetings in rooms 112-N, 118-N, 212B-N, and 218-N were unavailable for livestreaming after flooding in some ground floor offices damaged the equipment necessary for broadcasting proceedings. Legislative Services is working to restore service as soon as possible.

To listen to legislative committee proceedings, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org). Then, under the “Audio/Video” menu in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage, select “Statehouse Live and Archive.” Live streaming of committee meetings as well as recordings of previous meetings can be accessed here.

## **MEDICAID EXPANSION FAILS IN COMMITTEE**

Two attempts were made Thursday to move the bill containing the bipartisan Medicaid expansion compromise out of committee. Both attempts failed. Despite having 22 co-sponsors on Senate Bill 252, many members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare have made it clear they aren’t serious about passing Medicaid expansion this session.

Prior to the attempts to get the bill out of committee, the bill was amended with provisions that allow discrimination of LGBTQ patients by medical providers; establish work requirements; and, block state funding for abortions. It’s important to note that there are current laws at the state and federal level that block public dollars from being used for abortions.

The bill also was amended to establish that, if passed, Medicaid expansion would not go into effect until a decision is made by the United States Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (*Texas v. United States*) **and** the constitutional amendment concerning the regulation of abortion is approved by the electors.

Unfortunately, this particular bill is likely dead. However, we are still optimistic to get Medicaid expansion to the floor of the Senate for a debate and vote this session.

## **GOVERNOR KELLY’S TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Senate Committee on Ways & Means held a hearing this week on Governor Kelly’s transportation plan, FORWARD. The plan is contained in [Senate Bill 375](#). It is an all-encompassing transportation program that would give attention to transit, aviation, rail, bike, and pedestrian solutions in rural and urban communities throughout Kansas.

FORWARD is flexible and responsive by allowing communities to shift priorities and project scopes to better address current and future needs. Each Kansas county would

be provided with at least \$8 million in transportation improvements while leveraging partnerships with local communities to generate local match and input to stretch dollars further.

In addition to calling for the completion of delayed T-WORKS projects and putting an end to transfers from the highway fund, it implements a two-year rolling program approach. Major projects are selected every two years rather than once a decade; priority is given to preservation and addressing safety needs. By June 30, 2030, no less than three expansion or modernization projects would be selected for development from each of the Kansas Department of Transportation's six districts.

This is a much-needed plan that will serve the people of Kansas. It will create good-paying jobs and provide opportunities to invest in a modern transportation system to help Kansans get where they need to go safely and conveniently.

### **OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

- **PROVISIONAL BALLOTS** The Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government held a hearing this week on [SB 351](#), which would allow a person who has not registered to vote and whose name does not appear in the polling book to vote a provisional ballot. The individual would have to be qualified to vote and would need to complete the application for registration. The provisional ballot would be counted so long as the county board of canvassers determines the ballot was properly cast or the voter has not otherwise voted.
- **PERMANENT ADVANCE BALLOT STATUS** [SB 412](#) allows any registered voter to apply for permanent advance voting status. If a person fails to vote in two consecutive elections or if the clerk receives notice that the mail of the person is undeliverable, the person will no longer have the status. The Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government held a hearing on this bill this week.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIONS** Senator Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) introduced a bill that establishes a process by which guns must be surrendered by individuals who have had protection orders filed against them or have been convicted of domestic battery following the issuance of a relinquishment order by the court. [SB 415](#) also establishes that possession of firearms or a concealed carry license while there is a relinquishment order is a severity level 8, nonperson felony. The bill was introduced on February 12 and referred to the Committee on Judiciary. A hearing has not been scheduled.
- **MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE** Senator Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) introduced a bill requiring health insurance plans to cover diagnostic examinations for breast cancer beginning January 1, 2021. At the time of publication of this newsletter, [SB 464](#) had not been referred to a committee.

### **OVER AT THE HOUSE**

- **FUNERAL PROCESSIONS** The House Committee on Transportation this week recommended a bill regulating funeral processions be passed. [HB 2608](#),

introduced by Representative Jeff Pittman (D-Leavenworth), requires all pedestrians and vehicle operators to yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that is part of a funeral procession being led by a funeral lead vehicle or accompanied by a funeral escort. The bill now awaits action by the full House.

- **SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS** The House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development held a hearing this week on a bill that allows school bus drivers to apply for and receive unemployment insurance benefits when school is not in session. [HB 2315](#) is just like the Senate Bill 38, which was introduced by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau and received a hearing in the Senate Committee on Commerce, but no further action was taken.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA** The House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice is expected to take final action on a bill that would require Kansans in prison for unlawful possession of a marijuana or THC to be released. [HB 2686](#) would also require all Kansans on probation or assignment to a community correctional services program for such violations to be discharged. The bill was introduced at the request of Representative Highberger (D-Lawrence) on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month, a time devoted to celebrating and recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

- **Mary Church Terrell** was a charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a founding member of the Colored Women's League of Washington. In 1884, Terrell became one of the first African American women to earn a college degree. Throughout her life, Terrell was a strong advocate for civil rights and women's suffrage.



- U.S. Rep. **Shirley Chisholm** became the first African American congresswoman in 1968. She represented New York's 12<sup>th</sup> congressional district for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. She ran for the 1972 Democratic nomination for the presidency, becoming the first major-party black candidate to do so. Throughout her career, Chisholm fought for economic and social justice.



- **Marie M. Daly** was the first African American woman to receive a Ph. D. in chemistry. Her groundbreaking work included studies on cholesterol, sugars, and proteins. In addition to her research, she helped pave the way for future students who would have to overcome the hurdles of racial and gender bias.



## **Disability Services**

Community capacity for services is at a critical juncture. Organizations that provide services for Kansas citizens who have intellectual and developmental disabilities are facing severe workforce shortages. The statewide system has been significantly underfunded for 20 years and most providers are only able to offer starting pay in the range of \$9 to \$10 an hour. As a result these organizations average 50% turnover annually. Community workers and state hospital workers are paid an average of \$10 an hour while state employees receive \$15 an hour. Community direct care workers are on call 24/7. Organizations have a high number of vacant positions and some have not been filled in three years.

## **Pages at the Capitol**

Last week, Senator Faust-Goudeau sponsored 3 pages at the Capitol. Pictured from left to right are: Senator Faust-Goudeau, Lillianna Rivera, Governor Kelly, Aarolyn Porter and Savannah Mansaw.



## **Kansas Department of Administration Secretary DeAngela Burns-Wallace sworn into office**

Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace was sworn in as cabinet secretary for the Kansas Department of Administration during a ceremony at the Kansas Capitol. In addition to leading the Department of Administration since July, Burns-Wallace was named the chief information technology officer (CITO) for the State of Kansas Executive Branch in August. Burns-Wallace is the first woman of color to serve as secretary for the Department of Administration or as executive branch CITO.

Prior to Governor Kelly's appointment, Burns-Wallace served as the vice provost for undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas. Her 15-year career in higher education includes positions at the University of Missouri and Stanford University. Burns-Wallace continues to hold faculty appointments at KU, MU and the University of Southern California. Burns-Wallace began her career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. She served Foreign Service tours in Guangzhou and Beijing, China; Pretoria, South Africa; and in Washington, D.C.



Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Hill swears in Secretary of Administration, DeAngela Burns-Wallace whose son, Xavier, is holding Secretary Burns-Wallace's family bible.

### **MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE**



Senator Faust-Goudeau met with members from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense at the Capitol this week. Members of the group voiced their concerns to Senator Faust-Goudeau. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense advocates for common sense gun safety measures.

### **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

Consumer Protection  
(800) 432-2310

Crime Victim Referral  
(800) 828-9745

Child Abuse Hotline  
(800) 922-5330

Crime Tip Hotline  
(800) 572-7463

Department on Aging  
(800) 432-3535

Driver's License Bureau  
(785) 296-3963

Fraud Hotline  
(800) 432-3919

KPERS  
(888) 275-5737  
Governor's Office  
(877) 579-6757

Highway Conditions  
(800) 585-7623

Housing Hotline  
(800) 752-4422

KanCare Consumer  
Assistance  
(866) 305-5147

Kansas Jobs  
(785) 235-5627  
Kansas Lottery  
(785) 296-5700

Kansas State Library  
(800) 432-3924

Legislative Hotline  
(800) 432-3924

School Safety Hotline  
(877) 626-8203  
Social Security(800)  
772-1213

DCF  
(785) 296-1491

Suicide Prevention  
Hotline  
(800) 273-8255

Tax Refund Status Info  
(800) 894-0318

Taxpayer Assistance  
(785) 368-8222

Unclaimed Property  
(800) 432-0386

Vital Statistics  
(Birth Certificates)  
(785) 296-1400

Victims of Human  
Trafficking  
(888) 373-7888