

State Representative

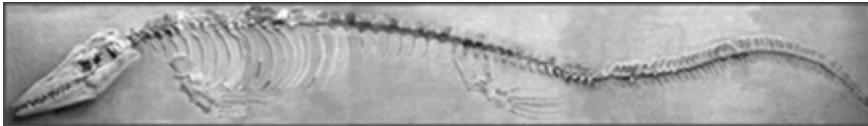
Don Hineman

Don's Legislative Update
February 23, 2014

Official State Fossils

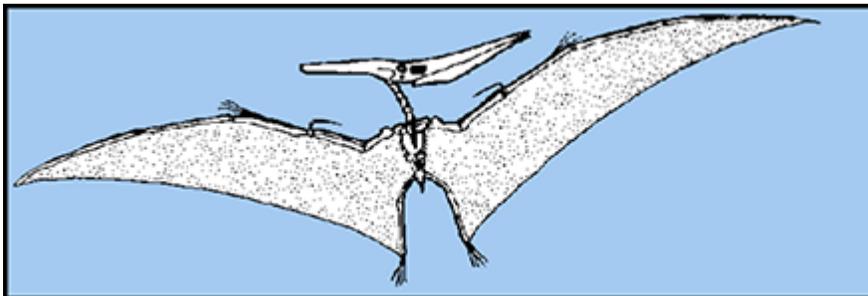
Last week I was pleased to introduce [HB 2595](#). The bill, which would designate *Tylosaurus* (a giant Mosasaur) as the Kansas state marine fossil and *Pteranodon* as the Kansas state flying fossil was passed out of the Vision 2020 committee with only one dissenting vote. Appearing to testify in favor of the bill were famed fossil hunter [Alan Detrich](#), Adjunct curator of vertebrate paleontology at Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Hays, Kansas [Mike Everhart](#), and 4Her and high school senior [Steven Fisher](#) from Scott City.

Tylosaurus inhabited the great inland sea of Western Kansas during the Cretaceous Period of the Mesozoic Era. Growing to lengths of more than 40 feet, *Tylosaurus* would have been the dominant marine predator of his world.



Tylosaurus proriger, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays, Kansas – About 30 feet in length

Pteranodon flew above the same seas in which *Tylosaurus* swam, and achieved wingspans of 24 feet or more. Though not technically a dinosaur (both *Tylosaurus* and *Pteranodon* were reptiles) *Pteranodon* has gained worldwide fame through its depiction in classic movies such as *King Kong*, Disney's *Fantasia*, and *Jurassic Park*.



Pteranodon Longiceps, a drawing from *Oceans of Kansas*, Mike Everhart, 2005

This session, like any legislative session, presents us with any number of serious issues to be debated and resolved. But that does not mean that there is no time available to consider designating these magnificent fossil species as official symbols of the state. By doing so we recognize and



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Visit Don's Website:
[Hineman for Kansas](#)

Useful Phone Numbers

Department On Aging
800-432-3535

Child/Adult Abuse Hotline
800-922-5330

Child & Family Services
888-369-4777

celebrate the natural history of this land that is now known as Kansas. A representative of the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism testified that passage of the bill could enhance tourism in the state while increasing the appreciation of Kansas residents for our natural history.

Steven Fisher has started a [FaceBook page](#) to publicize the bill and encourage its passage. Thank you Steven! Time is running short as we approach turnaround.

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The Halfway Mark

Next Friday marks the official halfway point of the 2014 session, also known as “turnaround.” Aside from some exempt bills, all bills must pass their chamber of origin by turnaround in order to remain alive. Committees are working hard to advance legislation, and next week we will spend a large amount of time on the House floor considering bills passed by committees so that they can be sent on to the Senate.

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Bills Passed out of the House Last Week

Insurance for Qualified Professional Associations

On Friday, the House passed legislation that will give more professional and trade associations the ability to offer their members alternatives to fully-insured health plans. Preliminary estimates indicate more than 350,000 Kansans would be eligible for coverage by a self-funded association health plan under the provisions of [HB 2668](#).

Modernization of State Business Law

The House moved to update the state’s business law by amending our Limited Liability Company Act. [HB 2398](#) will allow Kansas to be competitive with the state of Delaware, known to be the gold standard in business law. It is important to modernize our business laws and send a message to companies and individuals that our state is open for business.

Ballot Language

When constitutional amendments are placed on ballots, current law has the language spelled out in the technical legal language which is often difficult to understand, especially for voters who aren’t lawyers. To help ensure voters are able to understand what an amendment does, [HB 2518](#) allows for ballot language to be explained in plain English instead of legal jargon.

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Bills Under Consideration and Generating Attention

Liquor

The House Commerce Committee played host to the annual showdown between liquor stores and grocery and convenience stores. The proposed bill creates three Classes of licenses, Class A- Beer (available in 2017), Class B- Beer and Wine (available 2020), Class C- Beer, Wine & Spirits (Available 2024). Proponents claim this offers an open market, while opponents say this will result in a loss of jobs and businesses in Kansas.

Consumer Protection
800-423-2310

Crime Tip Hotline
800-252-8477

Crime Victim Assistance
800-828-9745

Gov- Brownback
800-748-4408

Highway Road Conditions
511 (in Kansas)

Housing Hotline
800-752-4422

KanCare Assistance
866-305-5147

Kansas Lottery
800-544-9467

Legislative Hotline
800-432-3924

Mental Health Services
888-582-3759

School Safety Hotline
877-626-8203

Social Security
800-772-1213

Taxpayer Assistance
785-368-8222

Tax Refund Status
800-894-0318

Unclaimed Property
800-432-0386

Unemployment Insurance
800-292-6333

Vital Statistics
785-296-1400

Voter Registration
800-262-8683

Welfare Fraud Hotline
800-432-3913

Worker's Comp
800-332-0353

Fluoride

This week the House Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing on HB 2372, which requires local governments who provide fluoridated water to notify customers of false information, including that ingested fluoride lowers the I.Q. in children. If approved, Kansas would be the only state to pass this type of legislation. The oral health community testified in strong opposition to the bill. The Kansas Dental Association testified that every dollar invested in fluoridation saves \$38 in dental costs.

Common Core

This week the House Education Committee held a hearing on HB 2621, which proposes to scrap the math and English standards adopted by the Board of Education in 2010. A measure to ban the standards was voted down last session. Nearly 70 conferees signed up to testify on the bill, igniting last year's debate.

Though each of these proposals is certainly controversial, the issues are at least still under consideration. That is no longer true of some more dubious proposals, including one which would have defined corporal punishment, and allow parents, teachers, and caregivers to hit children hard enough to leave marks. Another proposal which is encountering strong resistance is a bill to eliminate no-fault divorce in Kansas.

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Pages Visit the Statehouse



On Thursday, February 13 I hosted pages from Russell Springs. Pictured are April Mays and Faith Edwards. They were accompanied by Cameron Edwards, whose grandfather is former State Representative Gayle Mollencamp.



On Monday, February 17 I hosted Karel Schultz, Amanda Kessler, and Ashley Strathman from Hill City as pages. It is always a treat to host these students as they come to Topeka to serve and to learn more about state government.

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Turnaround Town Hall Meeting Schedule

Monday, March 3 with Senator Ralph Ostmeyer

8:00 a.m.	Oakley	Buffalo Bill Cultural Center
9:30 a.m.	Quinter	Jay Johnson Public Library
11:00 a.m.	WaKeeney	Public Library Community Room
1:00 p.m.	Hill City	Schweitzer Hotel
2:30 p.m.	Hoxie	Bowen Scout House

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 a.m.	Colby	(with Senator Ralph Ostmeyer) Thomas Co. Office Complex
1:00 p.m.	Leoti	(with Senator Larry Powell) 96 Cafe

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2014 Campaign

The 2014 election season is rapidly approaching. I have already filed, and early contributions will allow me to prepare so that I can mount the most effective campaign when the time comes. Following last year's redistricting by the Federal courts, my 118th district changed significantly, and I'm now the "Topeka Voice" for many new families. It takes a good campaign account balance to reach these people in the four new counties of Scott, Thomas, Sheridan, and Graham.

You may contribute online [here](#) or by sending a check to:

Hineman for Kansas
116 S. Longhorn Rd.
Dighton, KS 67839

Contribution limit (per election cycle) is \$500 and is nondeductible. Contributions may be accepted from individuals at any time. Contributions from businesses and corporations cannot be accepted while the legislature is in session. I would appreciate your support now.

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Cowboy Logic

If you can't be a good example, be a WARNING.

Quote of the week

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits."
Albert Einstein

Sermon in a sentence

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

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Representative Don Hineman

Visit My Website at <http://www.hinemanforkansas.org/>

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Newsletter Paid for by Hineman For Kansas - Derek Martin, Treasurer