

State Representative

Don Hineman

Don's Legislative Update

January 29, 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KANSAS!



Kansas celebrates its 156th birthday on Sunday, celebrating its entry into the Union as the 34th state on January 29, 1861. The Kansas House of Representatives will celebrate Kansas Day on Monday, January 30 and will recognize Robert Bergen, artist and creator of the 22-foot bronze Kansa warrior statue on top of the statehouse dome. In addition to the activities on the House floor, there

are opportunities to view the "Home on the Range" documentary in the Capitol on Monday, January 30.

Here are some fun coloring pages featuring Kansas facts and symbols:

http://www.kshs.org/educate/students/pdfs/symbols_coloring_book.pdf

I note that the coloring book is a bit outdated, as it does not contain the newest state symbols, the state flying fossil, Pteranodon, and the state marine fossil, Tylosaurus Mosasaur. Hopefully that is corrected soon.

Budget

This past week the House Appropriations Committee and the budget subcommittees dug into Governor Brownback's rescission bill for fiscal year 2017, which ends June 30. The state is currently facing a shortfall of \$340 million in FY 2017, and the governor has recommended adjustments to end the fiscal year with a positive ending balance. Here are the highlights:

- Freeze KPERS contributions at the reduced 2016 level, saving \$86 million
- Fund adjusted human services caseload estimates (changes in cost of services and additional applicants), costing an additional \$147 million
- \$75 million due to Kansas schools was delayed in late FY 2016 into early FY 2017. The governor proposes an identical delay in payments in late FY 2017
- Sell a \$362 million long-term investment fund. \$45 million in capital gains would immediately go into the state general fund (SGF). \$317 million of principal would be considered an immediate loan to SGF and repaid at \$45 million annually over seven years starting in FY 2018
- Increase SGF expenditures at Osawatomie State Hospital due to decertification and loss of federal funds
- Increase SGF expenditures at Larned State Hospital due to withholding of federal funds as a result of reconciliation of past cost control reports



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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

When all the additions and deletions are accounted for, total SGF expenditures would be reduced by \$24 million from the amount approved during the 2016 legislative session. Although the committee has had a hearing on the bill, it will quite likely be amended before the committee passes it out.

The appropriations committee also heard [HB 2161](#), which would clear the way for liquidation of the long-term investment fund. Although many view this as fiscally questionable, there appears to be growing recognition that it is a move which will probably be necessary in order to avoid choices which are even less desirable.

Tax

On Monday, the Committee continued its hearing on [HB 2023](#), which would require non-wage business income to be included for Kansas income tax purposes. After the hearing, Acting Revenue Secretary Sam Williams provided the Committee with a revised fiscal note, increasing the revenue estimates to \$230.9 million in FY '18 and \$181 million in FY '19. That amount of revenue will not fill the projected hole budget, and other actions will be necessary in order to achieve true structural balance between revenues and expenditures. And if any income tax bill is to provide revenue for FY '18, then it will be necessary to make the tax changes retroactive to 1/1/2017, since most income tax revenue is remitted after the fact.

On Tuesday, the Committee discussed Sales Tax Exemptions. Committee members heard from Tom Browne, Jr., Department of Revenue. He covered the 3 categories of exemptions: (1) Legal; (2) Conceptual; and (3) Public Policy. The Committee selected a handful of exemptions to further study. In my experience, the topic of tax exemptions is one which attracts plenty of attention but little action. Admittedly, the dollar amount of all sales tax exemptions is huge. But those particular exemptions which would generate significant revenue are easily justified, and their removal would be very unpopular. Imposing sales tax on goods consumed in production by business or agriculture, or on services, or on consumer's utility bills would create major disruptions to the Kansas economy. My guess is that we will not go very far down that road.

Fort Riley Tour



On Friday a busload of legislators and spouses traveled west for a tour of Fort Riley. It was highly interesting, including an inside look at the hangar

Consumer Protection

800-432-2310

Crime Tip Hotline

1-800-KSCRIME

(1-800-572-7463)

Crime Victims' Information Referral

800-828-9745

Disability / Social Security Fraud Hotline

800-269-0271

Edler Abuse Hotline

800-842-0078

Governor Brownback Constituent Services

800-748-4408

Highway Road Conditions

1-866-511-5638

In-State Dial 511

Housing Hotline

800-752-4422

KanCare Clearinghouse

800-792-4884

Kansas Lottery

800-544-9467

Legislative Hotline

800-432-3924

Mental Health Services

888-582-3759

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-8255

School Safety Hotline

877-626-8203

Taxpayer Assistance

785-368-8222

Tax Refund Status

800-894-0318

Unclaimed Property

for Grey Eagle drones, a tour through the historic district, a briefing on Big Red One activities, a first-hand look at the extensive use of gaming and technology in troop training, and a full tour of the new hospital. While the facilities were certainly impressive, my wife Betsy and I were most impacted by the genuine pride and gratefulness expressed by everyone we met during the tour. General Pat Frank and his team are to be congratulated for their capable administration of the post and their ongoing vision for its future.

Interview With Editorial Board

On Tuesday afternoon the House leadership team of Speaker Ron Ryckman (R-Olathe), Speaker Pro Tem Scott Schwab (R-Olathe), and Majority Leader Don Hineman (R-Dighton) met with the editorial board of Topeka Capital-Journal. Our overriding message to them was that we prefer an open and inclusive legislative process as the best approach to dealing effectively with the challenges we face: <http://cjonline.com/news/state-government/2017-01-24/kansas-house-gop-leaders-working-compromise-budget-tax-deal>

Coming Up Next Week

- Hearings on Concealed carry licensure amendments and exemptions from public buildings law under PFFPA [Fed. & State; Wed. Feb. 1st, 9:00 a.m., Room 346-S]
- Subcommittee meeting on KPERS; working after retirement, Hearing on HB2005 exempting members of the State Board of Regent's plan from certain KPERS working after retirement provisions. [Financial Institutions & Pensions Subcommittee; Mon. Jan. 30th, Committee Wed. Feb. 1st, 9:00 a.m., Room 281-N]
- Informational hearing on the 2016 Juvenile Justice Reform bill [Corrections & Juvenile Justice; Tues. Jan. 31, 1:30, Room 152-S]
- Hearings on drug abuse treatment and repeal of third-time offenders of controlled substance special sentencing [Corrections & Juvenile Justice; Wed. Feb. 1st 1:30, Room 152-S]
- Hearing on HB 2119; non-covered services for dental benefits under health insurance [Health & Human Services; Fri. Feb. 3rd 1:30, Room 546-S]
- Hearing on HB2013; Write in candidates must agree in writing to be placed on general election ballot [Elections; Mon. Jan. 30th 1:30, Room 281-N]

Live Streaming

The 2016 Legislature authorized the expansion of livestreaming Committee rooms in the Statehouse. Previously, only the Old Supreme Court Room (346-S) could livestream. For the 2017 Session, Rooms 112-N, 548-S, and 582-N are now livestreaming (audio only). To listen in live, go to the Kansas Legislature's website committee tab and click on the specific committee that you are interested in following:

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/committees/

Currently, Kansans can listen in live to the following Committee meetings:

112-N: House Appropriations (9 AM); House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development (1:30 PM); and House Judiciary (3:30 PM)

346-S: House Federal and State Affairs (9 AM); Senate Judiciary (10:30 AM); K-12 Education Budget Committee (1:30); and House Taxation (3:30 PM). 346-S streams both audio and video feed.

800-432-0386

Unemployment Insurance

800-292-6333

Voter Registration

800-262-8683

Welfare Fraud Hotline

800-432-3913

Workmans Compensation

800-332-0353

548-S: Senate Commerce (8:30 AM); Senate Assessment and Taxation (9:30 AM); Senate Ways and Means Committee (10:30 AM); and Senate Utilities (1:30 PM)

582-N: House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications (9:00 M W); House Water and Environment (9:00 T TH); House Transportation (1:30 PM); and House Agriculture (3:30 PM)

Later in the session, perhaps late February or early March, the following rooms will be added to audio live streaming: Rooms 152-S, 218-N, 281-N, and 546-S. Financing for the livestreaming project was made possible with grants from the Information Network of Kansas (INK) Board.

Cowboy Logic

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.

Quote of the day

"A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little men." -
Thomas Carlyle

Sermon in a sentence

"Happiness is found in doing, not merely possessing." - **Napoleon Hill**

Representative Don Hineman

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

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