



THE TRUTH REPORT

A Weekly Rundown of Important Activity in Topeka, from a Principled Perspective

Week Three - January 28, 2023

Topeka, KS-

At the conclusion of the third week of session, there are now a little over 300 bills introduced. Committees are still hard at work and have scheduled or had hearings on a wide variety of bills. Below are the ideas that we think you should know about.

Bills Introduced this Week

The Pregnancy Resource Act. HB 2135 and SB 96 would allow 70% of donations to eligible nonprofits to replace state income taxes of the donor. Eligible nonprofits include Kansas pregnancy centers and residential maternity facilities that do not provide abortions and are unaffiliated with abortion clinics. Refundable donations would not exceed, in total, 10 million dollars per year to all the nonprofits.

SB 96

HB 2135

The Campus Free Speech Act. HB 2158 would require the Kansas Board of Regents, universities, municipal universities, and community colleges that receive government funds to protect free speech on campus by establishing policies to safeguard first amendment rights and by creating committees on free expression to enact these rights. The bill allows for protests in public forums, requires equal treatment of student organizations, and ensures the safety of speakers on campus—regardless of the topic of conversation. Should a person experience a violation of their first amendment rights, HB 2158 would allow them to pursue legal actions.

HB 2158

The Protecting Children From Sexual Predators Act. HB 2169 and SB 95 work together to extend the period of time in which perpetrators of child sexual abuse may be prosecuted. The bills are designed to allow for victims of child abuse who have repressed their memories for years to take action against their abusers. According to both bills, the crimes of rape,

murder, terrorism, and unlawful use of weapons of mass destruction may be prosecuted at any time, as well as prosecution for childhood sexual abuse (such as sexual battery and exploitation of persons under the age of eighteen and the trading of child pornography). Should the victim be a member of the Kansas retirement system and choose to prosecute their abuser, the prosecution must begin within ten years of commission. Both bills use the same wording to repeal K.S.A. 2022, Supp. 21-5107, and 60-523.

SB 95

HB 2169

Standard Deduction Increase. SB 30 proposes increasing the standard deduction by \$500 to \$3,500 for single filers and \$8,000 for married couples. We love tax cuts and are hoping to see some spending cuts come out soon.

SB 30

Flat Tax. SB 61 is another flat tax proposal. You may remember HB 2061 from last week. SB 61 is a different approach. It would set income tax to 5% for income over \$30,000 for married couples and \$15,000 for individuals. Additionally, if the state received extra revenue, the 5% would automatically be lowered to a rate which would cover the state's expenses. When the government has extra money, it tends to spend it. This proposal would automatically give excess taxes back to the people.

SB 61

County Earnings Tax. SB 79 would allow counties to impose a 1% earnings tax on wages and salaries. The earnings tax would then lower the property taxes of the county residents allowing border counties to receive revenue from out-of-state workers to provide essential services and maintain infrastructure. Empowering counties to levy more taxes is a risky business. We hope to see this topic and its potential ramifications addressed thoroughly.

SB 79

Bills Covered Last Week With Upcoming Hearings

Tax Cuts. Several sales tax carve-outs have been proposed. While we think it is great to lower taxes, it would be better to create an overall more friendly and level tax climate—instead of continuing to exempt certain items or entities.

SB 29

EV Road Tax. HB 2004 would create an excise tax on electric vehicles. Currently, our citizens pay 25 cents per gallon of gasoline toward road and highway maintenance. This bill would create a level playing field in regards to electric vehicles. The green movement has unfairly been subsidized for too long at taxpayers' expense. This bill attempts to resolve the discrepancy between gas/diesel and electric car owners by ensuring that everyone pays for the roads we all use.

[HB 2004](#)

Penalties for Felons with Guns. Kansas is a champion of the 2nd Amendment. Our gun laws are better than Texas. We want to keep up our state's high standard regarding this right. This means keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and in the hands of law-abiding citizens with as little government interference as possible. In line with that principle, we want you to be aware of HB 2031 that would increase the penalties for felons caught illegally obtaining and/or possessing firearms.

[HB 2031](#)

Veteran Issues. HB 2011 would exempt service members from income tax. Currently, our state sees our young men and women changing their residency when they arrive at their first duty station from Kansas to a different state—based solely on the income tax rate of the new state. We want more vets to stay in Kansas. While it might not be the only factor, we want to encourage our sons and daughters to return after their service and attract service members stationed here to stay.

HB 2036 and HB 2039 would lower property taxes and reduce the cost of hunting licenses for disabled veterans respectively.

[HB 2011](#)

[HB 2036](#)

[HB 2039](#)

Social Media Censorship. Senate Bills 1 and 50 work together to seek to address the first amendment right of freedom of speech by creating consequences for social media sites that censor speech that is not legitimately obscene or harassing—such as topics of political expression. Should a social media site include the right to censor non-obscene topics in its terms and services, **SB 1** gives citizens the right to complain to the attorney general, who may instate a fine between 500 and 10,000 dollars for each separate instance of unlawful policy. Additionally, service providers may be fined 75,000 dollars or more for each time such policies were enforced. **SB 50** elaborates on SB 1, noting that speech that is abjectly pornographic, violent, or harassing may be censored according to the service provider's terms of services. Both bills state that interactive computer services that express that they are publishers in their terms of service are exempt from this rule. We are interested to see these bills better defined and worked in the coming weeks.

[SB 1](#)

[SB 50](#)

Upcoming Topics

Medicaid Expansion. The Truth Caucus is 100% against Medicaid Expansion. We want to help our mentally and/or physically disabled citizens, and we also want to give a hand up to our citizens that fell on rough times. However, we will not support giving handouts or paying able bodied

adults to not work.

[Losing Private Insurance
Medicaid and CHIP Sufficient Coverage
KS Medicaid Spending
Medicaid Myths vs. Facts](#)

Marijuana. Legalizing marijuana in any form has the potential to expand government, limit individual liberty, and destroy traditional values.

ESG. A bill is in the works regarding ESG. With an anticipated decline in the economy, we want to protect our citizens from outside influences that could prevent them from choosing the wisest investments for their portfolio. Instead, we wish to create an investment environment that provides our citizens with an opportunity to make money in a safe and secure manner.

Thank You! That's it for this week!

Connect with us



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