

The Peck Perspective

That's a wrap for Kansas Senator

By VIRGIL E. PECK, JR.
State Senator

To borrow a phrase from the filmmaking industry, "That's a wrap."

Last week's veto session concluded in two days, allowing the 2025 legislative session to adjourn Sine Die – Latin for "without a future date being designated" – on Friday, April 11th, much earlier than the normal date, which is generally in early May.

During those two days, the Legislature voted on and successfully overrode 14 of the governor's 18 vetoes. Those 14 bills will now become law "notwithstanding the Governor's veto". Three of the other vetoed bills saw no action, while one, SB 79 – seeking a waiver from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to exclude candy and soft drinks from the list of foods allowed to be purchased with food stamps – received plenty of votes in the Senate (29-11) but was ignored by the House. Another vetoed bill, SB 18 – authorizing issuance of the Hunter Nation distinctive license plate – was put into HB 2335, with a minor change, and passed both chambers.

In last week's article I wrote about several of the vetoed, now overridden, bills. Below is brief information regarding five more overridden bills.

SB 269 — As income and privilege tax revenue grows, the state income tax rate will gradually be reduced until it settles at 4%. States with low income tax rates have seen it benefit them by helping to bring individuals and job creators into their borders. Kansas will now be much more competitive.

HB 2062 — Will ensure that pregnant women receive child support during their pregnancy. The bill tells the courts to consider the cost of the baby in the womb (like health care expenses) as part of child support proceedings. Another provision benefits parents by requiring the Kansas Dept. of Revenue to issue a taxpayer identification number for unborn children, allowing parents to claim the child as a dependent for income tax purposes.

HB 2240 — Prohibits state agencies from seeking a public assistance program waiver from the federal government that would expand eligibility for any public assistance program or increase

any cost to the State without the express consent of the Legislature.

HB 2311 — Protects the rights of foster and adoptive parents by prohibiting the Secretary for Children and Families from requiring the parents to affirm, accept, or support any government policy regarding sexual orientation or gender identity that conflicts with the person's sincerely held beliefs.

HB 2382 — Requires school districts that offer courses or instruction in human growth, development or sexuality to include a human fetal development presentation. The bill would also allow the State Board of Education to establish the rates of compensation they receive for meetings.

Then there were bills that the governor did not veto, but refused to sign, letting them become law without her signature. In addition to the five I wrote about last week, here are three more.

SB 250 — Creates the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments Act. The bill authorizes a manufacturer operating in an eligible facility to make available individualized investigative treatments and allow individuals with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses to request an individualized investigational drug, product, or device from such manufacturers.

HB 2263 — A bill passed by both chambers unanimously giving a special designation to several highways and a bridge. They are: designating a future interchange on K-10 at Lawrence as the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange; designating a part of U.S. Hwy 77 in Geary and Clay counties and a bridge in Clay County in honor of POWs and MIAs; naming a portion of US-160 in Sumner County as the CPL Monte Wayne Forrest Memorial Highway; and designating portion of K-5 as the Rep. Marvin S. Robinson Memorial Highway – the reason for her refusal to sign the bill. Many remember Representative Robinson as a courageous man who was willing to take political heat and do what he deemed best, including voting to override Governor Kelly's vetoes.

HB 2056 — Amends provisions of the Kansas election laws concerning the crime of impersonation of an election official, nominations by political parties, and testing of voting equipment before an election.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Weekly Deputy Activity Report

04/07 Traffic stop; Elk Rd and 170th, Chanute. Cited the driver, Jonathon Clapsaddle, 19, Erie, for expired vehicle registration.

04/07 Lewd and Lascivious behavior report; 417 Julia, Thayer.

04/07 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy and Douglas, Chanute. Cited the driver, David Lohmann, 62, Chanute, for expired vehicle registration.

04/07 Criminal damage report; 2429 Chase Rd., Chanute.

04/07 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 1st, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Stephanie Koger, 42, Walnut, for expired vehicle registration.

04/07 Car/deer accident report; K47 Hwy. .3 mile east from Ford, Thayer.

04/07 Two vehicle accident report; U169 Hwy. .9 mile north from 230th Rd., Chanute. Cited the driver, Kenneth Edwards, 71, Haysville, for failure to yield.

04/07 Traffic stop; Carroll and 6th, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Thomas Grillot, 60, St. Paul, for driving with an expired driver's license, expired vehicle registration, and no proof of insurance.

04/08 Grass fire report; K47 Hwy. .4 mile east from Harper, Thayer.

04/08 Agency assist; K47 Hwy. and Pratt Rd., Erie.

04/09 Felony flee and elude report; Highland Park, Chanute.

04/09 Car/deer accident report; K39 Hwy. .5 mile west from Lyon, Chanute.

04/09 Traffic stop; 5th and Central, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Michael Grosdidier, 42, Pittsburgh, for failure to stop at stop sign, illegal tag, and no proof of insurance.

04/09 Abuse of a child report; 417 N. Julia, Thayer.

04/09 Car/deer accident report; K39 Hwy. .5 mile west from Lyon, Chanute.

04/09 Traffic stop; 5th and Central, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Michael Grosdidier, 42, Pittsburgh, for failure to stop at stop sign, illegal tag, and no proof of insurance.

04/10 Warrant arrest; 102 S. Lincoln, Chanute. Arrested Misty Sprague, 33, Chanute, on a Greenwood County warrant.

04/10 Vehicle theft report; 4510 Scott Rd., Parsons.

04/10 Theft report; 4120 Main St., Chanute.

04/10 Vehicle theft report; 19605 60th Rd., Parsons.

04/10 Criminal damage report; 19500 50th Rd., Parsons.

04/10 Incident report; 30th Rd. west from Lyon, Parsons.

04/10 Incident report; 1029 S. Denman, Chanute.

04/10 Grass fire report; 18305 170th Rd., Erie.

04/11 Car/deer accident report; 140th Rd. .3 mile east from Scott, Erie.

04/11 Incident report; 30th and Kiowa, Parsons.

04/11 Found property report; U59 Hwy. and 160th, Erie.

04/11 Car/deer accident report; U59 Hwy. .2 mile north from 200th, Erie.

04/11 Car/deer accident report; U169 Hwy. .1 mile south from 20th, Thayer.

04/12 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and K47 Hwy., Thayer.

Cited the driver. Derick Rodriguez, 26, Kittrell NC, for failure to stop and driving without a valid license.

04/12 Car/deer accident report; U169 Hwy. .3 mile west from Kiowa, Thayer.

04/12 Agency assist; Parsons Lake, Parsons. Capsized boat.

04/12 Incident report; 3425 Trego Rd., Parsons.

04/12 Incident report; 1st and Central, St. Paul.

04/12 Car/deer accident report; 130th Rd. .5 mile west from Rooks, Erie.

04/12 Car/deer accident report; U169 Hwy. .2 mile south from K47 Hwy., Thayer.

04/13 Car/deer accident report; K39 Hwy. and Lakewood Ln., Chanute.

04/13 Warrant arrest; 402 E. State, Erie. Arrested Todd Callahan, 35, Thayer, on a Neosho County warrant.

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Thoughts from Under the Dome

Kansas Legislature

likely adjourned

By KEN COLLINS

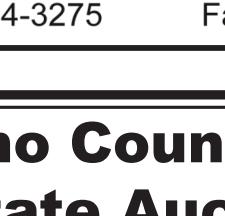
Kansas State Representative-Second District

The Kansas Legislature is now adjourned sine die which is Latin for "with no appointed date for resumption" meaning that barring a special session we will not meet as a legislative body again until next year. With that being said our budget for FY 2025, 2026 and 2027 was in Senate Bill 125 of which Governor Kelly has the power of line-item veto. Of the line items that were vetoed by the governor the Senate bundled 15 of them together and voted to override before sending them to the House for consideration. The House failed to override on the first vote but a motion to reconsider was brought up the next day and as a result the 15 line item vetoes were eventually passed. I'm generally not a fan of bundling votes and especially 15 at once, had the line items been voted on individually there are some that I would have voted for and some against, so I did vote in favor of the bundle. One that stands out to me that I believe is much needed is funding for the biolab at Kansas State University. I have toured the facility there and I can say that their current situation needs significant upgrades, The lab handles biological testing for livestock and pets from throughout Kansas and beyond and if there were to be a disease outbreak that affects our food supply, we would be easily in crisis mode without them.

Another bill of interest that we passed was Senate Bill 82 which among other things created the ASTRA fund which will provide incentives to local authorities to not exceed an established taxing limit. Some local government organizations were reaching out in opposition to this bill and there were valid concerns, but I voted for it because I see the need to try to keep local taxes down.

I have recently been appointed to serve out the remainder of an unexpired term on the Mulberry City Council. I have been on councils before in both Mulberry and in Edgerton, Kansas when I lived there. Local government has been a passion of mine going back almost 40 years. This does not affect my position in the State Legislature as I will be serving both concurrently. This will likely be the last edition of Thoughts from Under the Dome for a while being that we aren't in session so if anyone has any questions or concerns feel free to give me a call at 620-240-0778.

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