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**The Kansas Legislature Week 9:**

**Activity Increases in Both Houses**

**March 7:** No votes were taken in the House.

**March 7-Senate**

SB 479 would require the Capitol Preservation Committee to approve plans to place a permanent memorial in the state capitol commemorating the work of Kansas suffragists toward achieving the right of women to vote in Kansas and the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

HB 2591 would repeal the statute that authorizes quarterly $100,000 State General Fund and $200,000 Conservation Fee Fund transfers to the Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Fund in the Kansas Corporation Commission. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

SB 276 would, among other things, prohibit blindness from being a determinant factor for denial or restriction of legal custody, residency, or parenting time when it is determined to otherwise be in the best interest of a child. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

SB 282 would create new income tax credits for graduates of certain aerospace and aviation education programs and their employers for tax years 2023 through 2027, would create a new income tax credit for teacher classroom supplies, would increase the residential property tax exemption from the statewide school finance levy, and would enact the Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit Act and the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act. The vote was: Yeas 33; Nays 4; Present and Passing 3. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

SB 326 would create an income tax credit for certain owners or lessees of rail siding for tax years 2022 through 2031. The vote was: Yeas 29; Nays 7; Present and Passing 4. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

SB 378 would amend the Kansas Fireworks Act to allow for the retail sale of fireworks throughout the year and to extend the established time frame for the seasonal retail sale of fireworks. The bill would allow cities and counties to prohibit the sale of fireworks by either annual retailers or seasonal retailers. The vote was: Yeas 2; Nays 34; Present and Passing 4. Sen. Longbine voted Nay.

HB 2075 would amend a provision governing the venue of agency adoptions in the Kansas Adoption and Relinquishment Act to allow such adoption proceedings to take place in a county where the Department for Children and Families or subcontracting agency has an office when the State or a department of the State is the adoption agency. The vote was: Yeas 34; Present and Passing 6. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

HB 2237 would extend the sunset on the Rural Opportunity Zone student loan repayment program from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2026. The bill would also extend the sunset on the income tax credit and reporting requirements for the Secretary of Commerce from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2027. The vote was: Yeas 32; Nays 5; Present and Passing 3. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

**March 8-House:** No final votes were taken.

**March 8-Senate**

HB 2329 would modify the list of entities that are subject to Kansas Corporation Commission rules and regulations adopted to ensure conformity with the federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act. The bill would make subject to such rules and regulations operators of “gathering lines,” or pipelines transporting gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main, provided that such operators are regulated by the Act, and would remove an exclusion for farming or activities associated with the production of oil or gas. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

HB 2594 would create an exemption in law related to vehicle identification number (VIN) offenses for antique vehicles. Current law prohibits the destruction, removal, alteration, or defacing of a VIN when no part of the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer has been stolen and a VIN has been assigned. Law enforcement is directed by law to seize and take possession of the motor vehicle or trailer, and that seized vehicle is classified as an article of contraband subject to destruction. This bill would create an exception from the prohibition when a person removes and reinstalls a VIN or serial number on an antique vehicle if: 1) the removal and reinstallation are necessary for the repair or restoration of the antique vehicle; 2) the VIN is immediately reinstalled after the repair or restoration is complete; and 3) the person does not know whether the antique vehicle is stolen. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

**March 9-House**

HB 2710 would amend the Kansas Liquor Control Act’s definitions of certain domestic wine classifications to raise the alcohol level and would make a corresponding amendment to current law concerning gallonage taxes. The vote was: Yeas 116; Nays 3; Absent or not voting: 6. Rep. Highland, Schreiber, and E. Smith voted Yea.

HB 2548 would make several changes to the powers and duties of the Joint Committee on Information Technology (JCIT) with regard to JCIT’s role in information technology project proposals. The vote was: Yeas 116; Nays 3; Absent or not voting: 6. Rep. Highland, Schreiber, and E. Smith voted Yea.

HCR 5027, if adopted by a two-thirds majority of each chamber of the Kansas Legislature, serves as Kansas’ application to Congress for the purpose of calling a convention of the states. The convention would be limited to proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for members of Congress and officials. The vote was: Yeas 76; Nays 43; Absent or not voting: 6. Rep. Highland and E. Smith voted Yea. Rep. Schreiber voted Nay. The resolution was not adopted.

SB 2 would amend law related to the consumption of alcohol on the grounds of the Kansas State Fair, temporary permits issued for any location in the state, and the collection of associated liquor taxes. The vote was: Yeas 87; Nays 31; Absent or not voting: 7. Rep. Schreiber voted Yea; Rep. Highland and E. Smith voted Nay.

HB 2462 would amend law to remove committee membership requirements for legislators appointed to the Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations. The vote was: Yeas 118; Nays 0; Absent or not voting: 7. Rep. Highland, Schreiber, and E. Smith voted Yea.

SB 421 would transfer $1.0 billion from the State General Fund (SGF) directly to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS). Of that amount, the first $253.9 million SGF would pay off outstanding accounts receivable for KPERS-School employer contributions withheld in FY 2017 and FY 2019. The remaining $746.1 million SGF would be applied to the KPERS State/School unfunded actuarial liability. The vote was: Yeas 113; Nays 5; Absent or not voting: 7. Rep. Highland, Schreiber, and E. Smith voted Yea.

House Sub for Sub SB 286 would amend and extend the expiration dates and effectiveness of provisions regarding the governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic; create the crime of interference with the conduct of a hospital; and increase the penalty for the crime of battery when committed against a healthcare provider. The vote was: Yeas 102; Nays 17; Absent or not voting: 6. Rep. Highland, Schreiber, and E. Smith voted Yea.

Sub for HB 2466 would create the Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge Act (PACK Act), the Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program, and authorize the State Board of Education to provide grants to high-quality professional learning providers. The PACK Act would require, beginning in the 2023- 2024 school year, each high school operated by a school district to offer at least one computer science course, or submit to the State Board of Education a plan describing how the district intends to offer a computer science course and in which school year such course will be offered. The vote was: Yeas 115; Nays 4; Absent or not voting: 6. Rep. Highland, Schreiber, and E. Smith voted Yea.

**March 9-Senate**

Appointments: Recommended for appointment by the Committee on Judiciary and by the Governor to the Kansas Court of Appeals: Angela Coble. The vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 0; Absent or Not Voting 2. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

Without recommendation by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare and recommended by the Governor for appointment to the Department of Health and Environment: Janet Stanek. The vote was: Yeas 32; Nays 5; Present and Passing 1; Absent or Not Voting 2. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

Senate Sub. for HB 2057 would allow a housing provider, upon receiving a request for exemption from the housing provider’s pet policy for the purpose of housing an assistance animal, to require the requestor provide reliable documentation of the disability related need for the animal. The vote was: Yeas 29; Nays 6; Present and Passing 3; Absent or Not Voting 2. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

HB 2231 would exclude from the definition of the crime of conducting a pyramid promotional scheme plans and operations in which participants give consideration in return for the right to receive compensation based upon purchases, provided that the plan or operation does not cause “inventory loading.” The vote was: Yeas 36; Present and Passing 2; Absent or Not Voting 2. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

Senate Sub. for HB 2279 would amend provisions in the Kansas Nurse Practice Act governing the licensure of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to, among other things, allow an APRN to prescribe drugs without a written protocol as authorized by a responsible physician, require an APRN to maintain malpractice insurance, and require national certification for initial licensure as an APRN. The vote was: Yeas 30; Nays 7; Present and Passing 1; Absent or Not Voting 2. Sen. Longbine voted Nay.

SB 418 would specify the Governor, the Secretary of State, and any other officer in the executive branch could not enter into a consent decree or other agreement with any state or federal court or any agreement with any other party regarding the enforcement of election law or the alteration of any election procedure without specific approval by the Legislature. The vote was: Yeas 28; Nays 12. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

SB 439 would allow a county election officer to remove a registered voter from the registration list if such registrant has had no election-related activity for any four calendar year period, or if the registrant has failed to respond to a confirmation notice sent by the county election officer. The vote was: Yeas 33; Nays 6; Present and Passing 1. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

SB 506 would authorize a Kansas Down syndrome awareness distinctive license plate for issuance on or after January 1, 2023, for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

SB 523 would authorize the transfer of $1.0 billion from the State General Fund to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) Trust Fund in four scheduled payments. The bill would also amend law pertaining to certified employer contribution rates to reduce the FY 2023 employer contribution rate from 13.11 percent to 12.22 percent and establish the FY 2024 rate of 11.08 percent. The vote was: Yeas 28; Nays 12. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

Senate Sub. for HB 2361 would create law requiring the Kansas Supreme Court to adopt rules for establishment and operation of specialty court programs within the State. The bill would allow the chief judge of a judicial district to establish a specialty court program in accordance with the rules adopted by the Court. The vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 1; Present and Passing 1. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

HB 2387 would create the crime of operating an aircraft under the influence, provide for testing related to the crime, and repeal current statutes prohibiting the operation of aircraft under influence of alcohol or drugs and providing for related testing. The vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0.

HB 2560 would extend the sunset for the Water Right Transition Assistance Program from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2030, and extend the sunset for various existing fees of the Pesticide and Fertilizer Program within the Kansas Department of Agriculture from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2028. The vote was: Yeas 36; Nays 4. Sen. Longbine voted Yea.

**March 10 and 11:** No votes were taken in either chamber.

Bill descriptions and daily journals of the Kansas Legislature may be accessed through the Kansas Legislature website: <http://www.kslegislature.org/>

Previous voting records of local legislators during the current legislative section may be read at the Emporia League of Women Voters’ website: <https://www.lwvemporia.org/>

*This report was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Emporia Legislators Vote Tracking Committee: Bob Grover, Doug McGaw, Mary McGaw, Gail Milton, and Susan Fowler.*

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