



**Senator  
Brenda Dietrich**  
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#### Legislative Up-date

These are the bills that we voted on during the 2 day Veto Session and the Governor had 10 days to either sign them, let them become law without her signature, or Veto them. We have no opportunity now to override any veto because we have officially adjourned.

These bills were signed by the Governor on April 25th and will become law.

**HB 2231** would modify Kansas income tax personal exemption provisions, redefine "income" for a refund option within the Homestead Property Tax Refund Act, amend the apportionment of income of multi-state corporations and make associated changes, and exempt certain personal property from taxation.

**SB 156** would increase the reimbursement limit for inmate claims paid by the Secretary of Corrections from \$500 to \$750.

**SB 186** would amend criminal procedure laws related to the availability of probable cause information, issuance of search warrants, setting bond for persons charged with certain sex offenses, forfeiture of appearance bonds, and the regulation of compensated sureties.

**SB 204** would require the sealing of certain records relating to case information, warrants, and subpoenas in certain criminal and juvenile cases; require the sealing of certain records relating to case information, warrants, and subpoenas in certain criminal and juvenile cases.

**SB 237** would amend the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act by authorizing Kansas law enforcement officers to conduct investigations of violations of the Act.

**HB 2045** would establish the Kansas Office of Early Childhood, update law regulating child care centers and child care homes, and provide certain definitions, staffing requirements, and requirements for professional development training.

**HB 2335** would authorize issuance of the Hunter Nation distinctive license plate on and after January 1, 2026, for use on a passenger vehicle or truck registered for a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less.

**HB 2125** would reauthorize the statewide school finance mill levy, modify certain dates related to municipal budgeting, modify the form required for revenue neutral rate notices and continue the state reimbursement of printing and postage costs associated with such notices, and prohibit filing fees at the State Board of Tax Appeals when prior appeals remain pending.

**HB 2275** would authorize the submission of local sales taxes to voters in Finney, Jackson, Pawnee, and Seward counties; modify the apportionment of countywide sales taxes; and specify that a sales tax exemption certificate is not required for the sales tax exemption for certain custom meat processing services.

**SR 1716** approves an amendment to the gaming compact with the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska concerning sports wagering.

**HB 2007** would reconcile amendments to statutes that were amended more than once during the current and prior legislative sessions.

**HB 2289** would make changes to the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit and Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit programs and provide for the incremental discontinuation of the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program.

**SB 98** would provide a sales tax exemption to certain firms making eligible investments in a qualified data center, as defined by the bill.

#### Vetoed by the Governor:

**SB 24** which would have expanded the eligibility requirements for postsecondary education institutions to participate in the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program. The Governor vetoed it because the 2 additional Tech Schools that were added to the bill were "for profit" institutions.

#### Year 1 of the Biennium

There were some issues we did not address this year in both Chambers, but we accomplished a tremendous amount of work and concluded this session by finding efficiencies in operations, providing stable funding for agencies including fully funding education, making our required actuarial payments to KPERS, and funding our KDOT projects. We were able to provide salary increases to state workers, end the state's property tax requirement of 1.5 mills, and will end our budget year with a healthy reserve in the State Stabilization Fund . . . our "Rainy Day" fund. We know that the Consensus Revenue Estimates indicate we need to make some additional budget reductions

over the next 3-4 years to maintain that balance.

The Governor has signed 105 bills as of April 25th and allowed 8 bills to become law without her signature. The Legislature was able to override 15 of the bills that the Governor vetoed this session.

#### Smoky Hills PBS

##### in Bunker Hill, Kansas

I was invited to participate in a Legislative Up-date on Friday, April 25th at the Smoky Hills PBS station in Bunker Hill, Kan-



sas. This station does a monthly Legislative Up-date where they invite a panel of Legislators to come to the station and engage in a live telecast where the moderator asks questions about our work and then takes phone calls and email questions from the audience. You can access the broadcast on YouTube. With me on the panel is Senator Elaine Bowers from Concordia; Rep. Troy Waymaster, Bunker Hill; Rep. Dawn Wolf, Bennington; and Rep. Sherri Brantley, Great Bend.

#### Office of Early Childhood

HB 2045 was signed by the Governor on Thursday, April 24th at the Kansas Children's Discovery. This was a compromise bill that expands access to



child care services and consolidates the 20 programs that are currently housed in four different agencies into the new Office of Early Childhood. This will help families and businesses all over the state.

#### Contact Information

The Legislature is now officially adjourned. There is no one in our offices until Monday, January 12, 2026, although I am at the Capitol often as I have regular meetings and serve on several Interim Committees. I will be in the community at different events and I look forward to visiting with you and listening to what concerns you have and what issues are most important to you during the off-session. In the meantime, if you would like to contact me, there are multiple ways.

Please email me at [Brenda.Dietrich@Senate.ks.gov](mailto:Brenda.Dietrich@Senate.ks.gov) or call my home phone, which has an answering machine, and leave a message. I will call you back! My home number is 785-861-7065. Please stay well and stay in touch!

Senator Brenda Dietrich



The first group of Spring residents of the Volland Residency Program have come and gone. When artists apply for the residency, we ask them to give us some indication of how they plan to use their time, although we make no requirements. The residency is a gift of time and space to use as they like. As the residents expressed last Sunday at the Open Studio, sometimes their plan changes when they arrive because of what they find here – the prairie, wind, lightning, bison, wild indigo, the train, the art practices of the other residents. It was clear during the presentations on Sunday that the experiences of the past two weeks directly influenced the new poems, lyrics, and paintings they shared with us. It was unexpected, but it was an authentic appreciation of the culture that we who live here experience daily.

The second group of Spring residents is arriving Tuesday, May 6th. Keep a lookout for Ali Keller, a playwright from Astoria, New York; Edie Winograde, a photographer from Denver, Colorado; Kendall Grady, currently residing in Crownpoint, New Mexico; and Rob Scheps, a saxophonist/flutist and composer whose medium is jazz, from Portland, Oregon.

On Saturday, May 10th, Kendall Grady will offer a poetry workshop to poets of all levels of experience. Admission is free, but spaces are limited. Don't hesitate to reserve your spot at [info@vollandfoundation.org](mailto:info@vollandfoundation.org) or call 785-499-3616 and leave a message.



Kendall Grady, poet.



Ali Keller, playwright.



Edie Winograde, photographer.



Rob Scheps, jazz musician, composer.

On Sunday, May 18th, you are invited to listen to Rob Scheps play his sax (and maybe the flute?) as he talks about his practice, his composing, and experiences in the music world. Reservations are appreciated at [vollandfoundation.org](http://vollandfoundation.org).

We are grateful for the generosity and enthusiasm of these artists in sharing their talents with our community. In the meantime, if you see them around the county, say "hi"!

Tickets are on sale for the 6th Annual Fish Wizards Tour, and free reservations are available for Fish-A-Palooza at [vollandfoundation.org](http://vollandfoundation.org).

The Sixth Annual Fish Wizards Tour is a fundraiser for the Native Stone Scenic Byway and Volland Foundation. The May 31st tour is sold out, but reservations are still available for **June 1st**. Details and tickets at [vollandfoundation.org](http://vollandfoundation.org).

Fish-a-Palooza is an afternoon of fun for the whole family on **May 31st** – fish art for kids, the Fish Bros exhibit, latest news on Topeka Shiners, and Sally and The Hurts in concert – all by free will offering. Enjoy an optional fish dinner by reservation \$20. Details and ticket information at [vollandfoundation.org](http://vollandfoundation.org). Reservations are going fast!

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