



Capitol Briefing



My Committees
Taxation
Transportation
Economic Dev & Tourism
Select Committee on Energy & Environment for the Future

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Representative 16th District

Notice of Upcoming Special Event

LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL MEETING

I will be holding a Legislative Town Hall Meeting with House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney on Saturday, May 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Matt Ross Community Center, Crown Room, 8101 Marty, Overland Park, KS 66204. We will be updating you on the results of the upcoming "veto session" and answering your questions. Hope you can be there.

For directions click here: http://www.opkansas.org/_Res/Parks_and_Recreation/Places/Community_Centers/Matt_Ross/index.cfm

Session News

HOUSE CAME BACK IN SESSION APRIL 30TH STATE REVENUES DOWN - COSTS UP

A tight budget year got tighter for the Kansas Legislature when revenue estimators made their projections about revenue to be expected during the next fiscal year. On April 16, revenue estimators projected that the state would bring in \$130 million less than previously expected over the next two years -- in part because of the federal economic stimulus package. Revenue is expected to increase 3% for the next fiscal year and be relatively flat for fiscal 2009. That's not good news for programs that lawmakers postponed funding until after the revenue projection. Proponents had hoped those programs, which total nearly \$140 million in additional spending, could be funded in an omnibus, or wrap-up, budget during the wrap up session that started today.

Unfortunately, many high-priority services have yet to be funded. Among the highest of these priorities must be in-home services for our frail elderly. Republicans have vowed to keep the state's budget to a 5% or lower increase. The Governor proposed a budget that was less than a 5% increase in spending. The \$13.4 billion budget passed in April did that with \$24.4 million to spare, but did not include many of the Governor's budget items.

Duane Goossen, director of the Kansas Division of the Budget, attributed the lower revenue projection to the federal economic stimulus package, decreased interest earnings and the shift of more money to the state's biosciences authority. The stimulus package is projected to lead to \$79 million less in revenue for the state over the next two years, mostly because businesses will be allowed to depreciate assets more quickly. Lower interest rates are expected to result in \$44 million less in revenue over two years. The biosciences authority is pulling away an additional \$36.4 million. The state isn't in trouble, but "concerns with the national economy are having some effect on the Kansas economy," said Alan Conroy, director of the Kansas Legislative Research Department, who helped present the consensus revenue estimates.

GOVERNOR REJECTS SECOND COAL PLANT PROPOSAL

Gov. Sebelius rejected the newest proposal for two coal-fired power plants. In explanation, she said, "I am disappointed that, for the third time in a row, the Legislature is asking me to mandate that Kansas send the

power we need -- the power we create -- to Colorado and Texas,” Sebelius said during a news conference. House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, and Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said Sebelius’ decision would trigger an attempt to override her veto of the coal plant bills previously passed by both houses.

“We’ll proceed,” with a veto override, Neufeld said after he and Morris met with Sebelius. The dispute is over a project by Hays-based Sunflower Power Electric Corp. and two out-of-state partners from Colorado and Texas to build two coal-burning plants in southwest Kansas. The Governor has rejected two bills that would authorize construction of the two 700-megawatt plants. She has cited concerns about carbon dioxide emissions, linked to climate change, escalating costs of coal-fired plants, the fact that 85% of the power would be sold to out-of-state customers, and the bills’ limitations on the state environmental agency, KDHE, to regulate air quality in Kansas.

Sunflower Power offered to reduce the project to two 600-megawatt plants, and Neufeld and Morris demanded that Sebelius accept the offer or they would initiate override votes. But Sebelius continued to criticize the deal, noting it also would strip the power of the KDHE and put the power to issue permits in the hands of the Legislature rather than the state agency. “The ultimatum I have been given contains all these problems, and would surely send our state in the wrong direction,” she said.

Now the showdown moves back to the House and Senate. To override the Governor's veto would require two-thirds’ majorities - 84 votes in the 125-member House and 27 in the 40-member Senate. The last bill Sebelius later vetoed concerning the plants originally passed with 83 votes in the House and 32 in the Senate. Sebelius said she was working hard to sustain the veto in the House.

And, the two proposed western Kansas coal-fired plants face a challenge that no amount of political wrangling can fix: rising construction costs. Construction costs are estimated at \$3.6 billion. If the company gets its permits -- which are at the center of a political fight right now -- it will contract for another cost study. Other companies have postponed plans for new coal plants, citing rising costs and an uncertain regulatory future. Westar Energy did so in February. Last week, Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. in Missouri opted for a natural gas plant, which could be built for less. Both projects had price tags of about \$2 billion. "They (the power plants) are on orders of magnitude significantly more expensive to build today even more than they were when they were conceived," said Patrick Lavigne, spokesman for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Furthermore, Congressional action on the Lieberman-Warner Bill, Senate Bill 2131, is likely to add additional costs. It is estimated that, soon after beginning operation, the plants owners would have to spend between \$75 and \$150 million on carbon dioxide allowances and, by 2030, the annual CO2 costs could be \$700 million. That cost would be passed to the customers, some of whom will be in Kansas, increasing the cost of energy to customers. All three presidential candidates support this type of legislation to put a price on carbon emissions.

SHOULD WE DECOUPLE?

Faced with a tightening budget, advocates for children and other social service programs are urging the Kansas Legislature to “decouple” from a federal tax cut. Since Kansas income tax is tied to the federal tax, the federal tax cut would provide businesses with a double benefit, cuts in their state as well as their federal taxes. To decouple would provide \$79 million that would otherwise not be collected in state revenue to state

lawmakers as they prepare a final budget during the wrap-up session that starts today. "Decoupling is a viable solution to our state's budget shortfalls, and will better position Kansas in case of further economic downturn," said April Holman, director of Fiscal Focus for Kansas Action for Children.

The triggering mechanism is a provision known as "bonus depreciation" in the federal economic stimulus act which results in cutting Kansas business tax revenue by \$79 million because the state income tax code is tied directly to the federal income tax code. The bonus depreciation allows businesses to claim an immediate deduction of 50% of the cost of new equipment, rather than following the standard approach of depreciating that cost over the equipment's lifetime. The result is that Kansas had to reduce its tax revenue projections for the current and next fiscal years by \$79 million. The state could avoid this hit by decoupling the federal business depreciation rules from the state tax code.

Because of the loss of revenue, budget negotiators are wrestling with ways to address various state funding requests such as community based early childhood education programs, waiting lists for home health services and nutrition programs for frail elderly, cancer screening for the uninsured, insurance premium assistance for the working poor, funding for mental health centers and many more services.

Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, who is chairman of the House Tax Committee, said he would oppose any effort to decouple. "My argument is that it's a national policy, and if we decouple we put our Kansas businesses at a disadvantage to their competitors in other states," Wilk said. But Holman said studies have shown that the bonus depreciation is not an effective way to stimulate the economy. Kansas Action for Children said at least 17 states have decoupled from the federal bonus depreciation.

IMMIGRATION

Legislators declared illegal-immigration reform one of their top priorities at the beginning of the session. But as we come back for a final few days this week, a compromise bill is foundering. The measure, significantly scaled back from earlier proposals, rankles lawmakers from both sides of the debate. Some legislators say it doesn't do enough to go after illegal immigrants. Some say it doesn't punish the employers who hire them enough. The House Speaker told the press that it would be "very unfortunate" if the Legislature ended its work without a comprehensive immigration reform bill. But he cautioned that the bill isn't likely to please people on either side of the contentious issue. "There's not going to be an immigration bill that anyone likes," he said. "Immigration is no different than any issue -- there's no silver bullet, no one-year solution. Big issues are like that."

The compromise legislation cut out penalties for employers that classify employees as subcontract workers -- one way to avoid taxes and checking employment eligibility. That has become a major point of contention. One legislator on the conference committee refused to sign the conference report because of that change. The bill could have advanced without her signature if the full House had approved a motion to "agree to disagree" on the last day of the regular session. But it voted 59-57 to send the bill back to the conference committee. There are definitely not 63 votes in the House to support the present proposal. Sen. Pete Brungardt, R-Salina, who heads the conference committee, says he will talk to leadership of both chambers to gauge how important the issue is before calling the committee back to try to resolve the problems.

Both the House and Senate began the year with aggressive proposals that attempted to prevent illegal immigrants from receiving public benefits or in-state tuition or casting a ballot. They also included strict penalties for employers who knowingly hired illegal immigrants. Those proposals have been pared

dramatically. The business and agricultural community reacted strongly against the provisions that would provide disincentives for hiring illegal immigrants. They also objected to House language to require employers to check potential employees' immigration status through a federal database called E-Verify. The conference committee also dropped a Senate-approved provision to penalize labor unions for collecting dues from illegal immigrant workers.

Jeff Glendening, vice president of political affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, said his group was happy with the compromise bill, given that it does not mandate E-verify and would not call for any business to lose its license for mis-classifying employees or hiring illegal immigrants. Proponents of the provisions that the Chamber opposes argue that the practices of mis-classifying employees and hiring illegal immigrants hurts workers and businesses that followed the rules.

Cover the Uninsured Week 2008 took place April 27 - May 3 with thousands of activities across the country.

Forty-seven million Americans are uninsured. Nearly 9 million of them are children. More than 8 out of 10 are in working families. In Kansas, nearly 300,000 people are without health coverage -- that is 11% of our state, which includes nearly 50,000 Kansas children. Young adult Kansans are uninsured at high rates compared to other age groups. The number and rate of uninsured Kansas children increased in 2004-2005 after several years of steady declines.

Cover the Uninsured is a national effort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to highlight the fact that too many Americans are living without health insurance and a way to work with our nation's leaders to come up with solutions. It appears to be in all of our best interest to find ways to make health coverage for the uninsured a top priority. The cost of health care for these neighbors of ours costs the rest of us in emergency room visits and un reimbursed medical care that is required and provided by our non profit hospitals and our medical providers as well as undiagnosed and untended health conditions that become more complicated and expensive.

OMNIBUS BUDGET BILL

Last Thursday, the House debated the House's version of the Omnibus Reconciliation Bill.

One of the most important issues the Legislature has put off is keeping our commitment to Kansas children and enhancing our investment in early childhood programs. To ensure that all children are ready to learn by the time they reach kindergarten, the Governor proposed \$23 million in block grant funding for early childhood education. These grants would also include opportunities for expanded pre-natal care, newborn screening, Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start and quality child care. Studies have found that, for every dollar invested in education programs for prenatal through kindergarten children, \$17 dollars of spending is saved on education remediation, crime, incarceration, health care and job training in the future. The money for these programs has been promised from part of the tobacco settlement funds and dedicated to the Children's Trust Fund. The House has taken some of the children's savings account money for other state spending. The House approved an amendment to put the money back in for the early childhood programs with 66 votes. Unfortunately, the Legislature has postponed early childhood funding decisions until the very end of the session, funding other programs first.

Another priority that has been delayed until now is health care reform. My constituents often remind me, and I have experienced first hand, that a family racked hit with a sudden or chronic illness encounters unbelievable costs in our health care system. Without health insurance, many families and individuals are

being forced into bankruptcy or intolerable decisions about the health care they need. Rising health care costs are a burden for families, business owners, workers, and seniors. To address these issues, a bipartisan health care reform package was crafted by the Kansas Health Policy Authority at the request of the legislature. The House did a better job of passing a bill to begin meaningful reform, but it looks like the Senate's version of the bill will prevail. The real reform package is based on three priorities: promoting personal responsibility for health and wellness; paying for preventative care; and providing all Kansans with affordable health insurance. The Legislature appears to be poised to basically ignore the comprehensive plan and instead take a baby toward the meaningful reform suggested by the Health Authority with input from health care providers, employers and consumers.

MILITARY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

To help Kansas soldiers who have returned from military service pursue their educational goals, Governor Sebelius has signed a bill enacting the Military Service Scholarship Program. These scholarships honor the sacrifices that Kansas soldiers have made while protecting our country. Sebelius said, "This program will ensure that our service men and women have the resources to succeed in college. This is an important investment in their future, and a great way for us to thank them for their service."

SB 487 allows ROTC institutions to award scholarships to Kansas soldiers who have returned from military service and are enrolled at community colleges. Under this program, the State Board of Regents will approve a memorandum of understanding between the board of trustees of the community college and the chief executive officer of the ROTC institution prior to the awarding of any scholarships. \$500,000 has been set aside from the State General Fund for the Military Service Scholarship Program.

HOUSE PASSES OMNIBUS BUDGET BILL

The House passed our version of the omnibus budget last Thursday afternoon after adding funding for early childhood programs that had been taken from the Children's Trust Fund, expansion of the pharmacy school at K.U., funding for the Early Detection Works program for breast & cervical cancer, a 1% COLA for state retirees, and other items. The House's final budget squeaked by on a 64-60 vote. It contains \$29.3 million in general fund spending in addition to the \$6.4 billion spending bill approved April 5. It would leave an ending balance of \$82.5 million in the general fund for 2009. Spending for fiscal year 2009, which begins July 1, is estimated to exceed revenue by more than \$450 million.

The Senate added funding for many of the same programs, but later eliminated much of the money when it voted 23-13 to slash all additional spending from the state general fund -- about \$34.5 million -- from their original omnibus proposal. The omnibus bill -- that chamber's version of the final state budget -- squeaked out of the Senate early this morning on a vote of 21-18. Some senators who originally voted "no" on the bill changed their vote.

Now a six-member negotiating team of House and Senate appropriations members is in charge with working out the spending differences between the two budget bills, while the rest of the legislators await their negotiated agreement . . . and consider other conference reports. Unlike the House budget committee, the Senate Ways and Means Committee's original Senate catch-all proposal increased spending from the state general fund by \$16.8 million.

COAL PLANTS

Gov. Sebelius won another round in the coal plant battle last Thursday evening in the House. The House failed to override her veto of a bill that would allow two coal-fired power plants to be built near Holcomb.

The final vote was 80 to 45, 4 votes short of the required 84. There are clearly a couple of no votes that could become yes votes but that is still 2 short. The House was in a lock-down ("call of the House") for over 2 hours from about 7:00 p.m. until nearly 9:30 p.m. During that period, a couple of legislators hid out while the proponents tried to change votes by twisting arms and promising goodies.

Supporters of the plant vowed to keep trying until the end of the session. Opponents called the vote historic, saying it may go down as a turning point when Kansas became a leader in the movement away from old energy sources and toward sustainable, environmentally friendly technologies and energy efficiency. "True innovation and true ingenuity only comes when we make difficult decisions," said Rep. Joshua Svaty, D-Ellsworth. The Sierra Club hailed the vote, and Sebelius, in a statement, called on lawmakers to come together and "work with me on a new comprehensive energy policy, one that truly serves the needs of entire state, east and west."

The now six-month debate thrust Kansas into the forefront of debates about reliance on fossil fuels, climate change and renewable energy. Sunflower had hoped to build two 700-megawatt coal-burning plants at its Holcomb power station. One sticking point is that only about 15% of the electricity would have gone to Kansas consumers. The newest proposal increased that to 30% if the BPU in Kansas City wanted to purchase power from Sunflower. KCK legislators said that they had no idea how much it would cost BPU customers to get power to KCK from Holcomb and how the power would be transmitted there. To attract votes, power plant supporters also inserted provisions that would have required Sunflower to invest more in wind energy, encourage solar power and give incentives for energy efficiency.

Neufeld met with Senate President Steve Morris, another coal plant supporter, immediately after the vote. Neufeld wouldn't say what his next step is. He has repeatedly claimed that he has the votes to override a veto. Lawmakers had hoped to return home on Saturday, but the coal fight, if it continues, could delay adjournment. Rep. Pat Colloton, R-Leawood, who was seen as a swing vote, voted against the override. Colloton said she was leaning toward voting for the coal plants, but constituents changed her mind. "I'm amazed at how well educated many Kansans are on issues about the environment and energy," she said.

Several lawmakers on both sides said they can't recall a fight that involved so much pressure and gamesmanship.

GOP HOUSE LEADERS WANT TO SUE THE GOVERNOR

On Friday, House Majority Leader Merrick and House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, introduced HCR 5042, which would allow legislative leaders to hire private legal counsel to sue Sebelius, alleging she has overstepped her constitutional authority. Merrick said part of the reason for the resolution was that Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson said the Sebelius administration may consider legal action if the Legislature did override her veto. Sounds like a tit for tat. "That's arrogance and not knowing how the system works," Merrick said. Later, Sebelius said her office had given no such consideration to litigation if her veto were overridden.

The fact is that the coal plant permits are already being litigated already. The Kansas Supreme Court stayed the case where Sunflower sued the state over the denial of the permits by KDHE until after the legislative session. It seems silly to spend precious and, this year, limited, taxpayer money on more lawyers to argue about whether the Governor has the power to veto legislation. With the wrap-up session nearing its end, possibly as early as today, supporters of the plants were looking for possible avenues to try again to get the project approved through legislation.

VOTER ID REQUIREMENT

Senate and House negotiators reached a tentative compromise yesterday on a bill to require voters to show photo identification at the polls. Senators on the conference committee agreed to many of the conditions the House had placed on the bill in an effort to decrease representatives' fears that requiring photo ID could disenfranchise citizens, especially the elderly and low income ones. Under the agreement, the state would provide free ID's to low-income people and welfare recipients. The Senate didn't include that in its version of the ID bill. It was added to comply with a recent Supreme Court decision. The high court upheld Indiana's voter ID law, but justices made a point to say that requiring people to pay for a voter ID would be an unconstitutional poll tax.

At the request of Rep. Tom Sawyer, D-Wichita, conferees agreed to put off enforcement of the ID requirement until 2010. The 2008 elections would be a dress rehearsal. Voters would be asked to show ID. If they couldn't, they'd still be allowed to vote and presented with a flier telling them how to obtain an identification card. Conferees also acceded to a request by Sawyer to leave mail-in advance voting the way it is for now.

The House added a provision to make I.D. cards available for free for those who are on public assistance or whose income is less than 150% of the federal poverty level -- \$15,600 a year for a single person. The cost of providing free ID's is unknown, but it would likely fall on Kansas counties rather than the state, according to SB 169's fiscal note. Dennis Rosebrough, a spokesman for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, said the identity cards cost about 99 cents each to produce, although that figure does not include staff time and overhead. Last year, that state issued 4.5 million driver's licenses and 375,000 ID's for non-drivers, he said.

Five of the six committee members agreed to have legislative revisers draft the final bill. Sawyer opposes the concept but worked on the conference committee to soften the bill. Conferee Sen. Donald Betts, D-Wichita, who missed Friday's committee meeting, said he has not decided whether to sign off on the compromise plan. He said he likes Sawyer's changes but doesn't think proponents have adequately demonstrated a need for photo ID to vote.

Supporters of photo ID say they think it's necessary to prevent voting fraud, particularly by illegal immigrants. There are no documented instances of voter impersonation on record in Kansas. Opponents say it's an effort to suppress turnout of minority, poor or elderly voters, who may not have a current copy of their birth certificate and no drivers license or picture I.D., because they no longer drive.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The House and Senate have agreed on a health reform bill. Proponents claim that the bill includes a new program that would help middle-class parents buy health insurance coverage for their children. The state currently subsidizes children's coverage for families earning up to 200% of federal poverty guidelines, or \$35,200 a year for a family of three. The new program, once fully implemented after a two-year phase-in, would offer assistance to families earning up to 250% of poverty or about \$44,000 for a family of three. The compromise chose the middle class children's health insurance expansion rather than any provision for premium assistance for working adult Kansans who are ineligible for Medicaid, but too poor to afford health insurance. And there is no funding provided for the program for middle class children.

Kansas Health Policy Authority officials have said families under the new program could expect to pay between \$40 to \$90 per month in premiums under the program and the plan is that the state would subsidize purchase of dependent coverage through a parent's employer-sponsored health plan when possible. In

instances where employers did not offer good family coverage, the agency would provide it through its existing HealthWave insurance plans. Agency officials predicted up to 3,000 additional Kansas children could be insured through the plan. However, there is really no program, because House Substitute for SB 81 does not include funding for the program nor is money for it currently included in either chambers' version of the Omnibus spending bills now being considered. Without funding, no new children will be covered with insurance, middle class or otherwise.

Other key components of the health reform bill:

- Insurers that offer group health insurance would be required to also offer the option of a premium-only cafeteria plan.
- Unemployed workers could continue to buy insurance through their former employers for 18 months instead of the current six months.
- A recommendation that the Legislature appropriate \$545,000 to provide dental coverage and smoking cessation assistance for pregnant women on Medicaid.
- A recommendation for \$2.5 million in additional aid for the state's safety-net clinics.
- A recommendation of \$1.5 million for an expanded cancer screening program.

Just so you know, there is no money provided so the last three recommendations are dependent upon the omnibus appropriations bill.

AND, COAL PLANTS

Another plan to authorize construction of two 700-megawatt coal-fired power plants in Holcomb, HB 2412, has surfaced in the Legislature. Supporters of the plants have placed a new bill for the project into legislation that includes a number of other economic development proposals that have already gained widespread support in the Legislature. This gives an indication of the items that have been held hostage during the session, economic development proposals that are important to our state. One of those is a proposal for the state to back bonds for the intermodal freight hub -- a giant shipment and distribution center -- planned near Gardner in Johnson County. SB 693 passed the Senate but never got out of committee in the House. Another is IMPACT funds for economic development. The Kansas Investments in Major Investments in Major Projects and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) Act changes were pushed by the chambers of commerce of Wichita, Topeka, Overland Park, and Lenexa. HB 2412 was passed unanimously by both houses but has been stuck in a conference report. Funding for Hills Pet Foods expansion tax incentive was originally in HB 2037, introduced in January 2007 and passed both houses nearly unanimously. So this is a situation where three very important and popular economic development programs are being put together with a more controversial item to make it fly. Of course, the coal plant bills have all passed both houses but the strategy is to make the Governor veto the three things she has supported and, if she does, to force legislators to override in order to get the three good things into law, even if they and their constituents oppose the coal plants.

The House-Senate energy conference committee crafted what is being called a mega economic development bill for consideration by the full Legislature later today. State Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, and chair of that conference committee said it was appropriate for the coal-fired plants to be paired with other economic development legislation. But state Rep. Tom Holland, D-Baldwin City, opposed the action. "Why are we rehashing this? I don't think we're serving the people's interests," by tying the coal-fired project to other bills. And there have been questions raised about the constitutionality of putting together income tax bills (Hills), bonding backing, environmental law and economic development grants in the same bill. The constitution prohibits putting more than one subject in a bill. But that just puts the whole issue, including the eco-devo parts, into court instead of into effect.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE TO THE GOVERNOR

The Senate sent Gov. Sebelius a bill requiring greater disclosure of last-minute campaign spending before an election. The 38-0 vote Saturday was on a conference committee version worked out by House and Senate negotiators. The House endorsed the proposal 123-2 on Wednesday. It requires statewide and local candidates to report on any contribution of \$300 or more received during the 11 days before a primary or general election. The report must be filed four days before the election. Political action committees and party committees would be under the same requirement. Under current law, the last reporting deadline for candidates is eight days before an election.

The Secretary of State's office now is up and running with a system that allows legislators and other candidates to fill out finance reports on line.

The following list of numbers will lead you to a variety of state and federal resources. You can find these- as well as many others- online at <http://da.state.ks.us/phonebook>.

Adjutant General: 785.274.1001	Department on Aging: 800.432.3535	Attorney General: 785.296.2215
Better Business Bureau: 785.232.0454	Child/Adult Abuse Hotline: 800.922.5330	Child and Family Services: 785.296.4653
Commerce & Housing: 785.296.3481	Consumer Protection: 800.432.2310	Crime Tip Hotline: 800.572.7463
Crime Victim Assistance: 800.828.9745	Driver's License Bureau: 785.296.3963	Gov. Kathleen Sebelius: 800.748.4408
Kansas Health Wave: 800.792.4884	Highway Road Conditions: 800.585.7623	Housing Hotline: 800.752.4422
Insurance Hotline: 800.432.2484	Kansas Lottery: 785.296.5700	Legislative Hotline: 800.432.3924
Mental Health Services: 888.582.3759	Department of Revenue: 877.526.7738	School Safety Hotline: 877.626.8203
Social Security: 800.772.1213	State Capitol Tours: 785.296.3966	Taxpayer Assistance: 800.259.2829
Tax Refund Status: 800.894.0318	Teacher Certification: 785.296.2283	Unclaimed Property: 800.432.0386
Unemployment: 785.296.5074	Vital Statistics: 785.296.1405	Voter Registration: 785.296.4561
Welfare Fraud Hotline: 800.432.3913	Workers' Comp: 800.332.0353	Workforce Center: 785.235.5627

Keep In Touch

Please feel free to contact me with your additional comments and questions. My office address is Room 49, Docking State Office Building, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7698 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at rdardin@house.state.ks.us. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org.
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