

From the Dome to Home

Kansas House of Representatives

3/31/2023

House Appropriations, Chairman

House Floor Action

This week the Kansas House of Representatives debated over 50 bills on the House Floor in 3 days, in what is called Second House Consideration. Bill topics ranged from the State Budget to nominating the state land fossil.

Here are the details for some of those.

On Monday, we debated 33 bills. The first being Senate Bill 3, which

institutions. It also charges and empowers the Office of State Bank Commissioner to enforce these new requirements.

Later we debated Senate Bill 66, which would create an interstate teacher mobility compact aimed at streamlining teacher licensure and removing barriers to entry for the profession.

Ten bills later the House debated

"The real secret to success is enthusiasm."

Walter P. Chrysler

designates the *Silvisaurus condrayi*, a dinosaur, as the official land fossil for Kansas.

After that Senate Bill 205 was debated, which amends state laws concerning water rights, multi-year flex accounts and participation in water banks.

Not long after, we debated Senate Bill 25. This bill reduces the premium tax for surplus lines insurance lines by half, from 6 to 3 percent starting in 2024.

Senate Bill 44 creates new security standards for handling of customer information by certain financial

House Bill 2449. This bill would raise the per diem rate compensation for statutory boards and commissions to the same level as legislators. This bill came from the House Appropriations Committee.

One of the last bills debated was House Bill 2443, which establishes the Office of Child Advocate as an independent state agency, tasked with providing additional oversight of the child welfare system in Kansas.

I voted "Yes" for all of these bills.

House Passes State Budget Bill

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On Tuesday, March 28th, the Kansas House of Representatives debated, for nearly three hours, and on March 29th, passed out the House's State Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, in House Substitute for Senate Bill 42. The vote was 103 to 21. This budget is the culmination of several months' work by the House Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees in analyzing, discussing, and debating the funding for our state agencies. Now that the budget bill has been passed out by the House it will be conferenced with the Senate next week, between select members of House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means committees. While the process is not finished yet I am proud of the effort and diligence that was put into formulating this budget and believe it will provide for Kansas a fiscally sound and effective state government.



Further House Floor Action

Given that this week was dedicated solely to debating bills on the House Floor it is only fitting I discuss it further here as well.

On Tuesday we debated many more bills. One of the first was House Substitute for Senate Bill 169, which creates a flat income tax rate at 5.25 percent, and amends many other taxes, like lowering the tax on food and food ingredients and increasing the standard deduction for single filers.

Five bills after that we debated House Bill 2036. This bill creates a graduated property tax exemption for homestead property owned by disabled veterans or their surviving spouses.

One of the bills slated to be debated that wasn't was Senate Bill 34. This bill would expand the use and availability of rural housing incentive district funds to urban areas in the state, which I oppose.

On Wednesday, we debated 5 more bills.

Two of these were House Bills 2194 and 2132. House Bill 2194 creates the Representative Gail Finney memorial foster care bill of rights: amending case management, creating a kinship caregiver designation and establishing a set of rights for foster children, foster parents and kinship caregivers in the Kansas foster system.

House Bill 2132 expands the number of programs eligible for scholarships in the Promise Scholarship Act and makes clear how scholarship values are

calculated for public two-year colleges and private colleges.

Anytime that you would like to participate and listen to the developments of committee hearings or discussion on the House floor, you can tune in by video or audio at www.kslegislature.org.

As always, if you have any concerns, feel free to contact me (785) 296-7672, follow on twitter at @waymaster4house, or email me at troy.waymaster@house.ks.gov.

It is a distinct honor to serve as your representative for the 109th Kansas House District and the state of Kansas. Please contact me with your thoughts, concerns, and questions. I always appreciate hearing from the residents of the 109th House District and others from the state of Kansas, as well.

Representative Troy L. Waymaster represents the 109th Kansas House District.

Paid for by Troy L. Waymaster for Kansas House, James Malone, Treasurer.

