

SHANNON FRANCIS

Kansas House District 125



February 22, 2016 Newsletter

Visitors



Senator Pat Roberts stopped by the office in Topeka this week. Senator Moran and U.S. Representatives Jenkins and Yoder were also at the Capitol. Former Senator Coburn of Oklahoma talked to Legislators about Convention of the States. It is always nice to visit with the politicians from Washington but the best visitors are from home. County Commissioner Rice and I visited. He was in town to give testimony regarding conservation easements. Dr. Todd Carter and Dr. Ken Trzaska SCCC/ATS also were in for committee hearings and meetings.

Turnaround

The house was very busy this week churning out bills for turnaround. Tuesday is the last day for nonexempt bills to be passed out of their house of origin. This week both the Senate and the House approved a budget bill, which now goes to the Governor to sign. I voted against the budget

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Useful Phone Numbers

Medicaid Fraud

1-866-551-6328

Welfare Fraud Hotline

800-432-3913

Department On Aging

800-432-3535

for a number of reasons, including the fact that it continues to sweep and borrow from other funds – most troubling is the fact that it delays Kansas’ KPERS retirement fund contribution in order to pay the state’s bills. I am also concerned that with continued revenue shortfalls and the recent school finance ruling, this budget won’t hold up through the fiscal year.

The House passed many bills on to the Senate this past week, including a “Trike” Bill for three wheeled motorcycle riders to be licensed separately from two wheeled motorcycles. A bill to increase salaries for Highway Patrol officers fell apart. The original proposal was to fund the salary increase with a \$2 increase on vehicle registration fees. After an amendment was made to take the money from KDOT and then to lower KDOT funding by reducing the current registration fees another \$2, the bill was pulled from the floor and returned to committee.

In Ag Committee an interesting hearing was held regarding court preliminary injunctions for senior water right holders against junior water right holders. I’m watching this closely. The impairment of water rights is a complex issue in the Ogallala aquifer. In Ag we also passed out an important bill modernizing the noxious weed statutes and allowing a quicker process for designating noxious weeds. Some water right holders refuse to report water usage and the Ag Committee passed out a bill changing penalties for noncompliance.

In the Vision 2020 committee we passed out the “Trike Bill,” an IT Security Bill for the Executive Branch, and a bill that may eventually change the way we pay property tax. I did not support the property tax bill as I felt it was unnecessary. Our County Treasurer, Kitty Romine, does an excellent job and already offers the flexibility this bill allows and more. I don’t agree with the concept of putting unnecessary laws on the books just to say we passed them.

A hearing was held this past week on a bill that I sponsored. This bill would allow healthcare professionals who are on KPERS to work after retirement in our county hospitals and health departments. The hearing went well and I’ll be working to push the bill forward. When it comes to recruiting healthcare professionals into rural

Child/Adult Abuse Hotline

800-922-5330

Child & Family Services

888-369-4777

Consumer Protection

800-423-2310

Crime Tip Hotline

800-252-8477

Crime Victim Assistance

800-828-9745

Gov- Brownback

800-748-4408

Highway Road Conditions

511 (in Kansas)

Housing Hotline

800-752-4422

KanCare Assistance

866-305-5147

Kansas Lottery

800-544-9467

Legislative Hotline

800-432-3924

Mental Health Services

888-582-3759

School Safety Hotline

877-626-8203

Social Security

800-772-1213

Taxpayer Assistance

785-368-8222

Tax Refund Status

800-894-0318

communities, we need a long-term solution. This is one step toward helping rural Kansas keep our most experienced healthcare professionals without penalizing them for working after retirement.

Chamber Coffee

The Liberal Chamber of Commerce is having a Legislative Brownbag at Noon Monday, February 29th at the Depot. Senator Love will also be attending. Please come by and let me know your thoughts.

"Believe you can and you're halfway there"
(Theodore Roosevelt)

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are"
(Theodore Roosevelt)

Constituent Services

Please reach out to me regarding issues with our state government that I can help with. I do ask that you send the request to me by email. My email address is: Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov. This insures that I get the information correctly to the agency we are working with.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Please contact me anytime. My email is: Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov.

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Unclaimed Property

800-432-0386

Unemployment Insurance

800-292-6333

Vital Statistics

785-296-1400

Voter Registration

800-262-8683

Worker's Comp

800-332-0353



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Paid for by Shannon Francis for State Representative, Lisa Hatcher Treasurer