



2014 Kansas Legislative Session Final Report and Voting Record

- Produced by the Government Affairs Committee -

Dear Chamber Member,

Many of you have told us that advocacy is one of the most important services the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce provides our community. Legislators at all levels of government make decisions every day that can either negatively or positively impact your business. It may come as a surprise to you that we are the only chamber of commerce in the state keeping track of those legislative votes cast in Topeka so you can be an informed voter each time you visit the ballot box.

No voting record can tell the entire story of a legislator's attitude and actions on issues of importance to business. Each year, legislators cast votes on hundreds of proposed laws. Many anti-business bills were rejected by legislators in policy or fiscal committees, thus stopping proposals before they reached the floor for a recorded vote. The voting record does not capture those unrecorded votes.

What the 2014 Voting Record does provide you with is a valuable tool for evaluating our Johnson County legislators' performances on business-centric issues and a guide for acknowledging votes favorable and unfavorable to the Chamber's legislative agenda. Remember, this is a legislative agenda passed by you, our members. Our priority issues of education, taxation, transportation, economic development and school finance were picked by you. Please read this record carefully and thoroughly - let it spur continued dialogue with your elected officials and help guide you in your decision-making process at election time.

On behalf of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and its members, we want to thank all of the members of the Johnson County Delegation for their hard work and dedication this legislative session. They often are required to make difficult decisions and experience personal sacrifice to fulfill the responsibilities of their elected offices.

If you would like additional information on the Chamber's advocacy efforts, or if you are interested in participating in our Government Affairs Committee, please contact Tom Robinett, Vice President of Government Affairs, at (913) 766-7602 or trobinett@opchamber.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Stratton'.

Brad Stratton, Overland Park Wealth Management
2014 Chair, Government Affairs Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Hess'.

Mike Hess, HNTB Corporation
2014 Co-Chair, Government Affairs Committee

2014 Government Affairs Committee

Committee Chairman:

Mr. Brad Stratton
Overland Park Wealth Management

Committee Co-Chairman:

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HNTB Corporation

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UMB Bank

Shawn Adams
Savers

Mr. Christopher Aikin
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Mr. James Bartling
Atmos Energy

Mr. Marlin Berry
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First National Bank

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Capital City Bank

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The Carter Group

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Homebuilders Association of Greater KC

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Mr. Jarad Falk
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Representative Kevin Yoder's Office

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Blue Valley School District

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Cornerstone Financial Group

Mr. Paul Hink
SPX Cooling Technologies

Mr. Michael Hockley
Spencer Fane Britt & Browne, LLP

Mr. Bob Holcomb
J.P. Morgan Retirement Plan Services

Ms. Dorothy Hughes
The University of Kansas Hospital

Ms. Karin Humbolt
Humbolt Commercial Appraisal

Mr. Beatriz Ibarra
Home Builders Association of Greater KC

Mr. Mark Johnson
BHC RHODES

Mr. Scott Jones
Kansas City Power & Light

Mr. Joshua Lewis
Renaissance Financial

Mr. Zachary Luea
National American University

Ms. Deb Madden
Olathe Unified School District #233

Mr. Patrick Malone
Secured Title of Kansas City

Mr. Brent McCune
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth Management

Ms. Lurena Mead
Johnson County Developmental Supports

Ms. Darci Meese
WaterOne

Mr. Ronnie Metsker
Parakaleo Group

Mr. Gus Meyer
Rau Construction Company

Mr. Jason Meyers
Burns & McDonnell Engineering

Ms. Katie Misukanis
Rasmussen College

Mr. Bill Musgrave
MutualAid eXchange (MAX)

Mr. Greg Musil
Polsinelli

Ms. Leigh Anne Neal
Shawnee Mission School District

Mr. Gary Nevius
MOMENTA

Mr. Neal Nichols
Overland Park Host Lions Club

Mr. Ed O'Connor
PC Partners, Inc.

Ms. Tamara O'Connor
State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Company

Mr. Steve Peppes
Delta Dental of Kansas

Mr. Dallas Polen
Children's Mercy South

Ms. Penny J. Postoak Ferguson
Johnson County Government

Mr. Clint Robinson
Black & Veatch

Mr. Tony Rupp
Foulston Siefkin LLP

Mr. Nick Sanders
Wallace Saunders

Ms. Stephanie Seger
Children's Mercy South

Ms. Carrie Sherer
Black & Veatch

Mr. Neil Shortlidge
Stinson Leonard Street

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Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.

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Allied Staffing

Mr. Cris Smith
Metcalf Bank

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Leadership Systems

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TranSystems

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Blue Valley NEA

Mr. Mick Urban
Kansas Gas Service

Mr. Tim Van Zandt
Saint Luke's Health System

Mr. Robert Vancrum
Vancrum Law Firm, LLC

Mr. Chuck Vogt, Jr.
All Star Awards & Ad Specialties, Inc.

Sen. John Vratil
Blue Valley School District

Mr. Mike Waters
QC Holdings, Inc.

Mr. Paul Weida
Black & Veatch

Mr. Richard Wetzler
Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, LLP

Mr. Frank Whitchurch
OptumRx

Mr. Dave White
Foland, Wickens, Eisfelder, Roper & Hofer, PC

Mr. Ryan Wiens
Waddell & Reed, Inc.

Mr. Larry Winn, III
BHC RHODES

Mr. Dennis Wolf
Wells Fargo Advisors

Mr. Greg Wolf
Dentons

Mr. Josh Woolard
HNTB Corporation

Mr. Rick A. Worrel, P.E.
Affinis Corp

Ms. Karen Wulfkuhle
United Community Services

Ms. Kendra Wyatt
New Birth Company

Ms. Deb Zila
Shawnee Mission School District

SENATE

	Percentage of Votes with Chamber Position		50%	33%	63%	50%	44%	50%	69%	38%	44%	81%
	Senate Issues Bill Number & Descriptions	OP Chamber Position	Apple*	Baumgardner*	Denning	Lynn	Melcher	Olson	Petty	Pilcher-Cook	Smith	Wolf
05/02/14 26-13	H Sub for SB 231 - Vote #287, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Reform of COTA/BOTA	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
03/19/14 26-12	Sub for SB 298 - Vote #110, Final Action on Elimination of Mortgage Registration Tax	N	N		N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
04/04/14 38-2	SB 311 - Vote #241, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Tort Reform - Increase Non-economic Damages Cap and Adoption of Daubert Standard for Expert Testimony	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
02/27/14 32-8	SB 311 - Vote #71, Final Action (included admission of collateral source benefits)	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
03/25/14 25-15	S Sub for HB 2014 - Vote #197, Final Action on Repeal of Renewable Energy Standards	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
03/06/14 39-0	HB 2047, as amended by Senate - Vote #87, Final Action on Requiring Municipalities to Vote to Increase Property Tax Revenues over Previous Year Inflation Rate	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
05/02/14 22-18	S Sub for Sub for HB 2231 - Vote #270, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Omnibus Budget Bill	Y		N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
05/02/14 35-5	Sub for HB 2430 - Vote #278, Adopt Conference Committee Report on PEAK Reform/Clarifications	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/25/14 35-4	Sub for HB 2430, as amended by Senate - Vote #196, Final Action (included retaining sunset on employer retention incentives)	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/25/14 39-1	HB 2440 - Vote #150, Final Action on Classification of Certain Bioscience Companies under the Emerging Industry Investment Act	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/06/14 22-16	S Sub for HB 2506 - Vote #256, Adopt Conference Committee Report on K-12 School Finance/Education Policy	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
04/03/14 27-12	S Sub for HB 2506 - Vote #225, Motion to Amend to Prohibit Funding of Common Core Standards	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
04/04/14 29-11	HB 2553 - Vote #233, Final Action on Enacting the Health Care Compact	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
03/19/14 40-0	HB 2576 - Vote #129, Final Action on Modification of Employer Unemployment Insurance Contribution Rates	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/04/14 37-2	HB 2578 - Vote #237, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Regulation and Possession of Firearms, Voiding of Local Ordinances Regulating Open Carry	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
04/04/14 21-17-2	HB 2643 - Vote #229, Amend Bill to Exempt Health Clubs from Payment of Property Tax	N	NV		N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N

NV = Not Voting, which means the Senator was not present in the Senate Chamber for this vote.

P = Present, which means the Senator was present in the Chamber for the vote but chose not to take a position.

Only votes in opposition to the Overland Park Chamber's position reduce the % rating.

*Apple was appointed to the Kansas Corporation Commission, effective Apr. 16, 2014; Baumgardner was appointed to fill Apple's seat, effective Apr. 22, 2014.

HOUSE

	Percentage of Votes with Chamber Position		81%	69%	63%	75%	67%	63%	50%	63%	56%	63%	44%	75%	69%
	House Issues Bill Number & Descriptions	OP Chamber Position	Bollier	Bruchman	Campbell	Clayton	Davis	Dove	Esau	Grosserode	Hildabrand	Kiegerl	Kinzer	Kleeb	Lunn
4/4/2014 91-31	H Sub for SB 218 - Vote #225, Final Action on K-12 Education Funding	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
05/02/14 124-0	H Sub for SB 231 - Vote #280, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Reform of COTA/BOTA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/03/14 120-4	SB 311 - Vote #202, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Tort Reform - Increase Non-economic Damages Cap and Adoption of Daubert Standard for Expert Testimony	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/24/14 119-3	SB 311 - Vote #141, Final Action, as amended by House to retain prohibition on admission of collateral source benefits	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/26/14 44-77	S Sub for HB 2014 - Vote #171, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments on Repeal of Renewable Energy Standards	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
03/25/14 117-5	HB 2047 - Vote #156, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments on Requiring Municipalities to Vote to Increase Property Tax Revenues over Previous Year Inflation Rate	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
05/02/14 70-54	S Sub for Sub for HB 2231 - Vote #281, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Omnibus Budget Bill	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
05/02/14 114-10	Sub for HB 2430 - Vote #277, Adopt Conference Committee Report on PEAK Reform/Clarifications	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
02/27/14 110-13	Sub for HB 2430 - Vote #89, Final Action on PEAK Reform/Clarifications (included removal of sunset on employer retention incentives)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
02/21/14 116-4-4	HB 2440 - Vote #38, Final Action on Classification of Certain Bioscience Companies under the Emerging Industry Investment Act	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/06/14 63-57-5	S Sub for HB 2506 Vote #237, Adopt Conference Committee Report on K-12 School Finance/Education Policy	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/24/14 74-48	HB 2553 - Vote #140, Final Action on Enacting the Health Care Compact	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/25/14 122-0	HB 2576 - Vote #158, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments on Modification of Employer Unemployment Insurance Contribution Rates	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/05/14 102-19	HB 2578 - Vote #234, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Regulation and Possession of Firearms and Voiding of Local Ordinances Regulating Open Carry	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/26/14 123-0	HB 2643 - Vote #163, Final Action on Classification of Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment as Personal Property (including that used in manufacture of cement) for Tax Purposes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
05/02/14 16-108	HB 2643 - Vote #273, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment to Exempt Health Clubs from Payment of Property Tax	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N

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Only votes in opposition to the Overland Park Chamber's position reduce the % rating.

HOUSE

	Percentage of Votes with Chamber Position		69%	69%	44%	69%	69%	73%	75%	56%	63%	81%	60%	69%
	House Issues Bill Number & Descriptions	OP Chamber Position	Lusk	Macheers	McPherson	Meigs	Merrick	Perry	Rooker	Rubin	Ryckman	Schwab	Sutton	Todd
4/4/2014 91-31	H Sub for SB 218 - Vote #225, Final Action on K-12 Education Funding	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
05/02/14 124-0	H Sub for SB 231 - Vote #280, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Reform of COTA/BOTA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/03/14 120-4	SB 311 - Vote #202, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Tort Reform - Increase Non-economic Damages Cap and Adoption of Daubert Standard for Expert Testimony	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/24/14 119-3	SB 311 - Vote #141, Final Action, as amended by House to retain prohibition on admission of collateral source benefits	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
03/26/14 44-77	S Sub for HB 2014 - Vote #171, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments on Repeal of Renewable Energy Standards	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
03/25/14 117-5	HB 2047 - Vote #156, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments on Requiring Municipalities to Vote to Increase Property Tax Revenues over Previous Year Inflation Rate	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
05/02/14 70-54	S Sub for Sub for HB 2231 - Vote #281, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Omnibus Budget Bill	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
05/02/14 114-10	Sub for HB 2430 - Vote #277, Adopt Conference Committee Report on PEAK Reform/Clarifications	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
02/27/14 110-13	Sub for HB 2430 - Vote #89, Final Action on PEAK Reform/Clarifications (included removal of sunset on employer retention incentives)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
02/21/14 116-4-4	HB 2440 - Vote #38, Final Action on Classification of Certain Bioscience Companies under the Emerging Industry Investment Act	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/06/14 63-57-5	S Sub for HB 2506 Vote #237, Adopt Conference Committee Report on K-12 School Finance/Education Policy	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y
03/24/14 74-48	HB 2553 - Vote #140, Final Action on Enacting the Health Care Compact	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/25/14 122-0	HB 2576 - Vote #158, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments on Modification of Employer Unemployment Insurance Contribution Rates	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
04/05/14 102-19	HB 2578 - Vote #234, Adopt Conference Committee Report on Regulation and Possession of Firearms and Voiding of Local Ordinances Regulating Open Carry	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
03/26/14 123-0	HB 2643 - Vote #163, Final Action on Classification of Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment as Personal Property (including that used in manufacture of cement) for Tax Purposes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
05/02/14 16-108	HB 2643 - Vote #273, Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment to Exempt Health Clubs from Payment of Property Tax	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N

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Only votes in opposition to the Overland Park Chamber's position reduce the % rating.

Voting Record Bill Explanations

The Overland Park Chamber's legislative positions are shown in red italics.

SENATE

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on H Sub for SB 231 – Vote #287 (05/02/14), passed: Property taxation; relating to the valuation of property; the state court of tax appeals, renaming the court to the state board of tax appeals, timing of decisions, public policy determinations, filing fees, salaries; property tax delinquencies, interest . . . Signed into law
See House explanation.

Final Action on Sub for SB 298 – Vote #110 (03/19/14), passed: Concerning the elimination of Kansas mortgage registration fee; modification of recording fees Signed into law

The Chamber supports the preservation of local control whereby local elected officials are accountable for the funding, regulation and provision of services to meet the needs of the communities they serve and opposes tax policy changes that simply shift the tax burden to other levels of government.

This bill phases out the mortgage registration tax over five years while simultaneously phasing in over four years additional recording fees collected by the county register of deeds. It also imposes a new cap beginning in 2015 such that a maximum of \$125 could be levied for recording mortgages of \$75,000 or less on single-family principal residences.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on SB 311, as amended – Vote #241 (04/04/14), passed: Increasing the noneconomic damages cap; changing rules related to expert evidence Signed into law

Final action on SB 311 – Vote #71 (02/27/14), passed: Original 3-part bill

The Chamber supports reforms that would help expedite the legal process and lower litigation costs, including changing the standard for expert testimony, modifying or repealing the collateral source rule, and maintaining a cap on noneconomic damages.

This bill incrementally increases the cap on noneconomic damages in personal injury lawsuits from its current \$250,000 to \$350,000 in 2022 and adopts the Daubert standard for admitting expert testimony that is currently used in the federal court system and most states' courts. After passing on final action in the Senate, the original bill was amended in the House to delete the provision that would have permitted evidence of collateral source benefits, a change strongly supported by the Chamber as part of the collection of three tort reforms that represented a good, business-friendly package; the Senate non-concurred with the House amendment, and the bill was sent to conference where the prohibition on collateral source benefits was retained.

Final action on S Sub for HB 2014 – Vote #197 (03/25/14), passed: Repealing the Renewable Energy Standards Act Bill killed in House

The Chamber supports energy and environmental regulations based on sound, measurable and defensible scientific data in an economically pragmatic manner that will not create unnecessary implementation and regulatory compliance costs. The Chamber also supports a regulatory framework that results in consistent and predictable application of state policies, procedures and regulations.

This bill would have repealed the Renewable Energy Standards Act that provides that the net renewable generation capacity must constitute at least a certain percentage of a utility's peak demand by certain dates (10% by 2015, 15% by 2019, and 20% by 2020). While proponents attributed electricity rate increases of up to 22% to the requirements of the Act, the KCC indicated that less than 2% of the increases in those rates have been caused by the renewable energy standards. Opponents to the bill also claimed that the Act has had a positive economic impact on the wind generation industry in Kansas. Finally, Kansas utilities have already incorporated compliance into their operations and are generally ahead schedule with respect to the compliance timetable under the Act.

Final action on HB 2047, as amended by the Senate – Vote #87 (03/26/14), passed: Requiring municipalities to vote to increase property tax revenues over previous year; publication Signed into law

See House explanation.

Motion to adopt conference committee report on S Sub for Sub for HB 2231 – Vote #270 (05/02/14), passed: Omnibus Budget Bill – year 2 Signed into law

This bill contained adjustments to the second year of the 2-year budget passed in the 2013 legislative session. For FY 2015, the approved budget totals \$15.352 billion, including \$6.301 billion from the State General Fund (SGF). This represents an increase from all funding sources of approximately \$756 million and an SGF expenditures increase of \$92.2 million above the Governor's recommendations for FY 2015. Included in the adjustments were an additional \$11.3 million for a one-time \$250 bonus for full-time state employees (excluding elected officials); \$109.3 million for K-12 LOB equalization and \$25.2 million to the K-12 capital outlay fund; and in the higher education category, restored the salary cap cuts for the Regents' universities for FY 2015 and approved \$25 million in bonding authority for a new KUMC education building. The bill also included more than \$300 million for operation of the Department of Corrections as a result of the Governor's line item veto of the Department's appropriation in 2013 and a shift of some funds from the State Highway Fund, primarily for use in K-12 transportation costs.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on Sub for HB 2430 – Vote #278 (05/02/14), passed: Promoting Employment Across Kansas Act (PEAK) benefits. Signed into law
Final action on bill, as amended by the Senate to retain the sunset provision – Vote #89 (02/27/14), passed
See House explanation

Final action on HB 2440 – Vote #150 (03/25/14), passed: Emerging industry investment act; treatment of certain bioscience companies Signed into law
See House explanation

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on S Sub for HB 2506 – Vote #256 (04/06/14), passed: Education; relating to the financing and instruction thereof; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, for certain agencies; authorizing the state board of regents to sell and convey or exchange certain real estate with the Emporia State University Foundation; authorizing the state board of regents to exchange and convey certain real estate with the Kansas University Endowment Association. Signed into law

Motion to amend bill to defund Common Core – Vote #225 (04/03/14), passed, but removed in conference committee

The Chamber recognizes that high-quality public education, from pre-K through post-secondary, leads to a high-quality workforce. Educational excellence is one of the single most important reasons companies have selected Johnson County and Overland Park as their place of business, thus leading to the creation of jobs in our region and economic prosperity in Kansas. The Chamber supports fundamentally reforming the school finance formula by utilizing local authority to better relate to the actual cost of providing services, incentivizing operational efficiencies and expanding local flexibility over how education funds are raised and spent.

The Chamber supports policies, programs, and adequate funding that encourage the development of a robust P-20 public education system emphasizing a rigorous science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum based on globally competitive standards that prepare students to be college and career-ready for the future and fosters a well-trained, productive, globally competitive workforce.

The Chamber opposes the use of public tax funds to subsidize private education.

This bill appropriates approximately \$25 million for Capital Outlay State Aid and \$109 million to fund Supplemental General State Aid to satisfy the equalization requirements of the Gannon decision. Changes in the bill to several of the weightings in the formula will save almost \$12 million (including reducing at-risk weighting for part-time students and students over 19 years of age, \$3.35 million; eliminating non-proficient at-risk weighting, \$4.89 million; and eliminating virtual weighting for purposes of the local option budget [LOB], \$3.60 million), with the rest coming out of the State General Fund.

Probably most importantly for our local districts, at least in the short term, the bill:

- Increases the cap on LOB from the current level of 31% to 33%.
- Requires a mail ballot of the school district’s patrons by August 1 to exceed 30%, except that any school district that is already over 30% (there are eight districts in this category, including Shawnee Mission, Blue Valley and Olathe) may increase its LOB for the 2014-15 school year by a simple resolution of its board of education.
- Increases the special base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) for purposes of computing the LOB to \$4,490 for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, after which it will revert to the current level of \$4,433.
- Changes the statutory minimum BSAPP from \$4,492 to \$3,838, while increasing the actual BSAPP from its current level of \$3,838 to \$3,852.

And the bill also makes the following policy changes to state law:

- Allows licensure of certain professionals who do not have a college education degree to teach in the CTE and STEM academic areas.
- Eliminates due process rights for teacher terminations and non-renewals.
- Creates corporate income tax credits for scholarship contributions to low income students that want to attend private schools.
- Establishes the “Rose capacities” as the benchmark by which student success should be measured. (This will guide the District Court’s analysis of the “adequacy” aspect of the Gannon decision.)

This was somewhat of a mixed bag insofar as the Chamber’s agenda is concerned. While it does increase the cap on the LOB, thus providing our local school districts the ability to raise additional money locally, it does not fundamentally reform the school finance formula, and it delves into education policy issues and changes the state law in several areas without the benefit of the typical legislative process, including committee review and debate as well as public input.

Final action on HB 2553 – Vote #233 (04/04/14), passed: Health care; enacting the Health Care Compact . . Signed into law
See House explanation

Final action on HB 2576, as amended – Vote #129 (03/19/14), passed: Employment security law; creation of “new employer rate”. Signed into law
See House explanation

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on HB 2578 – Vote #237 (04/04/14): An Act concerning weapons; relating to the regulation and possession of firearms and knives Signed into law
See House explanation

Final Action on HB 2643 (as amended by the House and further amended by Senate) – Vote #230 (04/04/14), passed: Property tax; classification of commercial and industrial machinery and equipment as personal property; reclassification of property upon termination of IRB exemption; use of independent appraisers to appraise certain complex property. Signed into law
See House explanation

HOUSE

Final action on H Sub for SB 218 – Vote #225 (04/04/14), passed: Education; relating to the financing and instruction thereof CCR killed in House

The Chamber recognizes that high-quality public education, from pre-K through post-secondary, leads to a high-quality workforce. Educational excellence is one of the single most important reasons companies have selected Johnson County and Overland Park as their place of business, thus leading to the creation of jobs in our region and economic prosperity in Kansas. The Chamber supports fundamentally reforming the school finance formula by utilizing local authority to better relate to the actual cost of providing services, incentivizing operational efficiencies and expanding local flexibility over how education funds are raised and spent.

The Chamber supports policies, programs, and adequate funding that encourage the development of a robust P-20 public education system emphasizing a rigorous science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum based on globally competitive standards that prepare students to be college and career-ready for the future and fosters a well-trained, productive, globally competitive workforce.

The Chamber opposes the use of public tax funds to subsidize private education.

This is the House response to the Gannon decision. The bill would have appropriated approximately \$25 million for Capital Outlay State Aid and \$112 million to fund Supplemental General State Aid to satisfy the equalization requirements of Gannon. It would have eliminated non-proficient at-risk weighting for students not eligible for the federal free lunch program and phased out the use of school facilities weighting for districts that have adopted an LOB of at least 25%, adopted the “Rose standards” for student achievement, allowed licensure of certain professionals who do not have a college education degree to teach in the CTE and STEM academic areas, and established the K-12 student performance and efficiency commission.

Probably most importantly for our local districts, at least in the short term, the bill would have:

- Increased the cap on LOB from the current level of 31% to 33%.
- Required a mail ballot of the school district’s patrons for an LOB that would exceed 30%, except that any school district that is already over 30% (there are eight districts in this category, including Shawnee Mission and Blue Valley) may increase its LOB for the 2014-15 school year by a simple resolution of its board of education.
- Changed the statutory minimum BSAPP from \$4,492 to the amount appropriated by the Legislature in a fiscal year, but not less than \$3,838.

After the bill was passed by the House, it was sent to the Senate where a motion to non-concur with the House amendments was passed. The bill was sent to a conference committee; a motion to adopt the resulting conference committee report failed in the House, effectively killing the bill.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on H Sub for SB 231 – Vote #280 (05/02/14), passed: Property taxation; relating to the valuation of property; the state court of tax appeals, renaming the court to the state board of tax appeals, timing of decisions, public policy determinations, filing fees, salaries; property tax delinquencies, interest . . . Signed into law

The Chamber supports a regulatory framework that results in consistent and predictable application of state policies, procedures and regulations.

This bill reforms the State Court of Tax Appeals, including changing its name to the Board of Tax Appeals, as well as more substantive changes in the powers, duties and functions of the Board, changes with regard to property tax valuation appeals, reduction in the interest rate charged on delinquent payments, speeding up the Board’s decisions relative to the appeals before it, and making its members subject to certain continuing education requirements.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on SB 311 – Vote #202 (04/03/14), passed: Increasing the noneconomic damages cap; changing rules related to expert evidence. Signed into law

Final action, as amended to remove collateral source provision – Vote #141 (03/24/14), failed

See Senate explanation

Motion to concur with Senate amendments to S Sub for HB 2014 – Vote #171 (03/26/14), failed: Repealing the Renewable Energy Standards ActBill killed in House
See Senate explanation.

Motion to concur with Senate amendments to HB 2047 – Vote #156 (03/25/14), passed: Requiring municipalities to vote to increase property tax revenues over previous year; publication Signed into law
The Chamber strongly supports the preservation of local control whereby local elected officials are accountable for the funding, regulation and provision of services to meet the needs of the communities they serve.
This bill prohibits all municipalities that receive more than \$1,000 in annual property tax revenue, absent a majority vote of the governing body and publication of such vote in official county newspapers, from approving annual budgets or other appropriations funded by certain increases in property taxes over the prior year that are in excess of the rate of inflation.

Motion to adopt conference committee report on S Sub for Sub for HB 2231 – Vote #281 (05/02/14), passed: Omnibus Budget Bill – year 2 Signed into law
See Senate explanation.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on Sub for HB 2430 – Vote #277 (05/02/14), passed: Promoting Employment Across Kansas Act (PEAK) benefits Signed into law
Final action on Sub for HB 2430 (with sunset removed) – Vote #89 (02/27/14), passed
The Chamber strongly encourages lawmakers to support, protect and enhance proven economic development and workforce development programs that are critical tools used to stimulate employment and leverage private investment, including PEAK programs. We oppose efforts to dilute the effectiveness of such programs, including proposals to sunset them.
As introduced and passed by the House, this bill would have eliminated the December 31, 2014 sunset on the use of PEAK for job retention, allowed qualified companies who entered into an agreement to participate in the PEAK program prior to January 1, 2013 (when the current Kansas income tax cuts became effective) to request the Secretary of Commerce to grant them an extension of up to two years as needed to obtain the benefits contemplated under that company’s original agreement, and clarified that the aggregate amount of PEAK benefits available to qualified companies is capped at \$6 million per year.

During floor debate, the Senate amended the bill by reinserting the December 31, 2014 sunset and adding the requirement that applications for PEAK benefits must be approved by the Secretary of Revenue in addition to the Secretary of Commerce, and then passed it on final action. The House non-concurred with the Senate amendments, and the bill was sent to a conference committee.

In conference, a compromise was achieved whereby the retention program sunset was reinserted but extended from December 31, 2014 through June 30, 2018, adding a cap on the aggregate amount of PEAK benefits available to qualified companies during that extended period of \$1.2 million annually; the requirement for approval by the Secretary of Revenue was removed; and the cap on the aggregate amount of PEAK benefits received by qualified companies was further clarified to be \$12 million in 2014, increasing by \$6 million per year up to \$42 million in 2019 and subsequent years.

Final action on HB 2440 – Vote #38 (02/21/14), passed: Emerging industry investment act; treatment of certain bioscience companies Signed into law
The Chamber supports public policies to improve the competitive position of Kansas in the life sciences industry.
This bill allows the Kansas Bioscience Authority and the Secretary of Revenue to determine that a business classified as a bioscience company based on the North American Industry Classification System codes would no longer be considered a bioscience company for purposes of the Emerging Industry Investment Act. This will give the Department of Commerce additional flexibility to provide other economic development incentives not available to companies receiving assistance from the KBA.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on S Sub for HB 2506 – Vote #237 (04/06/14), passed: Education; relating to the financing and instruction thereof; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, for certain agencies; authorizing the state board of regents to sell and convey or exchange certain real estate with the Emporia State University Foundation; authorizing the state board of regents to exchange and convey certain real estate with the Kansas University Endowment Association Signed into law
See Senate explanation.

Final action on HB 2553 – Vote #140 (03/24/14), passed: Health care; enacting the Health Care Compact . . Signed into law
The Chamber supports fair and appropriate implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
This bill allows Kansas to join the Interstate Health Care Compact, effectively opting out of federal health care reform. If adopted by at least two states and approved by Congress, the Compact gives member states the right to regulate health care within their respective

boundaries, adopt legislation to suspend federal health care laws and regulations that are inconsistent with those adopted by the member states, and to secure federal funding for health care.

Motion to concur with Senate amendments to HB 2576 – Vote #158 (03/25/14), passed: Employment security law; creation of “new employer rate”. Signed into law

Strong economic development tools are vital for local business recruitment and retention. The Chamber supports efforts to enhance proven economic development and workforce development programs used to stimulate employment and leverage private investment.

This bill will permit employers locating to Kansas starting in 2015 the option of using the unemployment insurance contribution rate of 2.7% of wages paid or the rate that it paid in the state in which it was located before moving to Kansas. The bill also creates the new “entering and expanding employers” classification for those employers with a positive account balance and that have a 100% increase in their taxable payroll over the previous year to qualify for a 2.7% contribution rate.

Motion to adopt the conference committee report on HB 2578 – Vote #234 (04/05/14), passed: An Act concerning weapons; relating to the regulation and possession of firearms and knives Signed into law

The Chamber supports the right for local units of government and businesses to regulate the carrying of firearms (open or concealed) on their premises.

This bill repeals existing statutory provisions that delegate to local units of government the authority to regulate open carry and transportation of a firearm; i.e., the Legislature has prohibited local control of firearms and voided existing ordinances that purport to do so.

Final Action on HB 2643 (as amended to include contents of HB 2456) – Vote #163 (03/26/14), passed: Property tax; classification of commercial and industrial machinery and equipment as personal property; reclassification of property upon termination of IRB exemption; use of independent appraisers to appraise certain complex property Signed into law

Motion to concur with Senate amendment (health club exemption) – Vote #273 (05/02/14), failed

The Chamber supports the codification of the intent of the 2006 Legislature that passed legislation exempting business machinery and equipment from personal property taxes.

This bill provides clear direction to county appraisers for determining whether property is to be classified as real or personal for purposes of property tax liability. With the addition of the contents of HB 2456, it also addresses the misclassification of personal property used in cement manufacturing facilities as real property.

After the bill was passed by the House on final action, the Senate further amended it to exempt health clubs from property tax and passed the bill, as amended, on final action.

The House non-concurred, and the bill was sent to conference where the health club exemption was removed and the bill was bundled with SB 298, and the conference committee report was adopted by both chambers sending both bills to the Governor for signature.

Lifetime Voting Records

SENATE	First Term	2014	Lifetime
Pat Apple	2013	50%	44%
Molly Baumgardner	2014	33%	33%
Jim Denning	2013*	63%	56% ¹
Julia Lynn	2006	50%	57%
Jeff Melcher	2013	44%	42%
Rob Olson	2011*	50%	61% ²
Pat Pettey	2013	69%	68%
Mary Pilcher Cook	2008*	38%	46% ³
Greg Smith	2013	44%	46% ⁴
Kay Wolf	2013*	81%	91% ⁵

* Elected to the Senate after serving in the House

¹ Lifetime record includes sessions served in the House (2011-2012)

² Lifetime record includes sessions served in the House (2004-2011)

³ Lifetime record includes sessions served in the House (2004-2006)

⁴ Lifetime record includes sessions served in the House (2011-2012)

⁵ Lifetime record includes sessions served in the House (2006-2012)

HOUSE	First Term	2014	Lifetime
Barbara Bollier	2010	81%	83%
Rob Bruchman	2011	69%	67%
Larry Campbell	2013	63%	60%
Stephanie Clayton	2013	75%	88%
Erin Davis	2014	67%	67%
Willie Dove	2013	63%	59%
Keith Esau	2013	50%	50%
Amanda Grosserode	2011	63%	58%
Brett Hildabrand	2011	56%	48%
Mike Kiegerl	2014	63%	63% ¹
Lance Kinzer	2004	44%	53%
Marvin Kleeb	2008	75%	70%
Jerry Lunn	2013	69%	63%
Nancy Lusk	2013	69%	72%
Charles Macheers	2013	69%	63%
Craig McPherson	2013	44%	47%
Kelly Meigs	2011	69%	58%
Ray Merrick	2011*	69%	67% ²
Emily Perry	2013	73%	81%
Melissa Rooker	2013	75%	88%
John Rubin	2011	56%	54%
Ron Ryckman, Jr.	2013	63%	59%
Scott Schwab	2008 [†]	81%	63% ³
Bill Sutton	2013	60%	55%
James Todd	2013	69%	63%

*Elected to the House after serving in the Senate.

[†] Second time serving in the House.

¹ Lifetime record includes previous sessions served in the House (2004-2012)

² Lifetime record includes sessions served in the House (2000-2010, 2013) and in the Senate (2011-2012)

³ Lifetime record includes previous sessions served in the House (2003-2006)



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