



Kansas
Appleseed

Who We Are.

We believe Kansans, working together, can build a state full of thriving, inclusive, and just communities.



What We Believe.



Thriving

All Kansans deserve access to affordable food and a hopeful future.



Inclusive

All Kansans should be able to participate fully in their communities.



Just

All Kansans should benefit from fair and effective systems of justice.



*"All political power is inherent
in the people."*

- Kansas Bill of Rights

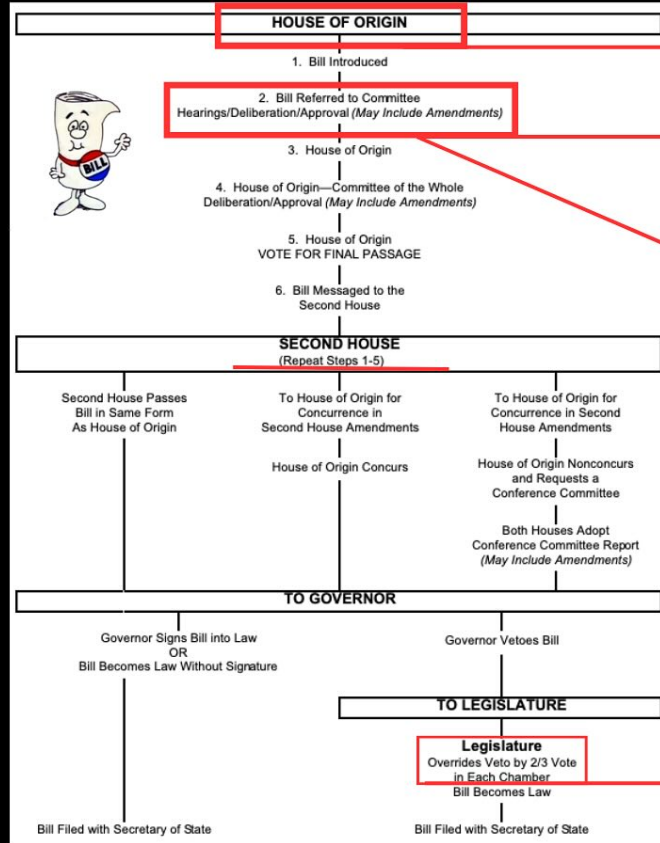


Understanding the Legislative Calendar

- Day 1: January 13, 2025
- 90 Day Session - what's different this year
- Turnaround
- Veto Session
- Sine Die: mid-April



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW....



SENATE OR HOUSE

WRITTEN / IN PERSON PUBLIC TESTIMONY ACCEPTED

COMMITTEES ARE GROUPS OF LEGISLATORS WHO REVIEW BILLS, HEAR TESTIMONY, AND MORE BEFORE SENDING TO THE ENTIRE HOUSE OR SENATE. THERE ARE HOUSE AND SENATE CMTES.

27 SENATORS NEEDED + 84 HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED TO OVERRIDE VETO



What is Testimony?

- Legislative testimony is a way to share views and information with lawmakers about proposed legislation.
- You do not need to be a policy expert to offer testimony.
- Your life experiences make you an expert.
- Testimony can be given in writing or verbally.



**Your Testimony is
Your Power.**



Understanding the Process

- Tracking Legislation
 - Know the Bill Number
- Where do find information on hearings?
- What are the rules?
- What do I say?



The Kansas Legislature Website:

<https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/>





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Feb. 23, 2025



House Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Senate Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 02:30 p.m.

Kansas Dome

The state legislature approved the dome in 1881 and construction began in 1885. The outer copper dome extends approximately 75 feet above the inner dome. There are 296 steps to the top of the dome. [More >](#)



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Welcome

The Kansas Legislature consists of a 125-member [House of Representatives](#) and a 40-member [Senate](#). The Legislature convenes on the second Monday in January for an annual session and generally adjourns in early May. For more information about the Kansas Legislature go to [About the Legislature](#).

Government Efficiency Portal

The Senate Committee on Government Efficiency invites the public to submit ideas on how state government can better serve the residents of Kansas through the [Government Efficiency Portal](#) or by sending an email to kansascoge@senate.ks.gov

Audio/Video Broadcast

[House](#) - Listen to the live proceedings in the House.

[Senate](#) - Listen to the live proceedings in the Senate.

[House, Senate & Committee Video](#)

Recent Documents

* [2025 Senate and House Actions and Subject Index Report, February 13, 2025](#)

* [2025 Session Deadlines](#)

* [House Standing Committees 2/4/25](#)

Find Bill

Bill/Resolution Lookup:

[Lookup](#)

Find Your Legislator

Legislative Deadlines

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Statute

Legislative Resources

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- [Division of Post Audit](#)
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- [About the Legislature](#)

Other State Resources

- [Kansas.gov](#)
- [Ethics Commission](#)

How Do I...


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Bills & Laws

Feb. 23, 2025


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House Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

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SCR 1611

[Actions and Subject Index Report](#)
[How a bill becomes law \(pdf\)](#)
[Kansas Constitution](#)
[Contact the Revisor](#)

Short Title

Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide for direct election of supreme court justices and abolish the supreme court nominating commission.

[Current Sponsor](#)
[Original Sponsor](#)
[Requested for introduction by](#)
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Bill Versions

Version	Documents
As introduced	

Bill History

JPN: Journal Page Number

Date	Chamber	Status	JPN
Tue, Feb 25, 2025	Senate	Hearing: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 10:30 AM Room 144-S	
Mon, Feb 10, 2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Federal and State Affairs	129
Fri, Feb 7, 2025	Senate	Introduced	124

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Committees

Feb. 23, 2025



-A +A

Standing

House Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Joint

Senate Status: Adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 02:30 p.m.

Special and Select

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Commission

Subcommittee

Task Force

Other

Conference Schedules

Conference Committees

Committee Bill Hearings

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Committee Assistant: Angela Gantzer 785-296-4335
S.Fed.State.Affairs@senate.ks.gov

To request committee agendas or submit testimony please email
S.Fed.State.Affairs@senate.ks.gov. All testimony submissions must be in pdf format.

Meeting Day: Daily Time: 10:30 am Location: 144-S

Room 144-S Audio Stream

[Agendas & Minutes](#)

[Committee Documents](#)

[Committee Testimony](#)

[Committee Indices](#)



Chair

Sen. Mike Thompson

Vice Chair

Sen. Tory Marie Blew

Ranking Minority Member

Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Members

Senate

Sen. William Clifford

Sen. Brenda Dietrich

Find Bill



Find Your Legislator



Legislative Deadlines



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Bills, Resolutions and Appointments

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS CONFEREES RULES

Committee Assistant: Angela Gantzer 785-296-4335

S.Fed.State.Affairs@senate.ks.gov

Meeting Day: Daily Time: 10:30 am Location: 144-S

It is the policy of the Federal and State Affairs Committee to ensure and promote free and open discussion of matters coming before the Committee. Because of the importance of issues that are to be discussed, certain rules are necessary. Just as there are rules relating to the conduct of Committee business when matters are debated among Senators, the following rules apply to the hearing process itself. By appearing before the Committee, each conferee is presumed to have read this document.

Individuals wishing to present testimony before the Committee **must** provide a digital copy of the testimony by email, in **PDF format**, to the committee assistant at least **24 business hours in advance of the hearing**. If a hearing is scheduled for a Monday, testimony should be submitted by 10:30 a.m. on the preceding Friday. (See page 2 for suggested testimony format.) In the email, indicate whether the testimony will be given in person, remotely via WebEx, or written-only.

Rules for conferees presenting their testimony orally:

Written v. Verbal Testimony

- Written Testimony
 - You will not need to appear in person to the committee to testify in person.
- Verbal Testimony
 - You will have the opportunity to speak directly to legislators about the issue.
 - Legislators can ask you questions.
 - Some committees allow you to testify online.



Writing Compelling Testimony

Step 1: Introduce Yourself

Step 2: Tell Your Story

Step 3: Share Why the Bill Matters to You

Step 4: Urge Them to Oppose or Support the Bill

Step 5: Thank Them for Their Time



Example of Testimony – Concerned Citizen

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Amanda Baker, I am a Kansan, a pastor, and the parent of a trans youth who depends on gender-affirming health care for her well-being. I am urging you to oppose the bill seeking to limit medical care to transgender youth in Kansas, HB2071 and SB63.

I write to you first as a mom who has walked alongside my child whom I love dearly as she struggled to understand her gender fully and to be at home in her own body, name, and life. Being invited to walk that with her is one of the greatest honors of my life. While it has been hard to see the bullying she has endured at the hands of both peers and lawmakers twice her age, it has been a joy to see her come alive as she transitions, first socially and then with the help of medications.

I watched as her anxiety reduced and her confidence soared. Despite the bullying she often endured among peers, she found solace and support among teachers and guidance counselors and those adults were what got us through a school year that was, frankly, hell on earth. I shudder to think what school would have been like for my child if this bill had been in place, making it so that those same adults did not feel free to be a safe and accepting place for her to be her authentic self.

I know that you won't legislate my child out of being trans. She is who she is. However, I



Example of Testimony – Public Policy Lobbyist



January 29, 2025

Haley Kottler, Campaign Director
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Testimony in Support of Budget Recommendation for Reduced Price Meals Co-Pay
House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Chairman Goetz, Ranking Member Winn, and Members of the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am here in support of the budget recommendation for eliminating the copay for families receiving reduced-price school meals, which would assist in providing food to some of the most vulnerable children across the state while providing economic relief to their families.

My name is Haley Kottler, I am a campaign director at Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice. Kansas Appleseed is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the belief that Kansans, working together, can build a state full of thriving, inclusive, and just communities.



You've Testified! What's Now?

- Keep up your advocacy!
 - Share your testimony with your representatives – especially if they weren't on the committee -- and urge them to vote yes/no
 - Urge the governor to veto or sign into law
 - Show up at legislative coffees in district to hold your elected officials accountable
 - Vote!



Questions?



Contact Info

Jami Reeve
Executive Director

jreever@kansasappleseed.org

