• 769 bills were introduced
  • 315 in the Senate and 454 in the House
• 116 (15.1% percent) became law:
  • 46 Senate Bills and 70 House Bills
• The Governor vetoed 10 bills and 19 line items in an appropriations bill. Five of those vetoes and all line items were sustained, and five vetoes were overridden
• A total of 601 bills will be carried over to the 2022 Session of the Legislature.
• General Session
  • Veto Session
  • Sine Die Adjournment

• Special Session
  • Most recent Special Session occurred in 2021 to address COVID-19 related issues.
Legislative Process

State Legislative process
If changed, the bill is sent back to the chamber of origin for approval or further consideration.

IDEA → BILL DRAFTED → 1ST CHAMBER
→ COMMITTEE HEARINGS → FLOOR DEBATE

2ND CHAMBER
→ COMMITTEE HEARINGS → FLOOR DEBATE
→ GOVERNOR
→ LAW

A vetoed bill goes back to the chamber of origin. If the veto is overridden, the bill moves to the second chamber for its reconsideration. If not, the bill dies.
Committees

• COMMITTEE: A body of members appointed by the presiding officer (or another authority specified by the chamber) to consider and make recommendations concerning disposition of bills, resolutions and other related matters.
  • Standing committee: A committee appointed with continuing responsibility in a general issue area or field of legislative activity.
  • Joint committee: A committee composed of members from both chambers.
  • Interim committee: A committee established to study or investigate certain matters between annual or biennial legislative sessions and to report to the next regular session.
  • Conference committee: A committee composed of members from the two houses specifically appointed to reconcile the differences between House and Senate versions of a bill or bills.
Finding Information about the Legislature

- Kansas Legislature Website: http://www.kslegislature.org/li/

- Kansas Legislative Research Department: http://www.kslegresearch.org/KL RD-web/Policy.html
• **APPROPRIATION:** Funds allocated for various departments of government set aside by formal action for specific use. Allows money to be spent; is not actual expenditure record.

• **BICAMERAL:** A legislature consisting of two separate chambers, each serving as a check on the other's power.

• **BIENNIAL:** Two-year term of legislative activity.

• **BILL:** Draft of a proposed law presented to the legislature for consideration.

• **BIPARTISAN:** Having an affiliation or association with (or representatives of) both political parties or caucuses in a two-party system.

• **CALENDAR:** (1) A printed list of proposals that are arranged according to the order of business and are scheduled for consideration by a chamber. (2) Agenda of daily legislative business in a chamber.
Legislative Terms

- **CALL OF THE SENATE OR HOUSE**: Procedure used to compel the attendance of members who are missing from the chamber and to compel those members already in attendance to remain in the chamber.

- **CARRY-OVER LEGISLATION**: Legislation that is held over from the first year of a legislative biennium to the second year.

- **CAUCUS**: An informal meeting of a group of the members; most commonly based on political party affiliation, but may have other bases, such as gender, race, geographic location or specific issue.

- **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**: Either house of the legislature sitting in its entirety as a committee to consider bills or issues.

- **COMMITTEE REPORT**: Official release of a bill or resolution from committee with (or without) a specific recommendation, such as "pass", "pass as amended" or "do not pass."
• **CONCURRENCE (TO CONCUR):** Action by which one house agrees to a proposal or action that the other chamber has approved.

• **CONSTITUENT:** A citizen residing within the district of a legislator.

• **CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY:** One more than half of the members of a deliberative body; actual number may be defined in the state constitution.

• **DIED IN COMMITTEE:** The defeat of a bill by not returning it from committee to the house for further action. (Only permitted in certain states.)

• **DIVISION:** A method of voting; a request that members stand or raise hands to be counted when the outcome of a voice vote is unclear or in dispute.

• **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A session excluding from the chamber or committee room all persons other than members and essential staff personnel.

• **FILIBUSTER:** The prolonged discussion of a bill to delay legislative action.
• **FISCAL NOTE:** A fiscal note seeks to state in dollars the estimated amount of increase or decrease in revenue or expenditures and the present and future implications of a piece of pending legislation.

• **FISCAL YEAR:** An accounting period of 12 months.

• **FLOOR:** That portion of the legislative chamber reserved for members and officers of the assembly or other persons granted privileged access.

• **GERMANENESS:** The relevance or appropriateness of amendments or substitutes.

• **HEARING:** Public discussion and appearance on a proposal or bill; usually scheduled by a committee.

• **INTERIM:** The interval between regular sessions of the legislature.

• **JOURNAL:** An official chronological record of the actions taken and proceedings of the respective chambers.

• **LEGISLATIVE INTENT:** Purpose for which a measure is passed.

• **ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The defined routine of procedure in the legislative body each day.

• **QUORUM:** When a legislative body is assembled, the minimum number of members required to transact business.

• **SINE DIE:** Literally, "without day;" usually, adjournment without a day being set for reconvening; final adjournment.

• **YIELD:** To relinquish the floor to another member to speak or ask question.
When is the legislature in session? The state Constitution provides that the Legislature shall convene on the second Monday in January. Regular sessions may not exceed ninety calendar days in even-numbered years, unless two-thirds of the members of each house vote for an extension. Although the Legislature may schedule an adjournment and allow for a "wrap-up" session, the regular session generally ends in late April or early May. Sine die, or final adjournment, is fixed at a convenient date at some time after the Governor has had the opportunity to act on all measures.

How can I follow the status of a bill? You can look up bills by their specific number on the Kansas Legislative website.

How can I listen to committee hearings online? You can listen to committee hearings and debate on the Kansas Legislative website.

What is the difference between a bill, a resolution, and a session law? According to the Kansas Constitution, no law may be enacted except by bill. Accordingly, proposed laws are introduced and passed in bill form and each is known as a "House Bill" or "Senate Bill."

In addition to bills, the Legislature uses two types of resolutions. Simple resolutions, or resolutions applying to business connected with only one house, are used to express a formal determination of one house, to adopt or amend rules of the house, or as a means to express the sentiment of the House or Senate upon a particular matter. Concurrent resolutions are used to express the formal determination or sentiment of both houses of the Legislature, and must be adopted by both the House and Senate.

When does a bill become “dead” or no longer open to consideration? A bill may be introduced at any point during legislative session. It will remain eligible for consideration throughout the duration of that two-year cycle.

What is a conference committee? A group of members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate tasked with resolving differences in similar legislation passed by both chambers.

What is the difference between a Standing Committee, a Joint Committee, and a Special or Select Committee? Standing Committees are permanent committees established under the standing rules of the Senate and specialize in the consideration of particular subject areas. The Senate currently has 15 standing committees and the House has 28 standing committees.

Joint Committees include membership from both chambers. Joint committees are usually established with narrow jurisdictions and normally lack authority to report legislation. The position of chair usually alternates each year between the two chambers.

Special or Select Committees were originally established for a limited time period to perform a particular study or investigation. These committees might be given or denied authority to report legislation.
Resources

- Listen online: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A)
- Kansas Legislative Research Department: [http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Policy.html](http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Policy.html)