

An Introduction to the Kansas Legislature



Introduction – Leigh Keck



Leigh Keck
Chief of Staff

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

I'm just a bill...



Statewide Elected Offices

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Insurance Commissioner
- State Treasurer

National Level

Two Senators

Jerry Moran

Roger Marshall

Four Representatives

Tracy Mann, First District

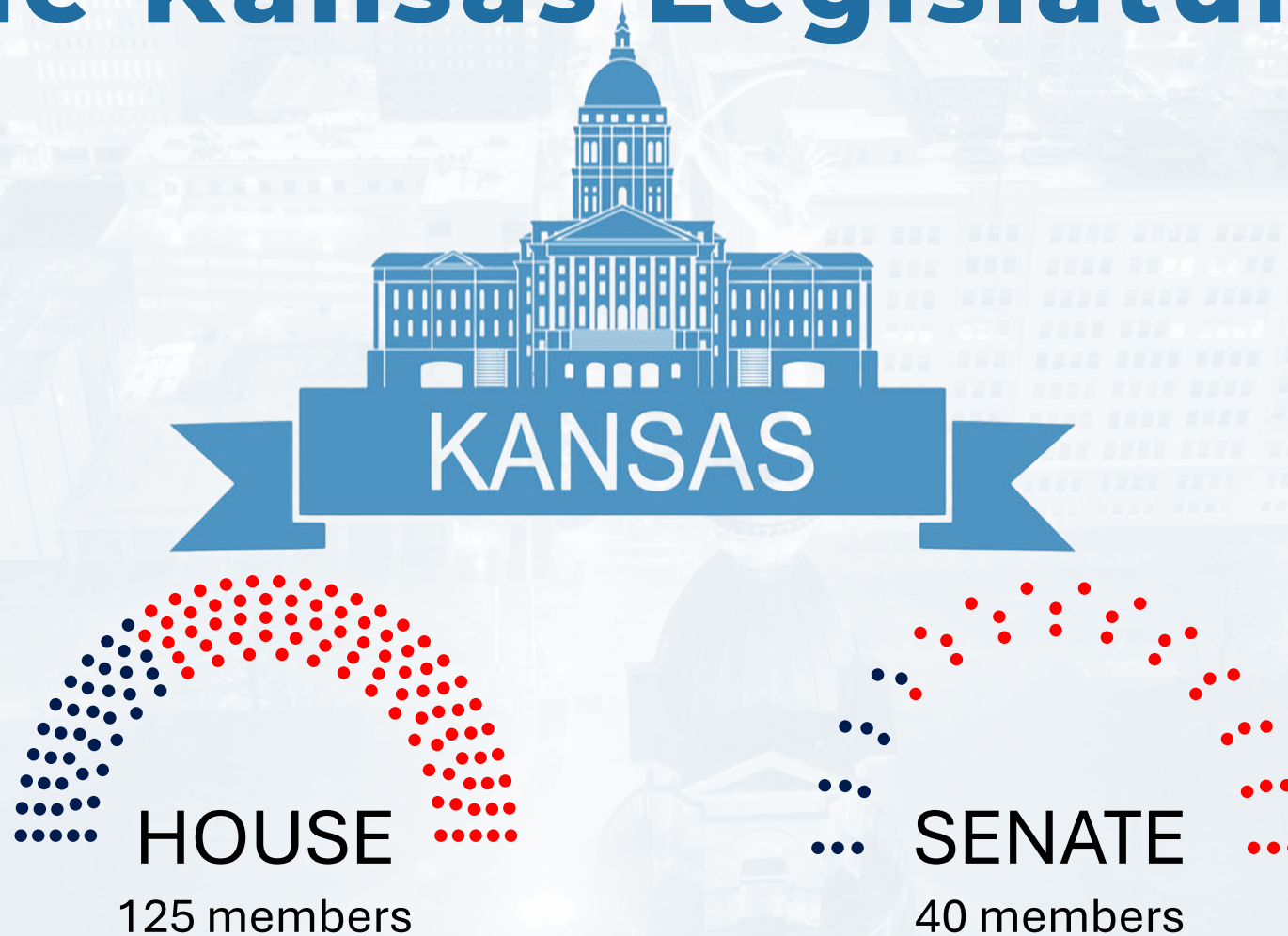
Derek Schmidt, Second
District

Sharice Davids, Third
District

Ron Estes, Fourth District

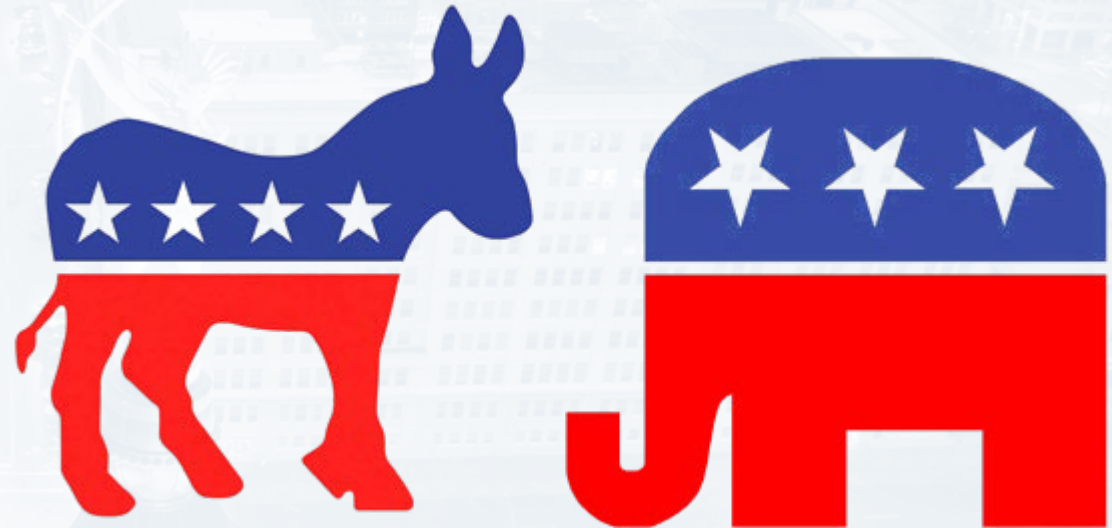


The Kansas Legislature

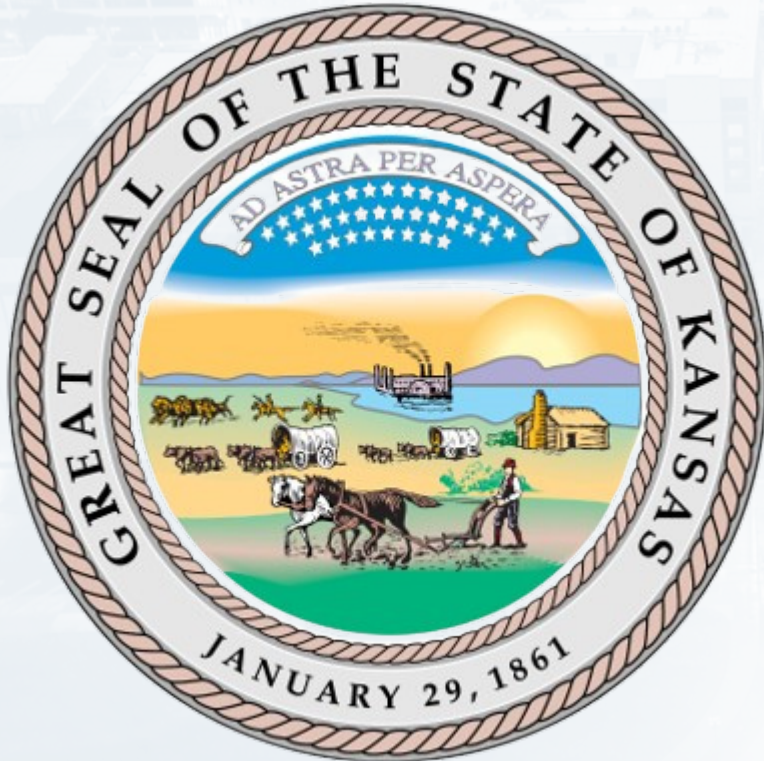


Party Dynamics in 2025

- The Governor is a Democrat
- In the Senate, Republicans hold a supermajority
- In the House, Republicans hold a supermajority



Kicking Off the Legislative Session



- Committee members announced
- Budget proposal
- State of the State

The State Budget

The Legislature is required by the constitution to pass a budget each session.

- This is the primary goal of each legislative session.

The Two Main Budget Committees Are:

- Senate Ways and Means
- House Appropriations

Committees

House Policy Committees

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Child Welfare and Foster Care
- Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
- Corrections and Juvenile Justice
- Education
- Elections
- Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
- Federal and State Affairs
- Financial Institutions and Pensions
- Health and Human Services
- Insurance
- Interstate Cooperation
- Judiciary
- Legislative Modernization
- Local Government
- Rules and Journal
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Veterans and Military
- Water
- Welfare Reform

Committees (continued)

Senate Policy Committees

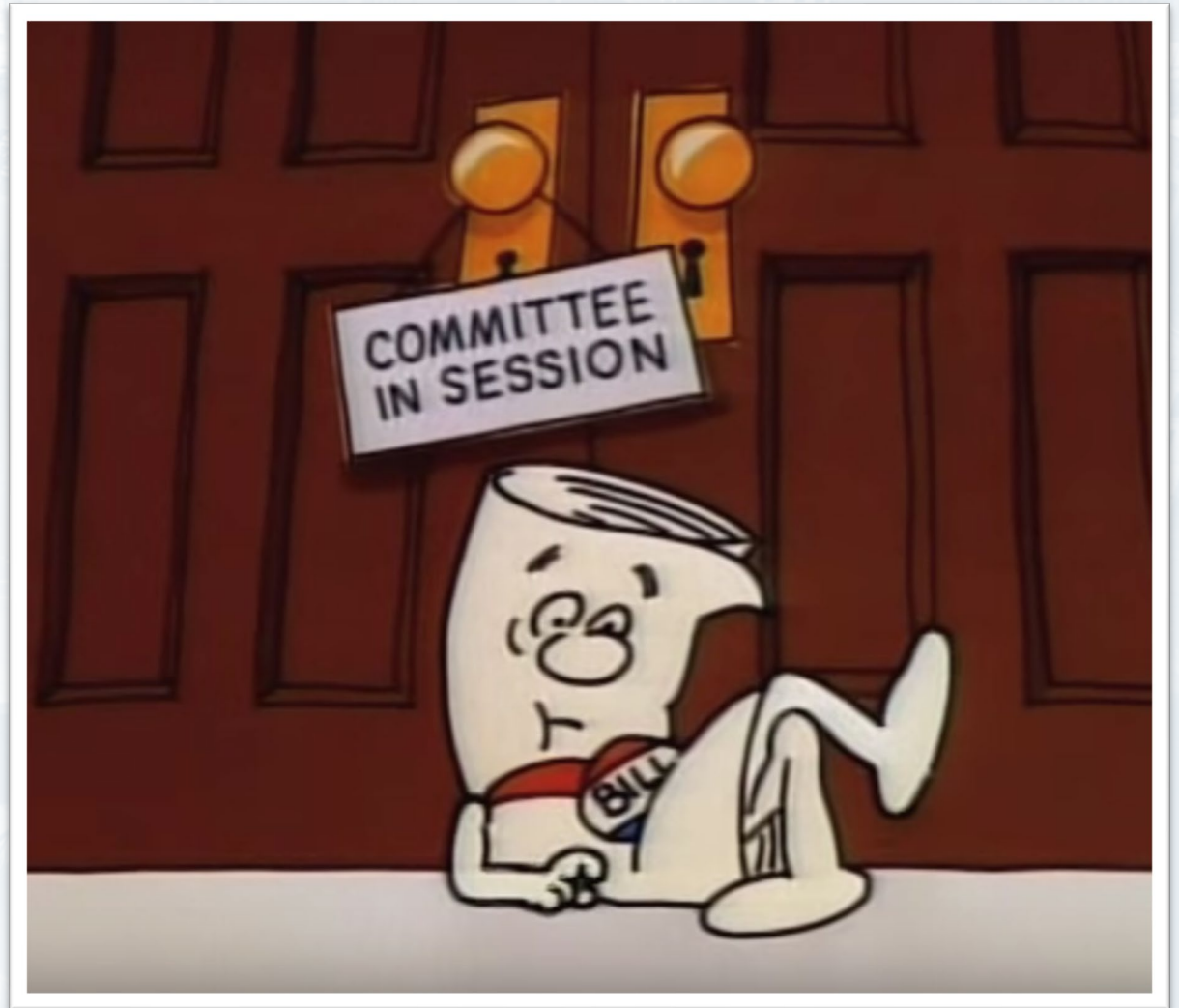
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Assessment and Taxation
- Commerce
- Confirmation Oversight
- Education
- Federal and State Affairs
- Financial Institutions and Insurance
- Interstate Cooperation
- Judiciary
- Local Government
- Organization, Calendar, and Rules
- Public Health and Welfare
- Transportation
- Utilities

Introducing a Bill

- Legislator requests bill draft
- Revisor of Statutes Office drafts the bill and provides legal analysis
- Legislative Research Department provides background research
- Fiscal Note provided by the Division of Budget

How a Bill Becomes a Law: Committee Process

1. Introduction to the committee
2. Hearing in committee
3. Amendments in committee
4. Pass committee
5. Send to floor



How a Bill Becomes a Law: Floor Action



- Majority leader grants bill hearing on the floor
- Chair of the committee presents the bill on the floor
- Another opportunity for amendments
- If passed, the bill is sent to the opposite chamber, where the process begins again

How a Bill Becomes a Law: Conference Committees

- Membership
- Conference report
- Floor vote
- Governor's signature



The Interim

State Finance Council

- Governor
- House and Senate Leadership
- Ways and Means Chair
- Appropriations Chair

Legislative Coordinating Council

- House and Senate Leadership

Interim Committees vary from session to session and are created by the LCC.

Additionally, there are standing Joint Committees that meet quarterly, such as the Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS & KanCare Oversight.

Questions?