

## ***The Moser Minute No. 6***

March 6, 2026

It was another busy week in Topeka with hearings on both House and Senate bills in committees and final votes being taken on several bills on the House Floor.

### **Regarding committee work:**

**Appropriations Committee:** An informational briefing on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 showed the committee available dollars left in the ARPA funds that must be spent by December 31, 2026. Four additional informational hearings updated the committee on: Kansas Department of Transportation-IKE Plan, recognizing the accomplishments of the first 5 years of the 10-year program making improvements to Kansas Highways; Kansas Turnpike Authority construction updates; Bonding request for capital improvements in the School of Architecture & Design Building on the University of Kansas Campus; and finally, an update on the “Military Sustainment Program” at Wichita State University. Bill hearings included: **HB2781**— Authorizing the state historical society to acquire the junior officers’ quarters at Fort Dodge and provide for the use, preservation, improvement, control and maintenance. This is an important historical preservation project regarding Fort Dodge. **HB 2788**—Establishing the Business Enterprise Program Oversight Task Force to review state administration of priority placement for blind vendors on state property and allowing audits on this new program. Vending facility accounts outside the state treasury will be abolished and instead, the “Business Enterprise Program” fund will be established in the Kansas Department for Children and Families in the State Treasury.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee:** Informational briefings were held this week on Conservation with presentations provided by Joshua McGinn, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation; Amanda Scott, Assistant Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts; Ryan Hoffman, Conservation Director, Kansas Corporation Commission; David Schemm, FSA Director in Kansas, USDA Farm Service Agency on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and Chad Volkman, Acting State Conservationist – Kansas, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). All were interesting and very informative, especially Ryan Hoffman, with the KCC, reporting on plugging abandoned oil and gas wells across the state. The briefings we are hearing now are the results of committee members’ interests and questions about certain subject matter presented during the budget hearings of the 12 agencies that come before the ANRBC.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:** The Committee received the annual commodity reports on wheat, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, and sunflowers. Bill hearings included: **SB344**—Giving animal shelters the ability to place certain animals (neonates-puppies and kittens less than 8 weeks old) needing care into foster homes and requiring shelters to display photographs of animals at a location other than the shelter during a holding period; **SB425**—Increasing the maximum annual registration fee limit for seed retailers and wholesalers and authorizing a late fee for registrations renewed after the registration deadline; and **SB473**— Authorizing Audubon of Kansas to convey (transfer) certain property in Wabaunsee County (30 acres named the “Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park) and requiring any deeds or conveyances

related to such property be reviewed and approved by the State Historical Society. The transfer would be to the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards, who have maintained the property for the past several years.

**House floor action:**

**HB2644**—Requiring a county appraiser to adjust the value of residential and commercial property upon final determination or obtain a fee simple appraisal if the appraised value exceeds 5% increase over three years. This bill was designed to help homeowners who, after winning a tax appeal, to lower the appraised value of their home find that their valuation goes right back up the following year. (119-0)

**Sub HB2427—Substitute for HB 2427** by Committee on Appropriations – Establishing the positions of the “Senate Fiscal Integrity Auditor” appointed by the President of the Senate and the House of Representatives Fiscal Integrity Auditor appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and providing for the duties of these fiscal integrity auditors, including access to the state fiscal technology systems and software and reports. These auditors will have the capability to do in-depth studies of and fiscal analysis of any budget items that come before the state, to help ensure the state expenditures align with Legislative intent. (85-34)

**HB2513**—Authorizing payment of certain Claims Against the State. These are claims made by inmates that the Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State accepts after evaluation of applications. This year \$6,346.91 was approved. (118-1)

**SB299**—Requiring the Supreme Court Nominating Commission to release certain records (names and cities of residence) under the Kansas Open Records Act. Providing more transparency is the focus of this legislation. (87-32)

**HB 2712**—Allowing counties to put on the ballot (without having to come to the Legislature) to enact a sales tax in increments of 0.05% up to 1% for general purposes and providing for the dedicated apportionment of special purpose tax revenues up to 2% and limiting special purpose city and county wide retailers’ sales taxes to 10 years. (108-11)

**HB 2767**—Establishing the Kansas Military Affairs Commission and defining the powers and duties of the commission. (115-3)

**H Sub for SB33—House Substitute for Substitute for SB 33** by Committee on Taxation – This bill continues the current freeze allocations on counties’ sales tax apportionments formula through December 2027. If no action/better method is developed and passed in the 2027 session, then the Total Assessed Valuation method will become law on January 1, 2028. (107-11)

**SB335**—Requiring all public construction contracts to include a mutual waiver of consequential damages, which are happenings that both parties foresee as possible to occur. (84-34)

Darren Schroeder, Superintendent of USD 364 Marysville Schools presented the school’s **Farm to Plate Strategic Plan: “Beefing Up Student Success, One Local Bite at a Time”** in the Education Committee on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. From Mr. Schroeder: “At USD #364, we know that nutrition is key to healthy minds and student success. Since Fall 2025, our students have been enjoying locally grown beef, pork, and vegetables from area producers. As we continue to expand food options, we recognize that community support is essential. By partnering with local producers, we can provide fresh, high-quality foods for all students throughout the school year. Together, we are committed to nurturing a healthier tomorrow for our students.” I was happy to be able to attend his presentation. The committee was *very* receptive to the program which is in its first full year of existence. There are so many positives surrounding this endeavor that I can’t

write about all of them in this Moser Minute, which has turned into a Moser 15-Minute! Rest assured that there will be more news forthcoming as this program continues to evolve. This could be the beginning of a statewide movement to improve the dining experiences of our K-12 students.

Bristol Swearingen, Lizzy Swearingen and Norman Jurgensen of Marysville, and Izac Fabian of Waterville, served as my House Pages this week. They were accompanied by Logan Jurgensen of Marysville. I visited with Kelly Knedler in the rotunda on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Kelly organizes the Kansas Music Educators Association Choral Music Day at the Capitol each year. He is the husband of Tami Knedler, Superintendent of USD 109 Republic County Schools in Belleville.

Thank you for your continued support. Please reach me with any questions or concerns at [lisa.moser@house.ks.gov](mailto:lisa.moser@house.ks.gov)

Representative Lisa M. Moser  
Kansas House District No. 106  
Serving Marshall, Washington, Republic and Jewell Counties since 2021