

## **Legislative Update No. 7 from Ron Highland, Representative of the 51<sup>st</sup> District**

This week reminded me of finals week from my past. Committees met to try to pass bills out before the deadline. The result was a large number of bills to hit the whole house for consideration. Early mornings and late nights followed to meet the Friday deadline called “turn around day.” On this day, each chamber finishes their business and sends their bills to the opposite chamber for consideration.

I have heard from many about specific bills that did or did not pass. Please remember that it isn't over yet. There are still many bills that are being considered by the exempt committees of Appropriations; Commerce, Labor and Economic Development; Federal and State Affairs; and Taxation. To further complicate the process is a special rule that allows the assigning of a bill to an exempt committee and then referring it back to a regular committee. This is called “blessing a bill.” The point is, it isn't over until bills agreed on by both the House and the Senate are sent to the Governor for signing.

The highlight of this week was the honor of having Pages from our district in the House of Representatives. Sarah Bond, Maple Hill; Emma Boyd, Harveyville; Garrett Falk, Harveyville; and Jason Kuntz, Harveyville represented Mission Valley Junior High. Justin Donaldson, Maple Hill and Louis Vopata, Paxico represented Mill Creek Valley Junior High; and Madelyn Michaelis, Paxico represented St John Lutheran School. I hope they enjoyed the experience as much as we did hosting them.

A few bills passed that may be of interest: 1. HB 2221 allows equal access for professional employees' associations to our teachers so they have choices for their contract negotiators, liability insurance, etc.; 2. HB 2019 which reforms the judicial selection process of the Kansas Appeals Court to allow the people back into the process of selection of judges; and 3. HB 2078 to clarify and hopefully simplify the process of licensing former military personnel through the Board of Nursing and Board of Healing Arts. This bill allows the boards to recognize military education as a possible substitute for civilian training.

There were 70 bills passed by the House this week and you can find more information about them at the legislative web site. Also at the same web site, [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org), you will find on the welcome page an area to click on to listen to live audio broadcasts of either the House or the Senate. If you enjoy listening to debates, that at times can be very interesting, the internet makes it possible.

This is your government, so until I or anyone else representing you at any level of government hears from you, they do not know how you feel. We may not always agree and minds can be changed so stay in touch. I thank you for the honor of serving you. Please feel free to contact me at [Ron.Highland@house.ks.gov](mailto:Ron.Highland@house.ks.gov) or 785-296-7310.