



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**

**THE VOICE OF THE TRAVEL
INDUSTRY IN KANSAS**

February 2019

Volume 14, Issue 2

TIAK TALK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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By Stacy Barnes



What a great TIAK Destination Statehouse this year! We had a wonderful attendance despite the winter weather advisories across the state that prevented many of our friends from traveling to Topeka.

It was awesome to share the Kansas Tourism story with Legislators and show them the importance of our industry and how we help drive the Kansas economy.

Thanks to all of our sponsors for the day and to Jim Zaleski, the advocacy committee, Marlee, Natalie, and Amy for all the work to organize everything.

Please don't forget to make time for a follow up email or note to your legislator, thanking them for meeting with you, attending our events, and for the work they do serving their constituents. Building relationships with them is important, and this is one more opportunity to put your name in front of them.

As I see flurries outside my office window as I write this, I know that spring is just a few weeks away and in my community that means an increase in visitor traffic. School groups, spring breakers, and soon summer travelers. For me and I am sure you too, that means ramping up marketing efforts for summer travel planning. Bring on the Kansas sunshine, blue skies and green grass.

My best to all of my fellow tourism professionals as we gear up for some exciting times in Kansas.

TIAK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: TURNAROUND REPORT

The Kansas Legislature officially adjourned today, completing the first half of the 2018 Legislative Session. After committees finished their business on Monday, both the House and Senate debated and passed over 60 bills on Tuesday and Wednesday before the Turnaround deadline. Over a dozen bills were “blessed” yesterday and more this morning, ones that lawmakers didn’t have time to consider but still want kept alive. All other non-exempt bills that did not pass out of their House of Origin by yesterday, are now considered dead for this year.

The Legislature is now enjoying a week break and will return to work on Wednesday, March 6. With Medicaid expansion and school finance issues still essentially untouched, some are predicting another long and contentious spring.

Below is a rundown of where the key bills that we’re tracking stand at the half.

Travel and Tourism

Cabin Fees

[Senate Bill 49](#) authorizes the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) to establish fees for cabins operated by the KDWPT and camping permits at state parks. It was reported by the department that the bill would increase both use of cabins and camp sites and revenue as it would provide flexibility to increase fees during busy times (holiday weekends and special events) and to decrease fees during low demand times. The Senate approved the bill 29-11 on Wednesday. It now heads over to the House.

Farm Wineries

[House Bill 2223](#) would allow the sale of wine manufactured by the licensees to holders of producer permits. Current law allows a person engaged in business as a vineyard with not less than 100 vines to apply to the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for an annual vineyard permit. This bill would amend that law to include producers of other specified types of agricultural products and allow them to be issued up to two annual producer permits rather than vineyard permits. The House approved the bill on Wednesday 124-0. It now heads over to the Senate.

Deer Permits

[House Bill 2167](#) authorizes the transfer of regular landowner or tenant “hunt-on-your-own-land” big game permits from the original recipient to a nonresident. The controversial bill narrowly passed the House by a vote of 63-60 on Wednesday and has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee for a hearing after Turnaround.

State Fair Nonprofit

[House Bill 2215](#) would authorize the Kansas State Fair Board to create a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts, donations and grants and engage in fundraising projects for the benefit of the Kansas State Fair. The bill was on the House consent calendar and approved 122-0 on Tuesday. It has now been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

State Wine Grapes

[Senate Bill 53](#) designates the official Kansas red wine grape as chambourcin, and the official Kansas white wine grape as vigneoles. The bill was on the Senate consent calendar and passed 40-0. It now heads over to the House.

Economic Development

Transparency Database

[House Bill 2006](#) requires the Kansas Department of Commerce to collect data and disclose on a public database information regarding state economic development initiative programs. Recipients of \$50,000 or more annually from programs such as the Sales Tax as Revenue (STAR) Bonds, High-Performance Incentive Program (HPIP), Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program, Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZ), Angel Investor Tax Credit, and the Job Creation Fund, would be listed online. The House approved the bill 122-0 on Wednesday and has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee for a hearing after Turnaround.

NEWS OUT OF TOPEKA AND DC

KDOT Lines Up Management Staff



Interim Kansas Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz announced her new management staff on February 13.

Maggie Doll, who worked at the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) from 2002 to 2008 and again from 2010 to 2012, is coming back as Lorenz's chief of staff. She is leaving Burns & McDonnell, where she worked as a strategic consultant.

Burt Morey, who worked most recently for Overland Park as its city engineer, has been tapped as deputy secretary/state transportation engineer. Morey worked at KDOT from 2003 to 2015, holding a variety of positions including special project engineer, metro engineer, and assistant district construction engineer.

Lindsey Douglas has been named deputy secretary for legislative and fiscal affairs. She is leaving Union Pacific, where she worked as senior director of public affairs for Arizona, Kansas and Missouri. She worked as the director of state relations for the University of Kansas and chief of policy and legislative affairs for KDOT from 2010 to 2014.

Southwest Chief Funding



The Southwest Chief came out a winner in the new federal budget approved by Congress. The

budget, signed by President Donald Trump, provides \$50 million needed to keep cross-country train service running through New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas.

Amtrak needed an estimated \$30 million to \$50 million for rail upgrades — plus \$3 million in annual maintenance —

on track owned by BNSF but used exclusively for passenger rail service. The money will go toward matching a grant that will be used for the track improvements. At one point, Amtrak considered employing bus service on part of the route from Dodge City to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

During fiscal year 2017, about 52,000 people either boarded or disembarked from the Southwest Chief in Kansas, up about 6 percent from the previous year. The busiest stations were in Newton (15,828), Topeka (10,084) and Lawrence (9,834).

U.S. Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran worked toward securing the money needed to preserve passenger rail service in Kansas.

“This bipartisan bill,” Moran said in a statement, “proves that good things can happen when Republicans and Democrats come together to focus on everyday issues to improve the lives of all Americans.”

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE

The Kansas Legislative Hotline is **800- 432-3924** and available all year, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On weekends, questions can be emailed or left on the answering machine. Reference librarians with Kansas legislative research experience will follow up on Monday.

Instant Message chat is also available at the same times. “Ask a Librarian” can be accessed through the State Library, [HERE](#).

Typical questions received by the librarians correspond to the activities of the legislative session: who is my legislator, how do I contact them, what is the bill number, how do I testify, what is the status of a bill? Later in the session, the questions are more about amendments, rules and deadlines. After the legislative session ends, the hotline continues to receive calls from Kansans wanting to know if a bill passed or died, how they can see the final version, the effective date, and where will the bill be codified in the statutes.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Allison Calvin is the Destination Services Manager for the Olathe Convention and Visitors Bureau. Allison does the marketing, services, events, and partnerships for the Olathe CVB. She is the NEKS Tourism Rep for the TIAK Board, the treasurer for Meet Kansas, and the Secretary for KC Destinations.

In 2019, NEKS Tourism has some very exciting things on the horizon. Member communities meet quarterly to plan activities, events and promotions. To date, we have over 20 participating destinations across Northeast Kansas. We will be promoting themed trip ideas on Google Maps from Foodie Finds to History and Antiques and Everything But the Kitchen Sink.

We'll be kicking off National Tourism Week with a summer passport program across the Northeast portion of the state, and we'll be promoting members' quarterly events to visitors via online channels and our new website, www.northeastkansas.org.

If I haven't met you yet, I'm looking forward to in 2019!

KCK CVB DIRECTOR WINS HOSPITALITY AWARD

Source: *Wyandotte Daily*



One of the top awards from the Hotel and Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City recently went to Bridgette Jobe, executive director of the Kansas City, Kansas, Convention and Visitors Bureau. Jobe received the Hospitality Leadership Award from the association during the annual recognition dinner Saturday, February 16.

Other awards included Hotelier of the Year, to Brad Verkamp, general manager of Four Points by Sheraton in Kansas City; and Supplier of the Year, to Anthony Brancato, owner of Excel Linen Supply.

"Bridgette has 20 years of hospitality experience and is passionate about promoting and leading tourism in Kansas and in the Kansas City metro area," said Kurt Mayo, the executive director of the HLA.

Starting as the tourism manager, Jobe has been with the Kansas City, Kansas, Convention and Visitors Bureau since 1998. During her tenure as executive director, Jobe has led the bureau through significant organizational transformation, spurred by the phenomenal growth of tourism in Kansas City, Kansas.

Jobe serves on several tourism related boards and is the chair of the Kansas Governor's Task Force on Tourism. Jobe was the 2017 president of the Travel Industry Association of Kansas and continues to serve on the board.

On behalf of all of the staff and members at TIAK, congratulations to Bridgette on this well-deserved recognition. We thank you for your dedicated service to the tourism industry in Kansas!



Educate yourself in 2019 compliments of the Kansas Tourism Division. Kansas Tourism partners, sign up with a username and password [HERE](#). Access recorded programs at anytime or view live webinars each Thursday.

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES

Making Compelling Digital Banners for Meetings Marketing
March 7

What's Working in Digital for Tourism
March 14

Using Brain Science to Motivate Yourself & Visitors
April 4

Get more information on these upcoming webinars [HERE](#).



RECORDED COURSES

Kansas Tourism partners, sign up with username and password [HERE](#). Then view the recorded webinars [HERE](#).



Mark your calendars for the **Big Kansas Road Trip, May 2-5, 2019 in Cheyenne Sherman and Wallace counties.**

Cheyenne shares the border with Colorado and Nebraska and Sherman and Wallace with Colorado. They are part of an active tourism group, the Northwest Kansas Travel Council. As you travel to this area in 2019 you'll find their promotional materials handy for sightseeing along the way. Note! Sherman and Wallace counties observe Mountain Time.

You'll have the opportunity to eat in the cafes, shop in the stores, tour the attractions, and drive the scenic roads. You'll get to see these communities as they are--with the red carpet rolled out.

There will be Information Centers in the three counties where you can pick up itineraries and menus of things to see and do. Though not required, these towns will come up with some extras. It'll be a great time to explore with hundreds of other people who want to get to know Kansas. Read more about it [HERE](#).

Please use #bkrt19 on your social media posts!



April 10-11, 2019 | Washington D.C.

Destination Capitol Hill (DCH) is the U.S. Travel industry's premier legislative fly-in. The event brings travel leaders from across the country to Washington, D.C. to educate policymakers about the power of travel. The program combines a legislative day on Capitol Hill with advocacy training, guest speakers and peer-to-peer networking. DCH provides delegates with an opportunity to learn about upcoming legislation that impacts travel, network with peers and meet with members of Congress to stress the importance of travel as an economic driver. Register [HERE](#).

2019 DESTINATION STATEHOUSE



The Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) held its annual legislative day in Topeka on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, affectionately known as “Destination Statehouse.” Members of the Kansas travel and tourism industry hosted three events throughout the day, giving members several opportunities to meet with legislators directly and advocate for Kansas tourism.

The day began with members filling the Statehouse Visitor’s Center with a welcome from Brad Loveless, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, as well as a Statehouse Briefing by Ethan Patterson, Chief of Staff of the Senate Majority Leader. Attendees were joined by Kansas legislators in an open house setting where they networked over a buffalo lunch on the 2nd floor of the Statehouse.

Throughout the day, the Statehouse was busy with Kansas tourism professionals conducting individual office visits with legislators, observing House and Senate Legislative Sessions, attending committee meetings, and enjoying a Statehouse tour. One of the highlights of the annual conference is the popcorn campaign emphasizing to legislators “What’s Popping in Tourism.” In addition to serving freshly-popped popcorn to all Statehouse visitors and personnel, TIAK provided boxes of popcorn that members delivered to their legislators.

Rounding out the day was the much-anticipated TIAK Legislative Reception where legislators stopped by to enjoy a showcase of each region of the state and what each has to offer. This event is one that legislators really look forward to for its fun and inviting atmosphere.

Thanks in large part to event coordinator Jim Zaleski, as well as a great number of sponsors, a successful day was had by all with TIAK members personally visiting with more than 100 legislators throughout the day’s events. By demonstrating such a tremendous impact for the tourism industry in Kansas, we hope Destination Statehouse is your destination for all things legislative next February!

RESTAURANT WEEK SCHOLARSHIP

Visit Topeka wants to help students complete their culinary arts and hospitality educations and start their careers. This year, at least 5% from every meal during Restaurant Week will go toward a scholarship fund for Hospitality and Culinary Arts majors in Topeka and the surrounding area.

High school and college students are invited to apply for the 2019 Hospitality and Tourism Scholarship program. Several scholarships will be awarded this year to qualified students based on submitted applications.

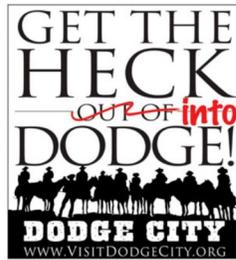
Click [HERE](#) to apply by March 22, 2019.



2019 DESTINATION STATEHOUSE

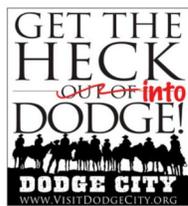


THANK YOU



Destination Statehouse Lunch Sponsors

THANK YOU



Destination Statehouse Reception Sponsors

TASTE OF TIAK PROMOTION

taste OF



Travel Industry
Association of Kansas

Don't want to bite off more than you can chew? Then how about a "taste"?
Learn more [HERE](#).

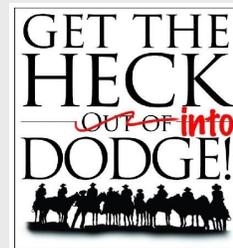
Any NEW member can join TIAK in 2019 for just \$50!

HOSPITALITY HUB

JOB OPPORTUNITY

DC Chamber Summer Intern

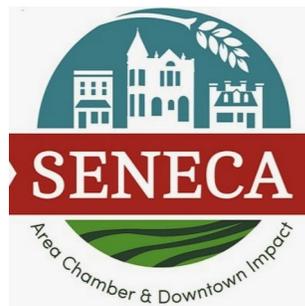
Looking for a college, highly qualified high school student, or young community member starting mid-May to mid-August. This person will mostly focus on coordinating the 2019 Dodge City Days festival. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to jwittman@dodgechamber.com. Interviews will be held in mid-April.



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WELCOME
to TIAK

THE
BRICKS
CHESTNUT STREET | DISTRICT
DOWNTOWN HAYS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April Board Meeting and Education Seminar
April 18, Visit Salina Annex

Destination Capitol Hill
April 10-11, Washington D.C.

Big Kansas Road Trip
May 2-5, Cheyenne Sherman and Wallace County

Governor's Council on Tourism
March 1, Topeka

Open to the public, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Curtis State Office Building

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: TURNAROUND REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

Periodic Program Review

[House Bill 2043](#), based on recommendations from PEW Charitable Trusts, would set up a periodic review schedule for certain tax credits, incentives, and sales tax exemptions under the Departments of Commerce, Revenue and Insurance. Each review would provide a description, history and goals, assessment of the design and administration, and an estimate of the economic and fiscal impact. The exempt bill has passed the House Tax Committee and remains on the House calendar for possible consideration after Turnaround.

Gaming

[House Bill 2280](#) would amend the Kansas Lottery Act to clearly define how income from electronic gaming machines at the Woodlands Racetrack in Wyandotte County will be allocated. On Monday, the chairman of the House Commerce Committee referred the bill to the Judiciary Committee for further clarification on liability and legal concerns for the state. The bill was not blessed before Turnaround, so it appears dead for this year. [House Bill 2068](#) and [Senate Bill 2032](#) are still alive in the Federal and State Affairs Committees and would implement sports wagering in Kansas. Several informational hearings and discussions amongst stakeholders have been held this session. Movement is expected after Turnaround.

Taxes

Mega “Windfall” Bill

The House Tax Committee passed [Senate Bill 22](#) on Monday, but not before making significant changes. The original bill decouples Kansas from the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on a number of corporate provisions dealing with foreign income, as well as allowing individual taxpayers to itemize on their state tax return regardless of whether or not they itemize on the federal level. Because the federal standard deduction was raised significantly in the federal reform, this change lets Kansans that meet the lower threshold continue to itemize.

The committee inserted the contents of [House Bill 2261](#), which reduces the sales tax on food by 1 percent to 5.5 percent. That provision is expected to cost \$60 million to the state. The second amendment was to add the contents of [House Bill 2352](#), which requires internet retailers and marketplace facilitators, like Amazon and eBay, to collect and remit tax on any sales made in Kansas. It does not include the sale of digital goods, has a \$100,000 minimum threshold. This provision is expected to bring in \$32.6 million to the state. Both go into effect on October 1 of this year. SB 22 will be debated by the full House after the Turnaround break.

Enterprise Zone Tax Exemption

[House Bill 2131](#) would reinstate the Enterprise Zone sales tax exemption that expired in 2011. The program provides a sales tax exemption for construction and certain purchases in a business expansion project. Manufacturing business must create at least two jobs, nonmanufacturing businesses would be required to create at least five jobs, and retail businesses would be required to create at least two jobs, all located in a city with a population of 2,500 or less or in a county with a population of 10,000 or less. The bill was blessed on Thursday. It has already had a hearing in the Rural Revitalization Committee and is expected to be worked after Turnaround.

Rural Opportunity Zone Extension

[Senate Bill 125](#) would amend Kansas law concerning the Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZ) Program that offers individuals who relocate to a designated county the opportunity to participate in a Student Loan Forgiveness Program and receive a 100 percent state income tax credit through tax year 2021. SB 125 would extend the sunset for the student loan forgiveness program and income tax credit to tax year 2026. An exempt bill, SB 125 is expected to be worked in the Senate Tax Committee after Turnaround.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: TURNAROUND REPORT

Local Government

Abandoned Housing

[House Bill 2314](#) would revise provisions of law pertaining to the authority of cities and nonprofit organizations to petition the district court to possess abandoned property temporarily for rehabilitation purposes. The House Commerce Committee has heard and passed the bill. It was blessed yesterday and will remain on the House calendar for consideration after Turnaround.

Political Signs

[House Bill 2135](#) would repeal law that prohibits any city or county from regulating or forbidding the placement or number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way for city streets or county roads on private property during the 45 days preceding and the 2 days following any election. The House Committee on Local Government has heard and passed the bill. It was blessed yesterday and will remain on the House calendar for consideration after Turnaround.

Agriculture

Remediation Reimbursement Program

[House Bill 2001](#) extends the sunset of the Kansas agricultural remediation reimbursement program and adjusts fees according to industry segments receiving the most benefit. The Senate approved the bill on Wednesday 40-0. It already passed the House earlier in the session, so the bill now heads to the Governor's desk for signature into law.

Industrial Hemp

[House Bill 2173](#) establishes the procedures to be used by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), in consultation with the Governor and the Attorney General, in submitting a plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture under which the KDA would monitor and regulate the commercial production of industrial hemp. The bill was blessed yesterday and remains on the House calendar for consideration after Turnaround.

KDHE Spill Program

[Senate Bill 153](#) was proposed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to make several changes to their spill reporting requirements in the event of a water or soil pollutant release. Due to industry concern over several provisions in the bill, it was not worked in time and is dead for this year.

Insurance

Kansas Farm Bureau Health Benefit

[Senate Bill 32](#) adds the Kansas Farm Bureau to the list of entities in current statute that can provide a health plan not subject to the jurisdiction of the Kansas Department of Insurance. It would allow the nonprofit agricultural organization to provide healthcare benefit coverage – not to be considered insurance – to its members with no pre-existing conditions. The bill has already passed the Senate and has a scheduled hearing in the House Insurance Committee on Wednesday, March 6.

Association Health Plans

[HB 2054](#) is a bundle of several individual association health plan (AHP) bills that would amend several health insurance provisions in the Insurance Code related to the regulation of AHPs and small employer plans. The bill removes a membership limitation placed on AHPs that requires the association have at least 25 members, employees, or employees of members to be offered group accident and health insurance coverage. It also includes the contents of House Bills [2055](#), [2056](#), and [2058](#). HB 2054 was blessed on Wednesday and remains on the House calendar for consideration after Turnaround.