

The Moser Minute

Week Two: January 17-21, 2022

General Legislative Happenings The Legislature was not in session on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 17th. The passage of HB2477 (see below) headlined the week, and redistricting followed a close second. The redistricting process began nearly two years ago when non-partisan Legislative staff went through training, began working on federal census numbers and selecting a computer system for map drawing. Over twenty town hall meetings all across the state were hosted by the House Redistricting Committee in 2021, giving Kansans a voice in the process. Four preliminary congressional maps were released this week, with Senate and House debate taking place on Friday, January 21st. Congressional maps are governed by federal law and have very strict tolerances regarding population. Once these maps are approved, state legislative maps will be addressed in a similar way. By Kansas law the Attorney General is charged with delivering maps to the Kansas Supreme Court for a judicial review to ensure fair and equal treatment for all Kansans in the redistricting process. Please continue reading for an update on my committee activities this week.

Children and Seniors Committee This was an informational week, as we heard from the Legislative Research Department and the Department of Children and Families regarding child welfare on Tuesday. Wednesday seven organizations reported to us about child nutrition needs and food sources. During the discussion, it was noted that the biological feeling of “Hunger” differs from the term coined in recent years, “Food Insecurity,” which was described as the lost feeling of not knowing where your next meal is coming from. The week rounded out with two reports on the Senior population in Kansas from the Senior Care Task Force and the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities.

Federal & State Affairs Committee held hearings for:

- **SB181** Creating the elevator safety act to require statewide standards for safety inspections of elevators and licensure for elevator installation and repair. Delaware and Kansas are the only two states with no state elevator codes.
- **HCR5022** Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring that a sheriff be elected in each county except for Riley County which abolished the office of county sheriff effective January 1, 1974. There was major support for this resolution, with many sheriffs and other law enforcement officers in the viewing audience, including Marshall County Sheriff Tim Ackerman. It was good to have a district constituent present during a hearing. We were able to visit before and after committee. I value his insight and support of this legislation.

Agriculture Committee Ag had a relatively quiet start to the session with committee and staff introductions on Tuesday. Bill introductions on various topics occurred Tuesday through Thursday. As bills are heard, I will report on them.

Action on the House Floor

- **HB2477** Renewing certain provisions of law authorizing expanded practice by certain healthcare professionals and suspending certain licensure and other requirements for adult care homes. This bill passed the House on Tuesday, January 18th 106 – 5. I supported this bill.
- **HB2477** Arrived back on the House floor on Thursday, January 20th, with the Senate amending the bill to sunset on January 20, 2023, along with three other modifications. A Motion to Concur with the Senate version passed 96 – 4. Again, I supported this bill. If

additions or changes need to be made early in the 2023 session, this amended sunset date will give legislators adequate time to address any issues. HB2477 was enrolled and presented to the Governor for her signature on Friday, January 21, 2022. This legislation will temporarily ease regulations on hospitals and nursing homes so that more frontline healthcare workers can be hired to address critical staffing shortages in the healthcare profession.

You can follow the session on the Legislature's website: www.kslegislature.org . Click on the audio/video tab in the upper right corner. Legislative hotline is **1-800-432-3942** and is open 8-5 on weekdays.

Reach me at: lisa.moser@house.ks.gov ; Capitol office phone number is **785-296-7637**; cell phone number **785-456-3876**. Please leave a message if I do not answer. Thanks to all for your support and interest in the legislative process.