



Memorandum

To: Denae Hart, Interim Director, Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
From: Little Government Relations
Date: May 18th, 2023
Re: Post-Veto Session Legislative and Policy Report

Overview

To conclude the 2023 Session, the Governor on Thursday, May 18th, signed the education budget bill, Sub for SB 113, which fully funds K-12 education. Notably, and because it is an appropriations bill, the Governor exercised her line-item veto authority to veto a provision regarding student enrollment count that would have negatively impacted rural school districts. The Governor's message on her approval of the K-12 budget and veto of the enrollment provision can be read here:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/KSOG/2023/05/18/file_attachments/2501891/SB%20113%20Line-Item%20Veto%20Message%20-%20Signed.pdf

As previously reported, the Legislature officially adjourned Sine Die on April 28th. Since then, the Governor has both signed and vetoed several bills of interest. Because the education bill is done, there will be no special session and the Legislature will return in January 2024. In the meantime, interim meetings on a variety of different topics will be appointed likely in June and will take place over the course of the summer and fall. At the very least, we expect some of the interim committees to focus on various education topics as well as taxes.

Post-Veto Session Highlights

Bills Signed by the Governor

1. Sub SB 174: Decriminalizing Fentanyl Testing Strips.
 - a. SB 174 also increases criminal penalties for manufacture or distribution of fentanyl, as well as for battery against a healthcare provider.
 - b. SB 174 Summary here: http://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/summary_sb_174_2023
2. SB 131: Streamlining Licensure Process for BSRB-Licensed Professions.
 - a. SB 131 streamlines the licensure process for therapists, psychologists, social workers, addictions counselors and others. It also expands the ability of pharmacists to administer certain vaccinations (formerly HB 2262).
 - b. Includes provisions allowing federally qualified health centers and substance use disorder treatment providers to create a "community-based" license.
 - c. More on SB 131 here: <https://governor.kansas.gov/governor-kelly-signs-bipartisan-bill-to-expand-healthcare-workforce/>
3. HB 2021: Expanding Services for Youth in the Justice System.
 - a. HB 2021 expands eligible uses of the Evidence-Based Juvenile Program Account and broadens who the funds can be used for, including now for juvenile offenders and their families, as well as juveniles experiencing a *behavioral* health crisis and their families.

- b. Summary of HB 2021 provisions here:
http://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/summary_hb_2021_2023
- 4. SB 25: Omnibus Budget Bill (But with a few line-item vetoes).
 - a. Highlights of the Omnibus budget include additional funding for higher education; local infrastructure investments (\$215 million for “Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund” for local governments to utilize matching dollars for federal grant opportunities); increased funding for the Mental Health Intervention program in schools; and a state employee pay increase.
 - b. Information about the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund can be found on pages 5-13 of the bill:
http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/sb25_enrolled.pdf
 - c. Governor’s press release on SB 25, including a link to the line-item vetoes:
<https://governor.kansas.gov/governor-kelly-signs-omnibus-budget-increases-funding-for-higher-education-infrastructure-student-mental-health-programs/>
- 5. Sub SB 113 K-12 Education Budget.
 - a. Summary legislation:
http://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/summary_sb_113_2023
 - b. Includes the state’s \$6.3 billion K-12 budget.
 - c. Other provisions include \$5 million for school safety equipment, including naloxone to help prevent opioid overdoses; \$9.4 million for Parents as Teachers; additional funding for teacher professional development; \$23.7 million for early childhood programs; and additional funding to help transport students to career and technical education programs.

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

- 1. HB 2285: Anti-Public Health Measures.
 - a. HB 2285 would have restricted both KDHE’s and local health officers’ ability to respond to contagious and infectious disease, by reducing much of their currently authority to simply recommending various mitigation responses. The bill would have also prohibited any COVID-19 vaccination mandates for children.
- 2. SB 8: Property tax provisions, including “government competition” legislation.
 - a. SB 8 included controversial provisions that would have allowed private businesses to seek property tax reimbursements if the business argued it was operating in competition with a government-run business such as with a neighboring childcare center, restaurant, or health club. This legislation has been sought over the last couple of years and will undoubtedly be back next year.
- 3. Budget line-item vetoes of note (SB 25 that otherwise became law with the Governor’s signature):
 - a. The Governor vetoed provisions that would have limited providers of the school Mental Health Intervention Team Program to just community mental health centers. The Governor vetoed the provision because she believes other providers should be allowed to provide services to students through this program, too.
 - b. Funding for Quindaro Ruins historic site. The Governor’s veto of this item has gotten much attention, as it was largely in response to a Democratic

Representative (who supported funding of the site) who repeatedly sided with House Republicans on several close, key votes this Session.