



**Saint
Francis**
Community Services
Serving Children and Families Since 1945

Legislative Update

February 22nd, 2008

Volume 4 Number 4

In This Issue~

- Heading for the Mid-point
- Bill Highlights
- On the schedule

The Advocates Tip Corner~

Think you need to know more about the legislative process but don't want to ask? The Kansas Legislative Research Department has produced an excellent primer called "Legislative Procedure Manual". Not only can you pick up a free copy in Legislative Research at the Statehouse you can also go online and scan the full version. It can be found at <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/index.do>

All current calendars, journals, status, and agendas of both the Senate and the House are readily available online at:

<http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/index.do>

From this website you can access all bills, including full text by clicking on "Bills" and then either "Full Text of Bills" or "Single Bill Tracking". These services are free to the public.

Heading for the mid-point

A little over a week away the Legislature hits its mid-way point of the main session or what is fondly referred to as "turn-around". Saturday is when all bills must pass their house of origin or be "lost". Just like any other hard and fast rules however, there are exceptions. There are several "exempt" committees so if you are fortunate (or unfortunate enough) to have a bill of interest in that committee, it does not have to meet the deadline. Another tactic to keep a bill alive is to get it referred to an exempt committee THEN re-referred to the committee once it has been "dipped" into the exempt committee. No bills will be carried over this session and both of the houses are up for election so the 2-year legislative cycle will begin again in January 2009.

Next week we will produce our mid-session update that will provide a complete overview of the session to date, a comprehensive bill list and what is in store for the remainder of the session.

Bill and Committee Highlights

Adoption Assessments~ **HB 2570** ~ After a day and a half of behind the scenes negotiation, this bill was passed out of Health and Human Services and moves to full House action. The amended bill provides specificity on the categories of professionals, provides the statutory reference for each and maintains the requirement of experience at one year. This bill now goes to the full House for debate before hopefully moving on to the Senate.

SB 631 and SB 632 ~ These two bills provide sales tax exemptions for the Kansas CASA Association and St Francis Community Services respectively. Father Ed Fellhauer with St. Francis testified before the Senate Taxation committee this week speaking in support of the bill. The committee will make its decision on these bills and several compatible bills early next week. If approved it will move to the full Senate for full debate.

Special Reports~

During testimony this week before the House Social Service Budget Committee, SRS presented its business plan. To view a copy you can go to http://www.srskansas.org/2008_BusinessPlan/businessplan.htm

You Wouldn't Just Read One Newspaper Would You? A savvy advocate is one that understands the issues and looks for different perspectives. Following are organizations that provide information and resources for effective advocacy. Let us know if you have a good resource you would like to share. We will add new ones each week. Be sure to bookmark!

This week's addition: Oral Health Kansas
<http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/>

Children's Alliance of Kansas
<http://www.childally.org/advocacy/advocacy.html>

Kansas Action for Children
<http://www.kac.org>

Kansas Children's Service League
<http://www.kcsl.org>

Sites to Visit: Governor's State of the State for 2008
<http://www.governor.ks.gov/news/sp-stateofstate2008.htm>

Kansas National Education Association
<http://ks.nea.org/legislative/index.html>
Legislative Agenda, tips for lobbyists and advocates

Contact Us

For information about anything contained in this newsletter or to schedule a visit to a legislator or hearing contact Melissa Ness at: mlness@connections-unlimited.net

These bills have been added to the St. Francis bill tracker. To request one please contact mlness@connections-unlimited.net

Calendar for the Week of February 25

MONDAY

Senate Commerce Committee-8:30-Rm 123S-Roundtable discussion on workforce development

House Appropriations-9:00-Rm 514S-Report from the General Government Committee on recommendations for Child Advocacy Center funding for FY2009

Senate Judiciary Committee-9:30-Rm 123S-Final action on bills previously heard

House Select Committee on Corrections Reform and Oversight-11:30 or on adjournment of the House-Rm 431N-Hearings on **SB 410** Technical changes regarding Kansas juvenile correctional complex; **HB 2740** Correctional officers to receive 40 hours of annual training not the current 80 hours

Federal and State Affairs Sub-committee on Child Day Care- 12:15-Rm 531S-Action on **HB 2851** Inspections of child care facilities and assessment of family day care home; **HB 2003** Exception allowing day care homes to have double the amount of children licensed for during limited time periods and after school; **HB 2053** Licensure of child care facilities by cities, counties and school districts.

TUESDAY

Senate Judiciary Committee-9:30-Rm 123S-Final action on bills previously heard

House Select Committee on Corrections Reform and Oversight-11:30 or on adjournment of the House-Rm 431N-Action on bills previously heard

WEDNESDAY

Senate Judiciary Committee-9:30-Rm 123S-Final action on bills previously heard

House Select Committee on Corrections Reform and Oversight-11:30 or on adjournment of the House-Rm 423S-Action on bills previously heard

The balance of the week, legislators will be in full session to work and debate bills to meet the turnaround deadline.

Questions? Contact Melissa Ness at
mlness@connections-unlimited.net