



# WEEKLY RUNDOWN

Friday, March 29, 2019

## K-12 SCHOOL FUNDING

### • *What's happening?*

The Kansas House abandoned plans to vote on a public school finance plan this week. The House Committee on K-12 Education Budget held hearings on [SB 142](#) (Gov. Laura Kelly's school finance plan) and [HB 2395](#) (its own school finance measure) last week. The House proposal, which provides \$90 million for the next two years but then only provides increased funding for at-risk students, wasn't brought up for debate because it didn't have enough votes to pass. The Supreme Court will revisit the Gannon case on April 15 to determine if the state's funding plan adequately funds our schools.

### • *What's next?*

SB 142 passed out of the Senate on March 14 on a [32-8 vote](#). The House and Senate plan to begin negotiations next week on a final version of a school funding bill.

### • *Where can I learn more?*

- [Kansas House abandons school funding plan, will bargain with Senate on policy](#). *Topeka Capital-Journal*. March 27, 2019.
- [Kansas Gov. Kelly and House GOP clash on school funding as deadline approaches](#). *Wichita Eagle*, March 26, 2019.
- [School funding unresolved in Kansas as court deadline looms](#). *Associated Press*, March 27, 2019.

## FEDERAL TAXES

### • *What's happening?*

Gov. Kelly vetoed [SB 22](#), saying that the bill “would absolutely dismantle all the progress we’ve made. It would throw our state once again into a self-inflicted budget crisis, diminished all the investments we’ve worked so hard to rebuild and restore. It would put our future at risk once again in order to give significant tax breaks to entities who need them the least, while continuing to leave working families behind.” This bill was a change in the Kansas tax code that detached the state’s tax system from federal rules and largely benefited corporations and high-income earners. You can read Gov. Kelly’s full statement on her first veto [here](#).

### • *What's next?*

This bill passed the Senate on a [26-14 vote](#) and the House on a [76-43 vote](#) before going to the Governor’s desk. The Legislature doesn’t appear to have the votes necessary to override Gov. Kelly’s veto. Overturning the veto requires support from 84 House members and 27 senators.

### • *Where can I learn more?*

- [Gov. Laura Kelly vetoes GOP-backed income, sales tax reform legislation](#). *Topeka Capital-Journal*, March 25, 2019.
- [Gov. Laura Kelly was right to veto this tax cut. There’s another one she should support \(EDITORIAL\)](#). *Kansas City Star*, March 25, 2019.
- [Kansas Tax Relief Bill Is Down, But Maybe Not Out, After Gov. Kelly’s Veto](#). *KCUR*, March 26, 2019.

## MEDICAID EXPANSION

### • *What's happening?*

Medicaid expansion has stalled after the Kansas House passed [HB 2066](#) last week. It’s unclear if the Republican-controlled Kansas Senate will take up the bill. The KanCare expansion would significant benefit Kansas, providing coverage to at least 130,000 additional Kansans, create good-paying jobs around the state, and protect rural and urban hospitals and clinics.

### • *What's next?*

After passage of Medicaid expansion in the House by a [69-54 vote](#), the bill now heads to the Senate. The future of this legislation is uncertain due to the continued opposition of Senate President Susan Wagle. Senate rules require a two-thirds supermajority (27 votes) to force debate on a bill.

• ***Where can I learn more?***

- **'None of us have any idea': Medicaid expansion hinges on GOP-controlled Kansas Senate.** *Wichita Eagle*, March 24, 2019.
- **Rural providers see hope as Medicaid expansion advances in Kansas.** *Modern Healthcare*, March 25, 2019.
- **Medicaid expansion advocates unfurl 'blood on their hands' banners aimed at GOP leaders.** *Topeka Capital-Journal*, March 27, 2019.

Onward,  
KDP Team

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Paid for by the Kansas Democratic Party, Gina Long, Treasurer

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