

# THE PECK PERSPECTIVE

(From the Capitol)

April 7, 2025

So far, a total of 117 bills have passed the legislature. With only three days left on the legislative calendar, the remaining time will primarily be spent on considering veto overrides.

Of the 117 bills, the governor has signed 36, vetoed ten (two have been overridden), allowed five to become law without her signature, and 71 are on her desk awaiting a decision. More vetoes are expected soon.

I've previously written about the two veto overrides (SB 4 and SB 63). Here I'll briefly mention the other eight vetoed bills and the five she refused to sign but are becoming law anyway.

Here are the five bills (so far) becoming law absent the governor's signature.

**SB 105** – Requires the governor to appoint a person to fill a vacancy in the office of United States senator, state treasurer or commissioner of insurance from a list of names provided by the legislature.

**HB 2020** – Requires the Director of the Division of Vehicles to send a quarterly report to the Secretary of State with information listing non-citizens who have been issued a driver's license during the quarter. The Secretary has five days to compare the list with the voter registration rolls and direct county election officers to remove the names of any non-citizens who appear on the voter registration rolls.

**HB 2027** – Reorganizes parts of the public assistance statutes pertaining to eligibility requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the childcare subsidy program. The bill also addresses general requirements related to drug screenings and convictions and provisions related to fraud investigations.

**HB 2101** – Prohibits cities and counties from adopting an ordinance or resolution establishing a guaranteed income program that uses tax revenue unless the Legislature approves such program. The bill renders any such ordinance or resolution adopted prior to July 1, 2025 to be null and void.

**HB 2106** – Bans contributions from foreign nationals that are sent as an attempt to support or defeat a proposed amendment to the state constitution.

Now for the ten (so far) vetoed bills. Veto overrides take 27 votes in the Senate and 84 in the House.

**SB 5** – Prohibits the use of funds provided by the U. S. government for the conduct of elections and election-related activities unless approved by the legislature. Passed the Senate 32–8 and the House 86–37.

**SB 14** – Establishes a system of continuing appropriation wherein the existing state budget carries forward into the next fiscal year until a new budget is passed into law. Passed the Senate 31–9 and the House 81–41.

**SB 29** – Removes the authority of a local health official to prohibit public gatherings when they think it beneficial to control an infectious or contagious disease – think COVID. Also requires the Secretary of Health and Environment to support by oath why they want to isolate, quarantine, or otherwise restrict the movement of people within Kansas in an attempt to prevent or spread a disease. Passed the Senate 31–9 and the House 88–36.

**SB 79** – Directs the Secretary for Children and Families to request a waiver from the US Department of Agriculture to exclude candy and soft drinks from the list of foods that can be purchased with food-stamp (taxpayer) dollars. If the waiver is denied, the Secretary is required to annually request such a waiver until it is granted. Senate vote, 29–11 and the House, 65–58.

**HB 2033** – Adds nonprofit organizations accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council to the list of approved at-risk educational programs eligible to receive money from school districts' at-risk funds. Passed the Senate 31–9 and the House 89–32.

**HB 2217** – Expands the scope of the inspector general to audit and investigate all state cash, food or health assistance programs and grants the inspector general the power to subpoena, administer oaths and execute search warrants thereto. Passed the Senate 30–10 and the House 85–37.

**HB 2284** – Requires the Department of Administration to adopt written policies, including an appeals process, regarding the negotiated procurement of contracted Medicaid services provided by managed care organizations (MCO). Passed the Senate 32–8 and the House 120–3.

**HB 2291** – Creates the Regulatory Relief Division within the Office of the Attorney General and establishes a general regulatory sandbox program to waive or suspend rules and regulations for a new innovative business. Applicants for the waiver would petition for relief from state laws or rules and regulations for a new innovative business that would typically require them to jump through many government hoops. Applications related to liquor or alcohol would not be eligible. Senate vote, 31-9 and House 90-28.

Until next time, may the blessings of God be yours.

Virgil Peck  
State Senator