

# THE PECK PERSPECTIVE

(From the Capitol)

April 20, 2026

Last week I wrote about several bills that will become law “notwithstanding the Governor’s veto”. As of this writing, Governor Kelly has vetoed another bill, HB 2346 (see below), bringing her 2026 veto total to 29. Bills passed during the recent wrap-up session are now reaching the governor’s desk and there is an expectation of more vetoes in the coming days. However, since the legislature adjourned the session (I didn’t think adjourning was the right thing to do) there will be no opportunity for additional veto overrides.

HB 2346 passed the Senate 26–13 and the House 105–16. The bill would have established a tourism grant program providing \$1.5 million of lottery money to support and enhance sports tourism events like softball or basketball tournaments, etc. in Kansas. The events could be a new or recurring event. I voted no to HB 2346.

**Protecting Religious Liberty (HB 2018):** A bill Governor Kelly refused to sign but let it become law without her signature is HB 2018. HB 2018 makes it a felony to intentionally interfere with the conduct of a religious assembly. Simply stating, the bill ensures that Kansans can gather for religious services without fear of intimidation, harassment, or interruption.

Recent events in Michigan and Minnesota demonstrate why the bill is a necessary and proactive step. In March, a man rammed a vehicle into a Michigan synagogue, set it ablaze, and exchanged gunfire with security. In January a disorderly crowd disrupted a church service in Minnesota, intentionally intimidating congregants and halting worship.

HB 2018 makes it clear that Kansas will not tolerate these kinds of incidents, that places of worship are to be respected and protected, and reinforces the fundamental principle that people of faith must be able to practice their faith in peace and safety. The bill passed the Senate 34–6 and the House 106–14.

**Three Bills That Won’t Become Law (SB254, HB 2587 & HB 2468):** Among the vetoed bills we couldn’t muster sufficient votes for a veto override were: SB 254 — would have banned taxpayer funded benefits to illegal aliens (including subsidizing their college tuition); HB 2587 — required a citizenship indication on driver’s licenses; and HB 2468 — contained both the opt-in to the federal school choice program (this provision will become law in SB 361) and expansion of the state-level scholarship for low-income students.

**Bills That Will Become Law (SB 364, SB 20 & SB 23):** There are far too many bills to write about them all, but three bills Kansans have shown an interest in are:

**SB 364** — provides for a discounted combination lifetime hunting and fishing license for Kansans age 65 and older and expands the “Kansas Kids” lifetime hunting and fishing license. The price for the senior citizen lifetime license is set at one-eighth the price of a standard lifetime license. This will once again provide a more affordable option for seniors who want to hunt and fish — the discount was previously in law, but expired in 2020. For children up to age 5, they can have a lifetime Kansas hunting and fishing license purchased for them for \$300. For children aged 6-15 the lifetime combination license fee is set at \$400. It is the hope that more Kansas children will obtain a lifetime hunting and fishing license at the reduced cost, causing them to do their hunting and fishing in Kansas, no matter where life takes them.

**SB 20** — creates the Kansas Consumer Prescription Protection and Accountability Act, establishing rules for how pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) – the companies that manage prescription drug benefits – must operate. The bill lays out audit guidelines, what information a PBM must report to the state, and allows regulators to review PBM’s finances and make sure they’re following the law. Additionally, the bill changes how PBMs handle drug pricing and payments by requiring PBMs to charge insurance plans the same amount they pay pharmacies for a prescription, instead of keeping a markup. It also says payments to pharmacies must be based on a national benchmark for drug costs and that pharmacies must be paid at least that amount plus a \$10.50 dispensing fee. Finally, the bill updates definitions, adjusts penalty amounts for violations, and includes language to ensure the law stands even if part of it is challenged.

**SB 23** — authorizes the Kansas Department of Insurance to revoke the license of a non-resident insurance agent who no longer holds a license in their home state without the requirement of a hearing and providing a 30-day notice following revocation. The bill also modifies the time frame in which insurance agents and public adjusters must respond to inquiries from the Commissioner of Insurance.

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

Virgil Peck  
State Senator