Welcome to the Kansas Legislative Research Department

Who We Are and What We Do

Where We Are:
Rm 68-West, State Capitol Bldg.
www.kslegislature.org/klrd
The main function of the Kansas Legislative Research Department is to provide nonpartisan and objective research and fiscal analysis for the Legislature.
Staff of 40 includes:

- Fiscal Analysis: 14
- General Research: 16
- Information Management: 3
- Administration & Support: 6

The above numbers do not include 2 legislative fellows and 1 intern.
"partisan" - noun (1) a strong supporter of a party, cause, or person.

--Excerpted from Oxford University Press Dictionary

"Nonpartisan" -

• Unbiased
• Impartial
• Independent
• Neutral

--Excerpted from Microsoft Word Thesaurus
Nonpartisan -

- Must be a commitment held by KLRD staff
- Essential to accomplishing our duties as a legislative staff agency
Being *objective* means...

- KLRD staff provides factual information
- KLRD staff provides this information in an unbiased manner
Being objective...

- Often requires us to tell members and committees that an approach has been found unworkable or has been determined unconstitutional in the past

- May mean presenting a series of options to solve a problem, rather than identifying the “right” option

- Means saying there is not a “right” option when available data are inconclusive
Being objective...

- Means telling you we have not been able to identify objective factual or statistical information to support your argument when such is the case.

- Means suggesting conferees who are likely to present all sides of an issue.

- Requires providing options for the “What should we do?” question.
The KLRD Goal

Re: Nonpartisanship and Objectivity

• Do our part in furthering the legislative process in Kansas by supporting you, our State Senators and Representatives, in your roles as policymakers without interjecting our feelings or opinions.

• Provide you with factual, objective information and analysis, while leaving the decision-making and partisan political issues to you.
KLRD Committee Work

~Regular Legislative Session~
KLRD Staffs Standing Committees -

• Attend meetings

• Present oral or written briefings at hearings

• Respond to inquiries by the committee or its members

• Provide other information and assistance, as needed
KLRD Analyzes State Agency Budgets

• Examine agency budget requests

• Analyze Governor’s recommendations

• Provide general budget information as requested

• Prepare subcommittee reports, assist with creation of appropriations bills, prepare bill explanations
KLRD prepares "Supplemental Notes"
~ ("plain English" bill summaries) ~

• Written upon passage of a bill by committee

• Revised each time bill is amended

• Distributed in the daily bill packets

• Posted on the Internet—
  www.kslegislature.org ("Bills and Laws")
  http://kslegislature.org/li/
  www.KanFocus.com
KLRD prepares
"Conference Committee Report Briefs"
~ (also in “plain English”) ~

• Written upon signing of report by the Conference Committee

• Distributed on the Chamber floor (Yellow paper)

• Posted on the Internet~
  www.kslegislature.org/klrd
  (Posted with the associated bill)
  http://kslegislature.org/li/
Other KLRD Duties
During Regular Session

• Review fiscal notes
• Maintain the census data base and mapping system
• Assist with redistricting
KLRD
Interim Committee
Work

~During the Interim Between Regular Sessions~

(Generally May - December)
Interim Committee Duties

KLRD Staffs Special and Statutory Interim Committees

• Work with chairperson to arrange meetings, conferences, and hearings

• Prepare agendas; contact and schedule conferees to appear

• Write briefing papers on assigned topics

• Conduct detailed research as instructed by the committee
Interim Committee Duties

More KLRD Interim Committee Staff Activities

• Respond to specific questions and inquiries

• Prepare and edit committee minutes

• Draft final reports for committee review and approval

• Provide staff services to ad hoc committees and commissions

• Perform other duties as assigned by the Legislative Coordinating Council
KLRD Responds to Legislative Inquiries

~Year-Round~
KLRD Legislative Inquiry Work Is
CONFIDENTIAL!!

- Exempt from the Kansas Open Records Act:
  - Records pertaining to proposed legislation or amendments
  - Records pertaining to research for one or more Legislators

  • Until publicly cited or identified in an open meeting or agenda of such; or

  • Until distributed to a body with authority to act or make recommendations
Legislative Inquiry Work

~Year-Round~

- Answer questions and provide information to members of the Legislature
  - Memoranda (“Greensheets”) during Session
  - Letters or memoranda during Interim
  - All work is confidential

- Assist a legislator's constituent(s) as requested by the legislator

- Work closely with staff of other agencies
Other KLRD Staff Duties...

• Work with agencies to develop consensus estimates
  Ø State General Fund (“SGF”) Revenue
  Ø Education
  Ø Highway
  Ø Social Services

• Answer questions and provide information to the general public, state and local officials, other states, and various organizations
KLRD
Publications
And
Other
Written Documents
General Legislative Information

• Preliminary Summary of Legislation
• Legislative Highlights
• Summary of Legislation
• Legislative Briefing Book (*Updated-Fall 2012*)
• Tax Facts
Budget and Fiscal Information

- Budget Analysis
- Subcommittee Reports
- Fiscal Facts
- Appropriations Report
~Subject Matter Publications~

- Legislative Procedure Manual
- Revenue Estimate Memoranda
- SGF Monthly Receipt Reports
- Interim Committee Reports
- District Demographics
- Publications on specific topics such as:
  - Revenue and Taxation
  - Education
  - Gaming
  - Medicaid and Health Care Reform
  - Transportation
KLRD PUBLICATIONS

~Are Available~

• Electronically
  ➢ http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd

• Select Publications:
  ➢ http://www.kslegislature.org/li/research/

• CD Rom

• Hard Copy
What We Strive For

Professional Staff Work at All Times

• **Goal** – To complete assigned duties in a timely manner

• **Policy** – All requests are confidential unless otherwise specifically directed by the legislator making the request

• **Commitment** – Provide information in an informative, professional manner; provide clear, concise communication in all forms
Contact KLRD
With Your Questions

• Contact staff person assigned to the specific subject area in question

• Contact Raney Gilliland, Director, if you are unsure of whom to contact

• Central Phone Number: 785-296-3181

• Web Address ~ http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd (”Services to Legislators” for specific requests)