Welcome to the Kansas Legislative Research Department

Who We Are and What We Do

Where We Are:
Room 68-West, State Capitol Building
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.
Nonpartisan

- A core principle central to the role of 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 in the past or has previously been determined unconstitutional by the courts.

- 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
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
KLKD 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
- Supp Notes are available at:
  - www.kslegislature.org/li ("Bills and Laws")
  - 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 our website (with subject keywords) - www.kslegislature.org/klrd
- CCRBs are also posted on the associated bill page www.kslegislature.org/li/
Other KLRD Duties During Regular Session

- Review fiscal notes
- Maintain the census database and mapping system
- Assist with redistricting
KLRD
Responds to
Legislative Inquiries
~Year-Round~
Exemption 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 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
  ➢ State General Fund ("SGF") Revenue
  ➢ K-12 School Finance
  ➢ Highway Fund Revenue
  ➢ Human Services Caseloads

• 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 2016*)
- Tax Facts
Budget and Fiscal Information

- Budget Analysis
- Subcommittee and Budget Committee 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:
  - Education and School Finance
  - Gaming
  - Medicaid and Health Care Reform
  - Revenue and Taxation
  - Transportation
KLIRD PUBLICATIONS

~Are Available~

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

  *Highlights, Summary, and Briefing Book are available in EPUB format.*

Select Publications:

➢ http://www.kslegislature.org/li/research/

• 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

• Main Phone Number: 785-296-3181

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