



## The Olathe Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Group

# Kansas Legislature Swiftly Passes Unemployment Insurance Bill



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**Kansas Legislative Report, March 17, 2020**

### **Unemployment Insurance**

In an early morning meeting, the House Commerce Committee quickly assembled a bill to assist with aviation layoffs and now the much-anticipated layoffs due to the economic crisis building as the result of the Covid-19

outbreak. Specifically, House substitute for [SB 27](#) Unemployment Insurance does the following:

- Effective January 1, 2020 Unemployment Benefits will be extended from the current 16 weeks to 26 weeks.
- Claimants will no longer have to wait a week to receive their benefits. They will receive them the week they apply.
- These provisions are set to expire on April 1, 2021.
- Provisions are effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.
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The House passed the measure 119-0 while the Senate passed it 29-4. It is expected the Governor will sign the bill immediately and as noted above will be effective upon publication in the Kansas register.

## **Schools**

The Legislature also provided schools with the flexibility needed to address the school closure announced by the Governor today. [SB 142](#) authorizes the state board of education to grant waivers for school districts from the requirement to provide a minimum number of school hours during the school term. An amendment by Rep. Sean Tarwater inserted a requirement that part-time, noncontract employees be compensated for what would be the remainder of the school year. This bill passed 117-2 in the house and in the Senate 30-2.

## **Kansas 2020 Legislative Session will End this Week**

The 2020 Kansas Legislature will continue to meet this week working towards putting together a new State Transportation Plan as well as pass the constitutionally required state budget and then will adjourn until it is deemed publicly safe for them meet again for a Veto Session. The Session was not expected to officially end until April 3, 2020.

We will send a final report once lawmakers officially adjourn. Until then please feel free to email at [natalie@brightcarpenter.com](mailto:natalie@brightcarpenter.com) with any questions.



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