

House overrides gun veto; concealed carry to become law

TOPEKA (AP) — Law-abiding Kansans will be able to carry concealed guns because many of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' fellow Democrats parted company with her on the issue.

The House voted 91-33 on Thursday to override her veto of a guns bill, giving supporters of the measure seven more votes than the needed two-thirds majority. The Senate voted Wednesday night to override, 30-10, with three votes to spare.

The new law will take effect July 1, though it's not clear when the first permits will be issued by Attorney General Phill Kline's office. He promised to consult the bill's supporters and "work diligently to make sure that the rights of Kansans are protected."

Republicans hold large majorities in both chambers, and most of them supported the concealed carry legislation. Joining them were 21 Democrats in the House and six in the Senate.

Sebelius became the first governor to have a veto overridden in 12 years and this is the first time for her. She vetoed a similar bill in 2004, as did her predecessor, Republican Bill Graves, in 1997.

She shrugged off the override, saying, "Now I'm hopeful the Legislature turns its attention to its most important work, which is making sure all Kansas children attend quality schools."

Kansas will be among 37 states where permits must be issued to people who qualify. An additional eight states allow law enforcement agencies to reject permits even if someone has met all legal requirements, while Alaska and Vermont have no prohibitions for carry concealed guns.

Only Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin won't allow residents to carry hidden guns, although Nebraska lawmakers are close to changing that.

A microcosm of the debate

played out between Clark Zeit, of Olathe, and his mother, Carolyn Zeit, of Prairie Village, when they were asked about what the Legislature did.

"They say it will make it more difficult for police to do their job. But I think there are enough safeguards," the son said.

The mother said: "I'm totally against it. I think too many people will have guns and you won't be safe anywhere."

Sponsoring Sen. Phil Journey, R-Haysville, said 2 percent of Kansans, or about 48,000 people, would seek permits in the law's first four years.

House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney said legislators and Kansans became more familiar with the issue in the decade it has been around. He said most Democrats split with the governor because their constituents want the law.

"I have a lot more people back home who are for it because they understand it better," said McKinney, D-Greensburg, who voted against the veto. "A lot of my constituents feel strongly about this issue."

Another Democrat, Rep. L. Candy Ruff, of Leavenworth, was the bill's chief champion, but she doesn't plan to get a permit herself.

"I've never had a desire to carry a concealed gun," she said. "I pushed it because two rape victims in my district asked me to."

Under the proposal, Kansas residents 21 or older who are U.S. citizens can obtain a four-year permit by filling out an application with the local sheriff and paying a fee of up to \$150.

The attorney general's office issues the permits after conducting background checks to eliminate those with a felony record, a history of mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction, or physical infirmity preventing the safe handling of a weapon.

School aid plan released

TOPEKA (AP) — A plan to phase in a \$610 million increase in aid to public schools over three years emerged from House debate late Thursday night as members considered school finance legislation.

House members weren't sure how they would pay for the proposal. It contained no provisions for raising new revenues.

Critics predicted a budget shortfall would confront legislators next year, and even supporters acknowledged they'd confront problems by 2008.

A coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans drafted the plan. They offered it as amendments to an education funding bill containing another, smaller plan drafted by the Select Committee on School Finance.

The House considered the plan as three separate amendments, which were approved on votes of 66-57, 63-61 and 63-62.

House members then had to de-

cide whether to give the bill first-round approval. If they did, final action would be scheduled for Friday, when passage would send the measure to Senate.

Conservative Republicans bitterly denounced the plan as irresponsible. Rep. Lance Kinzer, R-Olathe, called it "silly" and said it wouldn't satisfy a Kansas Supreme Court mandate that legislators spend more money to meet a constitutional requirement to adequately fund education.

Bill reviewed prior to going into effect in July 2006

A summary of the state's new concealed-carry law, which will take effect July 1:

— Kansans who are U.S. citizens and 21 or older can obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun.

— People submit an application to their local sheriffs, though the permit actually will be issued by the attorney general's office.

— The attorney general must begin issuing permits by Jan. 1.

— People can't get a permit if they have a physical infirmity preventing them from handling a gun safely.

— People can't obtain a permit if they've been convicted or placed on diversion for a felony, if they have been convicted of domestic violence, if they are sub-

ject to a restraining order because of stalking, domestic violence or abuse, or if they have been hospitalized for mental illness within the previous five years.

— The fee for a four-year permit is \$150, though retired law enforcement officers are exempt.

— Applicants will have their fingerprints submitted to the attorney general's office as part of a criminal background check.

— Applicants must complete eight hours of approved firearms training.

— Property owners can still ban concealed guns by posting a sign.

— Carrying a concealed weapon where the law or a property owner prohibits it would be a misdemeanor, as would carrying a concealed gun under the influence of

alcohol or other drugs.

The law still will ban concealed guns:

— Any place where there's a public nuisance such as illegal drugs.

— In police, sheriff's or Kansas Highway Patrol stations.

— In prisons, jails and other detention centers and courthouses.

— In courtrooms, though a judge could carry a hidden firearm or authorize others to do so.

— At polling places on Election Day.

— In city halls.

— In meetings of the governing bodies of cities, counties and other political subdivisions.

— On the Kansas State Fair grounds in Hutchinson.

— In any state office building.

— At school- or university-spon-

sored athletic events not related to firearms.

— At professional athletic events not involving firearms.

— Inside elementary and secondary schools or a "structure used for student instruction or attendance."

— At any university, community college or technical college facility or place of worship.

— Any place where firearms are prohibited by federal law.

— At centers set up for abuse victims to handle visits to their children by noncustodial parents.

— In community mental health centers, mental health clinics or psychiatric hospitals.

— In public libraries.

— In child care centers or group homes for children.

Completion of an approved eight-hour training course also is required. Rep. Jim Yonally said that wasn't enough time.

"My concern is people thinking they are safe because they are packing a gun," said Yonally, R-Overland Park. "It's only going to become a weapon that can be used against them."

The National Rifle Association hailed the vote.

"It proves the determination and persistence of the NRA and our members in Kansas," said Chris Cox, the group's chief lobbyist at its headquarters in Fairfax, Va. "It's been a nationwide effort that's gone

on for over a decade."

Among opposing groups was the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police. Its president, Valley Center Police Chief Kelly Parks, said there's some concern about how to find out whether an applicant had a mental illness problem.

"The federal law restricts us from getting a lot of that information," Parks said.

"There is no clearing house for that kind of information."

The Kansas Sheriffs' Association remained neutral because its members were divided. But its president, Stafford County Sheriff Jeff Parr, said such a law bothers him.

"I feel that with more people able to conceal weapons we're going to have problems with guns," he said.

"Instead of getting into a fist fight, if they have a gun, they are going to pull a gun instead of fighting."


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Sale Time: 10:30 am

Location: From Scott City, KS on Highway 96, 7 miles West to North Eagle Road, 6 miles North.

TRACTORS, LOADER, COMBINE: 1982 Versatile 895 Tractor, 4-wheel drive, duels, 5,975 hrs.; 1981 Case 2590 Tractor, duels, 3pt., PTO, 7016 hrs. w/ front dozer blade; 1978 International 515 payload, diesel; 1976 Gleaner L Combine, hydrostat, corn soybean special, 24ft. platform

TRUCKS & PICKUPS: 1976 Chevy C-60 Truck, 5x2 spd. trans., 350 motor, 16ft. bed & hoist, rollover tarp; 1978 Ford 7000 Truck, 5x2 spd. trans. 3208 Cat diesel motor w/ Harsh 406M mixer box, scales, good shape; 1984 GMC pickup, 3/4 ton, 4x4, auto., 350 motor; 1956 GMC Truck w/ BJM silage box

FARM EQUIPMENT: JD 7300 maxi-merge planter, 8 row, Martin openers, liquid fertilizer attachments, No till markers, monitor; Quinstar 49ft. Fallowmaster II w/ pickers; Land Pride 15ft. flex mower, folding wings; IHC 8000 cyclo planter, 8-row, pull type, monitor; Big Ox 12ft. speedmover; JD 1210 A grain cart, 400 bushel; Krause model 963A disk, 30ft.; Flex King 7x5 sweep plow w/ tine harrows, clean; Flex King 3x6 sweep plow w/ old style pickers; JD 400 rotary hoe, 3pt.; Lilliston 8-row cultivator; 20ft. tool bar w/ 8-case flex planters; 20ft. tool bar w/ shanks & sweeps; Crustbuster 30ft. folding drill; BMB 5ft. mower; Case 8ft. rear blade, 3pt.; Servis 15ft. mower; 32ft. crustbuster springtooth; 6-section springtooth; Pull-type hay rake

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT: 1978 WW gooseneck stock trailer, 24ft., full-top; (4) 10ft. stock tanks; (2) 6ft. stock tanks; (3) Small stock tanks; (2) round bale feeders; (2) round bale horse feeders, like new; (18) portable corral panels, 10ft.; Barb & smooth wire; Wooden corral posts; (200) rod posts; Servis 3pt. post hole digger; Several fence chargers; 14ft. WW stock trailer; Denver roller mill, 10" rolls, electric motor; 1000 gal. round Palmer water tank; Dudry wire roller; Fencing tools & supplies; Mist-a-matic cattle polisher; Salt tubs; (10) tractor tire feed bunks; Vet supplies; Self catching head gate

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