

• Special to the Leader & Times Governor Brownback signs 2nd Amendment Protection Act into law
Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed the 2nd Amendment Protection Act into law on Tuesday. The 2nd Amendment Protection act states that, “Any act, law, treaty, order, rule or regulation of the government of the United States which violates the second amendment to the constitution of the United States is null, void and unenforceable in the state of Kansas.” State Representative Reid Petty was a co-sponsor of the original bill that started in the House of Representatives and was pleased to see the bill become law.

“I commend the Governor for signing this bill into law to assure Kansans that we respect their right to bear arms and that we are willing to fight for the 2nd Amendment as a state against the federal government who at times shows no interest in following the Constitution,” Petty said. Michael Boldin of the Tenth Amendment Center said Kansas has made history.

“The Kansas 2nd Amendment Protection Act, in my opinion, is potentially the most important state level bill passed in modern American history,” Boldin said.

Brownback also signed into law a bill that will require most public buildings to either allow concealed carry or provide proper security measures.

Certain public buildings such as college campuses will get a four year exemption to decide if they would like to allow concealed carry or provide proper security measures. This law will also allow local school districts the right to decide if they would like any staff members to conceal carry. The decision will be fully up to local school boards.

With House Bill 2052 signed into law, the new law takes effect on July 1, 2013.

HB 2052 will make the following pro-gun improvements in Kansas:

- Exempts the lawful discharge of firearms – whether for hunting or self-defense – from criminal prosecution.
- Requires that government and public buildings that prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms for self-defense must screen all visitors for weapons. This would ensure that “all” individuals who enter the buildings are disarmed, not just the law-abiding citizens who choose to follow the law. If a building lacks the adequate security measures necessary to screen all visitors, then residents with a concealed carry license would be allowed to carry a firearm to protect themselves while visiting that particular building.

- Makes the personal information of concealed carry license applicants confidential and exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Exempts law enforcement officers from the training requirements necessary to obtain a concealed carry license.
- Authorizes school officials to allow staffers and visitors to carry a concealed handgun for self-defense.