



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 15, 2023

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears and Works Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held hearings on [House Bill 2263](#) and [House Bill 2325](#).

[House Bill 2325](#), adds maternity center to the definition of "healthcare provider" for purposes of the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act.

House Bill 2325 Proponents:

- Kendra Wyatt, Chief Executive Officer, New Birth Company
- Rebecca William, HUB Mid-America

House Bill 2325 Neutral Conferee:

- Clark Schultz, executive director, Kansas Healthcare Stabilization Fund

[House Bill 2263](#) authorizes pharmacy technicians to administer certain vaccines.

House Bill 2263 Proponents:

- Aaron Dunkel, executive director, Kansas Pharmacists Association
- Dared Price, Graves Drug
- Alexandra Blasi, executive director, Kansas Board of Pharmacy

The committee asked if pharmacists have to be present, the training of the pharmacy technicians and SRIVA – shoulder injury from vaccination.

The committee also worked [House Bill 2034](#). The legislation requires a referral for an examination of an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect as part of the investigation, creating a program in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide training and payment for such examinations. The committee made amendments around fraudulent charges and set a ceiling of reimbursement not to exceed \$750. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage as amended.

The committee will meet Thursday, March 16.

House Appropriations Takes Another Look at Budgets Before Them

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), held budget discussions on the Regents budgets. The committee heard about the transportation infrastructure hub. The Kansas Department of Transportation gave an overview of the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and how the state is using federal funds to assist local communities. Committee members asked about mass transit systems in urban areas in Wyandotte, Johnson and Sedgwick Counties. The committee questioned the Hub staffing needs and state match. The Department of Commerce, Office of Broadband, the Kansas Municipal Utilities and the North Central Kansas Regional Planning Commission also presented.

The committee also heard Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services budget recommendations that required further review by the committee. The committee heard from Sub-committee Chair Les Mason (R-McPherson). The committee reviewed funding requests including the \$5 million for a patient observation reimbursement program and a full rebase for nursing facilities. Other items reviewed by Chairman Mason included:

- Pilot program for EmberHope Youthville
- \$400,000 for Envision
- \$2.1 million to administer a grant for organizations developing crisis services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- \$1 million for a Kansas grant program – based sheltered workshops – to transition away from IDD service providers
- \$3 million for senior nutrition services
- \$24.3 million to allow community mental health centers to become certified community behavioral health clinics
- \$7.4 million to increase the IDD-targeted case management
- \$133,075 to offer additional training on mental health first aid
- \$5.0 million to enhance assistive technology
- \$3.0 million to increase Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Medicaid rates by 5.0 percent
- \$13.0 million to increase Home and Community Based Services and Frail Elderly waiver reimbursement rates by 10.0 percent
- \$61.6 million to fund additional payments to nursing facilities based on the number of Medicaid residents served
- \$3.0 million for community mental health center funding to cover uninsured and indigent care
- \$5.0 million to provide reimbursement to organizations that provide substance use treatments for the uninsured

The committee will meet again next week to decide which of the items will be included in the Mega Budget.

Senate Federal and State Affairs Begins Hearings on Medical Marijuana

Today, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Mike Thompson (R-Bonner Springs), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 135](#), the Medical Cannabis Regulation Act. The bill specifies the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would review and issue registration cards for Kansans prescribed medical cannabis. A change to this year's bill is to allow the verification of a patient's registration be performed by law enforcement. The legislation allows the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts to oversee continuing education and requirements for the issuance of medical cannabis. The bill allows 35 percent THC for plant materials, 60 percent for oils and concentrates, 3.5 percent for edibles and 10 mg for patches. There are still prohibitions on smoking or vaporizing medical cannabis. The recommending physician would not have to report the prescription to the K-TRACS federal monitoring system. Instead, that duty is on the retail dispensary pharmacy at the time the medical cannabis is dispensed. The bill requires each dispensary to have pharmacists hired and regulated by the Kansas Board of Pharmacy. The bill includes a provision requiring law enforcement to have access to K-TRACS and for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to have verification of patient possession and use. The bill has grants associated with law enforcement based on revenue.

The committee heard from the following conferees:

Proponents:

- Samuel Jones, Kansas Natural Remedies
- Mandy Sohosky, citizen
- Jim Ricketts, citizen
- Kimberly Krueger, Kansas Cannabis Coalition
- Randall Hardy, Kansas Silver Haired Legislature
- Brian Asbury, Kansas Chiropractic Association, requested an amendment to include all health care providers
- Melissa Lubbers, addiction counselor
- Tuck Duncan, Kansas Cannabis Industry Association
- Daniel Shafon, Kansas Cannabis Chamber
- Alejandro Rangel-Lopez, citizen

Neutral:

- Sen. Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City)
- Debbie Beavers, Alcohol Beverage Control
- Doug Jorgenson, State Fire Marshal
- Cornell Beard, Kansas Association of Machinists
- Eric Stafford, Kansas Chamber of Commerce

The committee will continue the hearing Thursday, March 16.

House Takes Final Action and Debates Bills

Today, the Kansas House of Representatives took final action on bills debated during yesterday's session.

[House Substitute for Senate Bill 83](#) establishes the Sunflower Education Equity Act to provide education savings accounts for qualified students, requiring school districts to provide a salary increase to all licensed teachers and defining enrollment of small school districts as the highest enrollment from the preceding four years under the Kansas School Equity and Enhancement Act. The bill passed on a vote of [64-61](#).

The House also debated the following:

[House Substitute for Senate Bill 229](#) creates the Legislative Compensation Commission and prescribes powers and duties of the commission and the legislature

[House Bill 2400](#) enacts the Kansas Adult Learner Grant Act to facilitate workforce development by providing grants and workforce retention incentive payments to adults who pursue baccalaureate degrees from eligible postsecondary educational institutions in certain fields of study

[House Bill 2422](#) eliminates the statutory qualifications listed for the chief inspector for boiler safety appointed by the state fire marshal

[House Bill 2225](#) limits cost recovery for certain electric public utilities' transmission-related costs

[House Bill 2331](#) designates Lehigh Portland State Park

The bills will have final votes Thursday, March 16 in the House.