



KHA's Capitol Comments

March 20, 2023

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Meets

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), worked [House Bill 2390](#) and held a Hearing on [Senate Bill 287](#).

[House Bill 2390](#) deletes the review board and legalizations of fentanyl testing strips. The language is replaced by language asking the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to study fentanyl overdoses. The committee saw an amendment from [Senate Bill 6](#) into House Bill 2390. Senate Bill 6 restricts the authority of the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and local health officers to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious or contagious diseases; repeals the authority of the secretary to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties. The bill as amended passed out of the committee. Senate Bill 6 previously passed the Senate on a vote of [22-19](#).

Next, the committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 287](#). The legislation expands the Kansas Silver Alert plan to include persons 18 years of age or older who have dementia, a developmental disability or cognitive impairment.

Proponents:

- Sara Hart-Weir, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Sam Silvey, President Autism Society –The Heartland
- Nick Wood, InterHab

Opponents:

Stephanie Sanford, private citizen, emphasized a need to protect women in abusive situations. The committee then held a hearing on [House Bill 2340](#). The legislation requires the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to process applications within a certain time, decreases the years of practice required for reciprocity licensure of certain behavioral sciences professions, extends the license period for temporary licenses, establishes new license categories and decreases continuing education requirements related to diagnosis and treatment. The legislation previously passed the House on a vote of [118-3](#).

The committee heard from the following proponents:

- David Fye, executive director, Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
- Cynthia Schendel, licensed specialist clinical social worker, member of KBSRB
- Rep. Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee)
- Becky Fast, National Association of Social Workers
- Kyle Kessler, Association of Community Mental Health Centers
- Mitchell Skidmore, Licensed Social Worker in Geriatric Care
- Monica Kurz, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ
- Eric Thomason, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
- Jennifer McCabe, licensed social worker
- Stuart Little, Kansas Behavioral Health Association of Kansas

Finally, the committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 297](#), which revises the definition of "abortion" to clarify procedures that are excluded from such definition. Brittany Jones, Kansas Family Voice, testified doctors are misinterpreting the definition of abortion in statutes.

The committee will meet again Tuesday, March 21.

Senate Commerce Works Childcare Bill

Today, the Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Senator Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), worked the bills before them. Among those recommended favorably for passage was [Senate Bill 282](#). The legislation establishes childcare licensing requirements relating to license capacity and staff-to-child ratios, eliminates certain license fees and training requirements, permits a 16-year-old staff member to staff a unit with children at least 12 months old without supervision, creates a process for daycare facility licensees to apply for a temporary waiver of certain statutory requirements and authorizes the secretary to develop and operate pilot programs to increase daycare facility availability or capacity.

The committee made the following amendments:

- Changes the terminology for lead and assistant teachers
- If someone has worked in other educational settings, allows those years to be used to accredit them as a director or assistant director
- The assistant group teacher would have to be 18 years of age
- Changes training hours to a minimum of eight hours, four hours can be outside training in childcare such as early childhood education, elementary education, special education, speech pathology, occupational therapy, social work, and family science and human development
- Makes changes to childcare home with one-provider ratios
- Makes changes to childcare home with two-providers ratios
- Strikes language about supervision and eliminates volunteers that are 14 years old or younger
- If you have four infants in your home, you must have some professional training in infant care

- Changes that a program director can be a teacher in another setting to meet requirements
- Changes in square footage requirements
- The outdoor play space minimum shall be 75 square feet for each child
- Adds drop-in definitions to include programs such as boys and girls club
- Strikes language stating counties can do the Kansas Department of Health and Environment inspections to eliminate fiscal notes

The bill as amended was moved into [Senate Substitute for House Bill 2344](#). On a division vote, the chair broke the tie to recommend the bill favorably for passage.

House Health and Human Services Meets to Hear Bills

Today, the House Health and Human Services committee, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita) met. The committee held hearings on [House Bill 2452](#) and [House Bill 2439](#).

[House Bill 2452](#) eliminates the requirements that the state employee health care commission offer long-term care insurance and indemnity insurance.

Proponents were:

[House Bill 2439](#) requires notification to patients that the effects of a medication abortion may be reversible.

Proponents were:

- Johnathan Scrafford, MD, obstetrician-gynecologist, Wichita
- Jeanne Gawdun, Kansans for Life
- Brittany Jones, Kansas Family Voice

There were several written opponents to the legislation including:

- Planned Parenthood
- Angela Martin, MD, Topeka
- Valerie French, MD, Kansas City, KS
- Trust Women Foundation

The committee voted 11 to 5 to work House Bill 2439 without the 24-hour holdover and then recommended the bill favorably for passage. The legislation now goes to the House for full debate. The committee will meet next on Tuesday, March 21.