



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 21, 2023

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears Bills Including Vaccine Exemptions and Works Bills

Today, Senate Public Health and Welfare, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a hearing on several bills.

Final Action was taken on the following bills:

[Senate Bill 287](#) expands the Kansas Silver Alert Plan to include persons 18 years of age or older who have dementia, a developmental disability or cognitive impairment. The chair brought an amendment that strikes the definition of vulnerable motion. The bill was recommended favorably as amended and now goes to the Senate.

[Senate Bill 297](#) revises the definition of "abortion" to clarify procedures that are excluded from such definition. The committee recommended it favorably and it now goes to the Senate floor.

[House Bill 2264](#) enacts the No Patient Left Alone Act to allow in-person visitation to certain patients at hospitals, adult care homes and hospice facilities. The bill was amended to return to shall and requiring language when establishing visitation policies that was included in earlier versions of the legislation. The committee saw an amendment that says that if compliance with the state statute puts facilities in violation the state would have to reimburse the facility for such losses. The bill was ultimately tabled for a later date.

[House Bill 2263](#) authorizes pharmacy technicians to administer certain vaccines. The committee made a motion to recommend favorably for passage. Following passage, an attempt was made to add [Senate Bill 233](#) and [Senate Bill 5](#) by Sen. Mark Steffan (R-Hutchinson); however, the motion was rejected since action had already been taken. The bill could be reconsidered at a future date.

The committee also held hearings on:

[House Bill 2288](#) enacts the Counseling Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for professional counselors. Dr. Andrew Secor appeared before the committee as a proponent. There were no opponents or neutral testimony.

[Senate Bill 315](#) requires childcare facilities, schools and employers to grant exemptions from vaccine requirements for all vaccines without inquiring into the sincerity of the request and repealing the meningitis vaccine requirement to live in student housing.

Proponents appearing before the committee included:

- Gayln Perry, MD, Olathe
- Lauren Shiffman, Private Citizen
- Jeffrey Earl, DO, Overland Park
- Olivia Lyon, Private Citizen
- Kathryn Andress, Private Citizen
- Carol Daunis, Precinct committeewoman
- Kathy Brown, Private Citizen

Opponents appearing before the committee included:

- Dena Hubbard, MD, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Eric Stafford, Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- Geovannie Gone, Immunize Kansas Coalition
- Paula Bundy, School Nurses Association
- Rabbi Moti Reber, Kansas Interfaith Action
- Blake Flanders, Kansas Board of Regents

The committee was scheduled to hear [Senate Bill 234](#), prohibiting governmental entities from sharing or transmitting social care information into a closed-loop referral system; however, they ran out of time.

House Health and Human Services Hears and Works Childcare Bill

Today, the House Health and Human Services, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), held an informational briefing on Senate Bill 282. The committee heard from the following conferees:

Proponents:

- Sen. Kristen O'Shea (R-Topeka)
- Renea Wilson, Stormont Vail Health
- Andrew Wiens, Opportunity Solutions Project
- Nick Felder, Bright Minds Daycare in Hays
- Martha Keaton Ferren, Home Daycare Provider
- Eric Stafford, Kansas Chamber
- Elizabeth Patton, Americans for Prosperity

Opponents:

- John Wilson, Kansas Action for Children

The committee put the contents of [Senate Bill 282](#) as amended and into [Senate Bill 96](#). The committee recommended Substitute for Senate Bill 96 as amended favorably for passage.

Budget Updates

Today, the Kansas Senate took a final vote on [Substitute for Senate Bill 155](#), the pared-down Senate budget bill. The bill passed the chamber on a vote of 23-12, giving the chamber a position going into conference with the House.

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), began assembling the House budget, which will now be housed in [Senate Bill 42](#). The discussions today included the following items:

- Higher education
- State Fair Investments
- Infrastructure Grant Program for local matches
- Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Items: \$3 million for senior nutrition services, \$3 million for State General Funds, adding \$2.1 million SGF to administer a grant for organizations developing crisis services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- \$3 million from Economic Development Initiatives Fund for tourism project for Sunflower Summer Program

The committee will continue discussions tomorrow.

House Debates Bills

Today, the Kansas House debated bills. Among them was [House Bill 2313](#), creating the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. The legislation provides legal protections for infants born alive. During the debate, Rep. Dan Osman (D-Overland Park) attempted an amendment to expand Medicaid. The amendment was ruled not germane on a vote of 82-35 to sustain the rules chair's decision regarding the amendment. The bill was recommended favorably and will now go to the Senate.

The House also debated [House Concurrent Resolution 5008](#), to call a convention of the states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose limits on the federal government.

Both will go before the Senate, if passed, following a final vote by the House.

The floor also took a final vote on [Senate Bill 24](#), changing the required number of employees contained in the definitions of "large employer" and "small employer" for purposes of coverage for autism spectrum disorder. The bill passed on a vote of [111-7](#).