



KHA's Capitol Comments
April 6, 2023

Budget Updates

The budget conference completed work very late yesterday and inserted the contents into [House Bill 2184](#). A few updates from yesterday:

The negotiators agreed to insert contents formerly agreed to in the budget ensuring that a hospital becoming a rural emergency hospital would be excluded from having to pay the Health Care Access Improvement Program assessment. Conference members coupled this with the original and amended a version of [Senate Bill 194](#), which requires hospital district board members to be qualified electors in the county where the hospital is located or any adjacent county. The contents of both provisions were added into the empty shell of [Senate Bill 42](#).

The final budget included:

- \$61.6M/\$24.6M State General Funds to fund additional payments to nursing facilities based on the number of Medicaid residents served in fiscal year 2024.
- \$34.4M/\$14M SGF to fully rebase the daily Medicaid rate for nursing facilities for FY 2024.
- \$13M/\$5.2M SGF for a 10 percent increase to add funding to increase the Home and Community-Based Services Frail Elderly waiver reimbursement rates for FY 2024.
- \$5M to reimburse costs of health care providers, law enforcement agencies and counties on an hourly basis for patient observation and transportation following an evaluation; and approval for stay at a state mental health hospital and admission to the state hospital, all from existing resources, for FY 2024.
- \$142M from federal American Rescue Plan Act funds for health facilities tied to Wichita State University and the University of Kansas.
- Language from [House Bill 2378](#) for the NE Kansas Veterans Home in Topeka (transferring land from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to the Veterans Administration).
- \$600M for the State Rainy Day Fund.

The budget will run in a conference committee report in both the House and Senate.

Health Conference Meets

Today, the House Health and Human Services and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee agreed to put the following into a clean [House Bill 2264](#):

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

[Senate Bill 297](#) revises the definition of "abortion" to clarify procedures that are excluded from such definition.

The House agreed to make a motion to concur on [House Bill 2325](#): Amending the definition of "healthcare provider" for purposes of the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act to include maternity centers and not include facilities where elective abortions are performed. The motion to concur in the House passed on a vote of [83-40](#). The bill now goes to the governor.

The House agreed to add the following inside the bill number Senate Bill 131:

[Senate Bill 131](#) authorizes the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts to issue a sports waiver to practice healing arts professions in this state on a limited basis during certain sporting events.

[House Bill 2340](#): BSRB Bill with an amendment to include community mental health centers requested language. The language allows pharmacy technicians to administer certain vaccines.

The House was unable to reach an agreement on the contents previously contained in House Bill 2264.

Senate Public Health and House Federal and State Affairs Takes up Vaccine Legislation

Today, the Senate Public Health Conference Committee conferees met with the House Federal and State Affairs Committee to discuss vaccination legislation, among other items. The committee agreed to add the contents of the following in with the contents of [House Bill 2390](#).

[Senate Bill 314](#) prohibits the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for children attending a childcare facility or school.

[Senate Bill 315](#) – the Senate agreed to remove the language dictating that meningitis vaccinations wouldn't be a requirement for living in student housing. That provision is no longer part of the legislation.

The committee agreed to insert the contents of [Senate Bill 233](#) into th

Corrections and Juvenile Justice Conference Agrees to Healthcare Worker Protections Provisions

Late yesterday, the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Leadership agreed to an offer made by the Senate Judiciary on the CCR for Senate Bill 174. The provisions will include increased penalties of the assault and battery of a health care worker. The conference committee report will run on the floor late tonight.

Conference Committee Reports and Motions to Concur Run in Chambers

The House and Senate have sped up the work in conference committees and have spent the days running Conference Committee Reports. Among those passed include:

[CCR on House Bill 2090](#): Insurance; relating to fees, assessments and taxes imposed thereon; authorizing the commissioner of insurance to set the amount of certain fees; requiring information obtained from background checks, fingerprinting and criminal history records checks be used solely for the purpose of verifying the identification of an applicant and the fitness of an applicant to be issued a license as an insurance agent; discontinuing annual registration fees for prepaid service plans; modifying the requirement to report individuals who solicit memberships on behalf of such plans from semi-annually to annually and upon application for registration; decreasing the premium tax rate imposed on surplus lines insurance. Passed the Senate on a vote of [37-3](#), and the House on a vote of [122-1](#).

[CCR on House Bill 2093](#): Relating to certain group-funded insurance pools and certain municipal insurance coverage; discontinuing payments paid to the Group-Funded Pools Fee Fund and the Group-Funded Workers' Compensation Fee Fund; transferring such balances and abolishing such funds; establishing the Group-Funded Pools Refund Fund; refunding the balance thereof and abolishing such fund on July 1, 2024; adjusting the basis upon which certain premium tax calculations are made; requiring such premium taxes to be paid 90 days after each calendar year and basing such premium taxes upon the gross premiums collected for the previous calendar year; adding fire districts to the definition of "municipality" for purposes of the payment of COBRA premiums under certain circumstances. The CCR passed the Senate on a vote of 40-0, and the House on a vote of [122-1](#).

[CCR on House Bill 2015](#): Authorizing the designee of an employing agency or entity to petition the court for an order requiring infectious disease testing. Passed the Senate on a vote of [32-8](#), and the House on a vote of [117-6](#) and the Senate on a vote of [32-8](#).

[CCR on House Bill 2130](#): Kansas probate code; permitting a copy of a will to be filed and admitted to probate; increasing certain dollar amounts; relating to allowance to spouse and minor children; supplemental elective share amount; transfers within two years of death; homestead or homestead allowance; payment of benefits to certain relatives; small estates affidavit for personal property; remission of court costs for small estates; exhibition of demands and allowance without a hearing; refusal to grant letters of administration; appealable orders and bond; requests for transfer from magistrate to district judge; adjusting time requirements linked to notice by publication and mailing; relating to hearing dates; sales at public auction; clarifying how property held under a transfer-on-death deed is distributed when one beneficiary predeceases the grantor. The CCR passed the Senate on a vote of 40-0 and the House on a vote of 123-0.

[CCR on Senate Bill 66](#): Occupational licensure; relating to teacher licensure; enacting the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact; recognizing equivalent teacher licenses from other member states; requiring licensing bodies provide verified electronic credentials, in addition to paper-based credentials, to all credential holders, including military service members and others receiving Kansas credentials based on their credentials from other jurisdictions; requiring licensing bodies to use centralized electronic credential data management systems capable of providing instantaneous credential verification; mandating such systems maintain an auditable record; excepting certification of law enforcement officers from such electronic credential requirements and other provisions. The CCR passed the House on a vote of [116-5](#), and the Senate on a vote of [37-3](#).

CCR on House Substitute for Senate Bill 169: Providing an income tax rate of 5.25 percent for individuals and decreasing the normal tax for corporations, increasing the income limit for the income tax subtraction modification for social security income, increasing the Kansas standard deduction for individuals and further increasing the standard deduction by a cost-of-living adjustment, discontinuing the food sales tax credit, decreasing the privilege tax normal tax, establishing a 0 percent state rate for sales and use taxes for food and food ingredients on July 1, 2023, and increasing the extent of property tax exemption for residential property from the statewide school levy.

[CCR on Senate Bill 17](#): Housing; expanding the use of bond proceeds under the Kansas Reinvestment Housing Incentive District Act; transferability of income, privilege and premium tax credits issued under the Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit Act. The motion to adopt the CCR passed in the House on a vote of [63-59](#) and the Senate on a vote of [31-9](#).

Conference Committee Reports will continue to run throughout the evening.