



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 19, 2024

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears and Works Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora) met. The committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 433](#), clarifying practice privileges of institutional license holders.

Proponent testimony was received from the following:

- Deputy Secretary Scott Brunner, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Opposition testimony was received from the following:

- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society

Next, the committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 488](#), expanding the scope of the inspector general to audit and investigate all state cash, food or health assistance programs and granting the inspector general the power to subpoena, administer oaths and execute search warrants thereto.

The committee had proponent testimony from the following:

- Steven Anderson, Medicaid Inspector General
- Steven Greene, Dugan Consulting

The committee saw opposition testimony from the following:

- Haley Kottler, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
- Erin Melton, Kansas Action for Children

Finally, the committee heard [Senate Bill 489](#), which directs the department of corrections to establish a correctional center nursery for incarcerated expectant mothers and their child to allow certain expectant mothers to care and bond with their child for up to 36 month while incarcerated.

The committee saw proponent testimony from the following:

- Senator Kristen O’Shea (R-Topeka)
- Tracy Russell, Nurture KC
- Monica Pyles, Individual
- Lucrecia Nold, Kansas Catholic Conference
- Kirsten Price, Ministry to Incarcerated Families
- Kelson Bohnet, Kansas Death Penalty Defense Unit
- Kathy Damron, Community Volunteer
- Jessica Lenherr, United Way of Kaw Valley
- Jeanette Grenz, Ministry to Incarcerated Families
- Gail Cozadd, Kansas Children’s Service League
- Dr. Dena Hubbard, Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Dr. April Terry, Fort Hays State University
- Brittany Jones, Kansas Family Voice
- Adrienne Olejnik, Kansas Action for Children
- Teresa Tuchscherer, United Women in Faith
- Tammy Wallin, Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental and Health
- Gloria Geither, Kansas Department of Corrections
- Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
- Abriona Markham, Topeka Doula Project

There was one neutral testimony:

- Sharla Smith, Kansas Birth Equity Network

The committee worked the following bills:

- [SB 434](#), exempting the practice of hair removal by sugaring from the definition of cosmetology. The bill was recommended favorably for passage without amendments and will now go before the full Senate.
- [SB 461](#), establishing the laser hair removal act to restrict the performance of laser hair removal to certain medical professionals. The committee tabled the bill.
- [SB 352](#), enacting the John D. Springer patient’s bill of rights to require hospitals to allow in-person visitation, adopt visitation policies and procedures and creating a civil cause of action for violation of such rights. Two amendments were proposed.
 - Patient definition for children. A parent could exercise revoking of visitation policy. The amendment was not adopted.
 - Page 2, lines 6-28 would be deleted. This would strike the requirement that a medical facility would need policies and procedures. They would not be allowed

to adopt any restrictions on the policy. The committee had further amendments and asked that this be held over.

Additional work on bills before the committee will occur tomorrow, Feb. 20.

Senate Judiciary Committee Hears Bill on Fingerprinting

Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Kellie Warren (R-Leawood) held a hearing on [Senate Bill 491](#), standardizing criminal history record check fingerprinting language and defining who may be fingerprinted for a criminal history record check.

Proponent testimony was received by:

- Joseph House, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services
- Jennifer Caswell, American Physical Therapy Association
- Robert Jacobs, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Neutral testimony was received by:

- Eric Turek, Kansas Insurance Department
- Alexandra Blasi, Kansas Board of Pharmacy

There were no opponents. The committee will meet again tomorrow to take final action on bills in that committee.

Committee Work on Health and Workforce Bills

The House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development committee has recommended [House Bill 2570](#) favorably for passage. The bill defines the benefit year, temporary unemployment and other terms in the employment security law, requiring electronic filing for certain employers, establishing qualifications for employment security board of review candidates, extending the deadline for new accounts following business acquisitions, making certain changes to the employer rate schedules, enabling employers to report claimant work search issues, confirming legislative coordinating council oversight for the new unemployment insurance information technology system implementation, authorizing the secretary to grant temporary unemployment, requiring the secretary to annually publish certain data and abolishing the employment security interest assessment fund.

The committee today held hearings on the following bills:

[House Bill 2790](#), transferring registration requirements and related compliance oversight and enforcement authority for professional employer organizations from the commissioner of insurance to the secretary of labor, granting the secretary responsibility over the professional employer organization fee fund and ensuring that welfare benefit plans offered by professional

employer organizations to employees and covered employees are treated as a single employer welfare benefit plan for the purposes of state law.

Proponents:

- Bill Maness, Syndeo
- Erica Brune, National Association of Professional Employer Organizations
- Erik Turek, Kansas Insurance Department.

[House Bill 2664](#), providing appropriations for and establishing a grant program for home-based childcare.

Proponents:

- Spencer Duncan, The League of Kansas Municipalities
- Chris Bennett & Colton Gibson, Wonderschool

Opponents:

- Tanya Koehn, ChildCare Aware of Kansas

[House Bill 2745](#), providing that military spouses of active military servicemembers shall be exempted from all occupations licensing, registration and certification fees.

Proponents:

- Chairman Ryan Baty, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners
- Jason Watkins, Wichita Regional Chamber
- Tamara Ray, Home Base Wichita
- Col. John Buckley, Greater Wichita Area Advocacy Board
- Jonathan McRoy, Kansas African American Affairs Commission
- Eric Stafford, Kansas Chamber

Neutral:

- Larry Karns, Kansas State Board of Technical Professions
- Alexandra Blasi, Kansas Board of Pharmacy

In addition, today the House Education Committee met to take final action on [House Bill 2645](#), amending the nursing service scholarship program to remove limits on the amount of awards and number of scholarships, modify the interest rate terms for repayment obligations and abolish the nursing service scholarship review committee. The committee amended the legislation

to allow sponsorships and give a higher amount to recipients sponsored and working in rural opportunity zones. The committee recommended favorably as amended.

The committee also took final action on [House Bill 2644](#), establishing uniform interest rate provisions for service scholarships administered by the Kansas board of regents that have repayment obligations as a part of the terms and conditions of such scholarship and authorizing the Kansas board of regents to recover the costs of collecting such repayment obligations and charge fees to cover the costs of administering such scholarship programs.

Meanwhile, today the House Health and Human Services Committee took action to recommend the following bills:

- [House Bill 2777](#), prohibiting an employee of the office of the state fire marshal from wearing or operating a body camera during an on-site inspection at patient care facility. The committee adopted language to also include juvenile centers and other patient care settings. The committee recommended the bill favorably as amended.
- [House Bill 2784](#), transferring authority for certification of continuing care retirement communities from the Kansas insurance department to the Kansas department for aging and disability services. The committee recommended taking out any changes to the bed taxes, added references to the judicial review act, and recommended the bill favorably as amended.
- [House Bill 2749](#), requiring medical care facilities and providers to report the reasons for each abortion performed at such facility. The committee recommended the changing language to refer to patient, striking certain sections of the bill to ensure there is no survey, and they recommended the bill favorably for passage.

KHA will continue to keep you updated on legislation as committees complete work tomorrow and the House and Senate spend the later part of the week working through bills in their respective chambers ahead of the Friday turnaround deadline, which will require non-exempt bills to be out of their committees of origin.

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services Works KDADS Budget Adds Contract Nursing Language

Today, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services, chaired by Senator Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick) worked the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services budget. As a part of the recommendations the subcommittee added language that would require nursing agency staff to register annually and file reports with agency annually.

The committee also approved the Kansas Healthcare Stabilization Fund Budget.