



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 7, 2025

House Appropriations Committee Works KDHE – Health Budget

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), heard the report out on the House Social Services Budget presented to them by Chairman Dave Buehler (R-Lansing). Chair Buehler highlighted KDHE budget adjustments made in the committee including:

- Proviso language allowing the Provider Assessment to be increased to up to 6 percent and allowing Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Emergency Hospitals to participate if they meet thresholds set by the HCAIP Committee.
- \$10 million in add-on payments for adult behavioral health beds in hospitals

The committee saw Representative Lisa Moser (R-Wheaton) motion, seconded by Ken Rahjes (R-Agra), to add \$1 million to upskill the health care and training program. The committee agreed with the motion and added the funding.

The committee will meet again on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Holds Hearing on SB 29

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 29](#). The legislation would regulate the activities of local health officers related to public health functions and revoke the secretary's authority to quarantine individuals and impose penalties for violations.

The committee heard from the following:

Proponents:

- Melissa Campbell
- Festus Krebs
- Kathy Brown

Opponents:

- Randy Bowman, Kansas Association of Local Health Officials
- Timothy Graham, Kansas National Educator Association
- Ashley Goss, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- William Wilk, Kansas Chamber of Commerce

[KHA also submitted opposition testimony](#). The committee will meet again next week.

House and Senate Pass Bills

This week, the Kansas Senate passed the following legislation:

[Senate Bill 14](#) provides for a continuous budget until amended, lapsed or eliminated by the legislature. The bill passed the Senate on a vote of [31-8](#).

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 1603](#), a constitutional amendment limiting valuation increases for real and personal property classified as mobile homes used for residential purposes. The resolution passed on a vote of [28-11](#).

The Senate also confirmed the following:

- Carlin Williams as brigadier general, Kansas National Guard
- Kathy Wolfe-Moore, Kansas Board of Regents

The House passed the following:

- [House Bill 2044](#) requires that third-party administrators maintain separate fiduciary accounts for individual payors and not contain funds collected or held on behalf of multiple payors and disclose to the commissioner of insurance any bankruptcy petition filed by or on behalf of such administrator pursuant to Chapter 9 or Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. The bill passed by a vote of [105-9](#).
- [House Bill 2045](#) reduces the number of board members appointed by the commissioner on certain insurance-related boards and the frequency of the committee meetings on surety bonds and insurance. The bill passed on a vote of [104-10](#).
- [House Bill 2049](#) licensing requirements for insurance agents and public adjusters; pertaining to suspension, revocation, denial of licensure and licensure renewal. The bill passed on a vote of 114-0.
- [House Bill 2050](#) authorizes the commissioner of insurance to set the amount of certain fees; requiring the publication of certain fees in the *Kansas Register*. The bill passed on a vote of 114-0.
- [House Bill 2029](#) designates a portion of the K-5 highway as the Rep. Marvin S. Robinson Memorial Highway. The bill passed on a vote of 111-0.

- [House Bill 2042](#), relating to title insurance; requiring title agents to make their audit reports available for inspection upon request of the commissioner of insurance instead of submitting such reports annually; requiring the amount of surety bonds filed with the commissioner to be \$100,000. The bill passed on a vote of [103-8](#).
- [House Bill 2043](#), relating to unfair and deceptive acts or practices; requiring agents and insurers to respond to inquiries from the commissioner of insurance within 14 calendar days; authorizing certain rebate pilot programs to exceed one year in duration. The bill passed on a vote of [97-14](#).

These bills will now go to the opposite chamber for further review.

Next Week's Schedule

Next week, the legislative committees will hit the quickest pace yet this session. The House Appropriations Committee assembles the final budget, and all committees have exactly one week to pass the remaining legislation before they head into the upcoming turnaround deadlines set for Feb. 21.

Monday, Feb. 10

Senate Public Health and Welfare – 8:30 a.m. – Room 142S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 126](#) – Enacting the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants

Hearing: [Senate Bill 175](#) – Updating the definition of athletic trainer and providing an exemption for those licensed in another state, District of Columbia, territory or foreign country to practice in Kansas

Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance – 9:30 a.m. – Room 546S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 121](#) – Authorizing the commissioner of insurance to select and announce the version of certain instructions, calculations and documents in effect for the upcoming calendar year and cause such announcement to be published in the *Kansas Register*, allowing certain life insurers to follow health financial reports and adopting certain provisions from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act relating to group capital calculations and liquidity stress testing

House Health and Human Services – 1:30 pm – 112N

Hearing: [House Bill 2039](#) – Amending definitions in the Kansas Credentialing Act to provide that certain entities providing physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology are not home health agencies

Hearing: [House Bill 2217](#) – 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

Hearing: [House Bill 2280](#) – Clarifying that the authorized activities of paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technicians and emergency medical responders may be authorized upon the order of a health care professional, permitting certain ambulance services to offer service for less than 24 hours per day, every day of the year, and requiring entities using automated external defibrillators to register with the emergency medical services board

House Child Welfare and Foster Care (Mon-Wed) – 1:30 pm – 152S

Presentation: Strategies to Address the Needs of Youth with Complex Behavioral Health Needs, Mischa Martin, senior director, Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs

House Insurance – 3:30 p.m. – Room 218N

Hearing: [House Bill 2244](#) – Modifying the composition of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy and prohibiting the board of pharmacy from adopting rules and regulations that would limit or condition the use of telepharmacy

Hearing: [House Bill 2245](#) – Transferring officers, employees, powers, duties and functions relating to the Kansas Health Care Benefits Program from the division of the Kansas Employee Health Benefits Plan of the Kansas Department of Administration to the insurance department, establishing the commissioner of insurance as the chairperson of the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission, providing that all management functions of such commission be administered by the commissioner of insurance and eliminating a pilot program regarding employer contributions for certain children

Hearing: [House Bill 2246](#) – Enacting consumer protection related to the Hospital Price Transparency Act

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Senate Public Health and Welfare – 8:30 a.m. – Room 142S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 82](#) – Requiring the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to grant physical environment waivers for certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care

Hearing: [Senate Bill 88](#) – Requiring the state long-term care ombudsman and regional ombudsman to receive training in memory care

Senate Government Efficiency – 9:30 a.m. – Room 144S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 161](#) – Requiring legislative approval prior to any state agency seeking or implementing a public assistance program waiver or other authorization from the federal government that expands eligibility for any public assistance program or increases the cost to the state

Senate Judiciary – 10:30 a.m. – Room 346S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 127](#) – Expanding the hearsay exception for statements made to a physician to all health care providers

Hearing: [Senate Bill 128](#) – Creating an exception to certain mandatory reporting obligations for licensed social workers when working under the supervision of an attorney and permitting an attorney to require a licensed social worker to keep ethical obligations of attorney-client privilege while working under the supervision of such attorney

Senate Ways and Means – 10:30 a.m. – Room 548S

Briefing by staff: House Appropriations Committee budget action

House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications – 9:00 a.m. – Room 582N

Final action: [House Bill 2110](#) – Eliminating the requirement that the Kansas 911 Board shall contract with a local collection point administrator for services, rescheduling the date on which the Kansas 911 Operations Fund, Kansas 911 Grant Fund and Kansas 911 Fund shall be established, requiring certain transfers to be made to the Kansas 911 Operations Fund and rescheduling the date for transferring all 911 fee moneys currently held outside the Kansas Treasury to the Kansas Treasury

House Health and Human Services – 1:30 p.m. – Room 112N

Hearing: [House Bill 2218](#) – Amending the definition of "psilocybin" in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to exclude the pharmaceutical composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin and adding crystalline polymorph psilocybin to Schedule IV of the Uniformed Controlled Substance Act

Hearing: [House Bill 2159](#) – Creating the Emergency Opioid Antagonists Assistance Grant Fund to provide emergency opioid antagonists to law enforcement agencies and removing law enforcement from the Kansas Board of Pharmacy's Statewide Opioid Antagonist Protocol

Hearing: [House Bill 2170](#) – Designating the first full week of February as Kansas Burn Awareness Week

House Welfare Reform – 1:30 p.m. – Room 152S

Hearing: [House Bill 2240](#) – Requiring legislative approval of any Medicaid state plan, state plan amendment, demonstration or waiver that expands coverage or increases the cost to the state

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Senate Public Health and Welfare – 8:30 am –142S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 193](#) – Removing law enforcement agencies and officers from the Kansas Board of Pharmacy's Statewide Opioid Antagonist Protocol

Hearing: [Senate Bill 145](#) – Requiring immediate notification of a report of abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency and providing for law enforcement agencies to request resources from the secretary for children and families

Senate Government Efficiency – 9:30 a.m. – Room 144S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 99](#) – Requiring the head of each state agency to certify the number of full-time positions paid from the State General Fund that have been vacant for more than 180 calendar days and the secretary of administration to abolish such positions and lapsing State General Fund appropriations for such positions for fiscal year 2026

House Health and Human Services – 1:30 p.m. – Room 112N

Hearing: [House Bill 2249](#) – Requiring the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to grant physical environment waivers for certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care

Hearing: [House Bill 2307](#) – Transferring the power to authorize and oversee certain activities regarding prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions awareness programs from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Council on developmental disabilities

Thursday, Feb. 13

Senate Public Health and Welfare – 8:30 a.m. – Room 142S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 67](#) – Authorizing registered nurse anesthetists to engage in independent practice and prescribe drugs and prohibiting registered nurse anesthetists from performing an abortion or prescribing drugs to induce an abortion

House Health and Human Services – 1:30 p.m. – Room 112N

Hearing: [House Bill 2219](#) – Enacting the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants

Hearing: [House Bill 2266](#) – Enacting the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for advanced practice registered nurses

Hearing: [House Bill 2216](#) – Requiring the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to create an informational video describing abortion laws in Kansas

Friday, Feb. 14

Senate Public Health and Welfare – 8:30 a.m. – Room 142S

Final action on bills previously heard

House Federal and State Affairs – 9:00 a.m. – Room 346S

Hearing: [House Bill 2146](#) – Increasing transfers from the Lottery Operating Fund, to the Community Crisis Stabilization Centers Fund and the Clubhouse Model Program Fund of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

KHA Bill Tracker

The [Kansas Hospital Association Bill Tracker](#) is designed to keep you up-to-date on current legislation. KHA will update and share this document weekly while the legislators are in session.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 224](#) by the Committee on Assessment and Taxation – Concerning income taxation; relating to credits; providing for the Preceptor Income Tax Incentive Act; establishing a credit for nursing home administrators, registered nurses and registered dietitians that serve as a community-based faculty preceptor in adult care homes and medical care facilities by providing personalized instruction, training and supervision for students

[Senate Bill 228](#) by the Committee on Ways and Means – Concerning health and health care; relating to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services; providing for the regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies and health care worker platforms thereby; creating the Supplemental Nursing Services Agency and Healthcare Worker Platforms Regulation Fund

[Senate Bill 229](#) by the Committee on Commerce – Concerning labor and employment; relating to occupational licensing; providing for the termination of current and new occupational licensing requirements adopted by an agency or enacted by the legislature after a period of five years unless extended by a joint resolution of the legislature; requiring that adoption of new occupational licensing requirements by a state agency be approved by joint resolution of the legislature; providing for notice to agencies and the legislature of termination dates by the revisor of statutes and the secretary of state; specifying a procedure for legislative review of occupational licensing requirements by certain committees

[Senate Bill 234](#) by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs – Concerning medical technology; prohibiting medical and research facilities from using genetic sequencers or operational software used for genetic analysis that is produced in or by a foreign adversary

[Senate Bill 243](#) by the Committee on Judiciary – Concerning criminal procedure; relating to competency to stand trial; requiring the court to make certain findings in treatment orders; requiring outpatient examination and evaluation in certain circumstances

[House Bill 2310](#) by Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, requested by Representative L. Williams – Concerning individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities and direct support workers; enacting the Career Advancement, Resources, Employment and Support for the Disability Workforce Act, providing for the development of career education programs and other efforts by the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to encourage the growth of support for individuals with disabilities as a profession; requiring the secretary to develop career education and enhancement programs for such professionals; mandating performance-based contracting for managed care organizations and other disability services providers; providing for the development of processes and procedures that facilitate choice by individuals with disabilities of service providers and the nature of the service; requiring rate parity across all state waiver programs; requiring the secretary to develop and implement an online data portal system for the management of waitlists and the provision of information to and communication with individuals with disabilities on a waitlist or receiving services through a waiver program administered by the secretary; requiring the secretary of the Kansas Department of Labor to initiate or enhance classification of and information regarding the disability service provider workforce and publish such information; providing that certain direct support workers may be covered by the state health plan

[House Bill 2314](#) Committee on Social Services Budget, requested by Representative W. Carpenter –Concerning health care; relating to secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services; establishing peer support specialist certification standards; requiring a background check for certification; directing the secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and environment to pursue a Medicaid code for telehealth services provided by peer support specialists; authorizing the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to adopt rules and regulations