



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

2026 Legislative Preview

A preview of likely items to be discussed during the 2026 Legislative Session.

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Executive Summary

The 2026 Kansas Legislative Session marks the second year of the biennium, meaning all legislation introduced during the 2025 session will carry over into the upcoming year. This creates a fast-paced and strategic environment, influenced not only by policy goals but also by the political realities of an election year.

With every member of the Kansas House, all statewide elected officials and one U.S. Senate seat on the ballot, lawmakers are expected to focus on visible, decisive issues. This emphasis, combined with tight timelines and limited appetite for controversial negotiations, will lead leadership to narrow their focus and prioritize objectives they want to achieve during the 2026 session.

Redistricting discussions and efforts to increase legislative oversight of federal Rural Health Transformation Program grant funds are likely to influence early-session activities.

Debates about tax reform, property valuation transparency and KPERS sustainability will overlap with broader budget decisions, creating tension between long-term fiscal responsibility and short-term political interests.

Taken together, these factors indicate a fast-moving, politically intense session. Hospital and health system leaders should anticipate quick hearings, heightened committee activity and a focus on clear, prompt advocacy.

Interim Committee Recommendations

Interim committees also have spent time exploring key topics likely to get attention in 2026 including;

- Health and Human Services-Related
 - Prior authorization requirements for repairs of complex wheelchairs
 - AI in health care with an emphasis on Behavioral Health and Counseling Services
 - Long-term care surveyor process and oversight
 - Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility language that is currently included each year in the state budget rather than in a permanent statute
 - Looking at the creation of a modifier for mobile sedation dentistry provider payments in Medicaid
 - Allow long-term care patients to obtain medications at a pharmacy of their choice without a fee
 - Reducing contract staffing at state hospitals such as Larned and Osawatomie and incentivizing the State Institutional Alternatives Program
 - Nursing programs' current wait lists
 - The Board of Nursing processes and makeup
 - Changes to the investment policies of the Healthcare Stabilization Fund and allowing APRNs to participate in the fund
 - Consider amending the CARE Act to allow independent review of abuse screening test results, with parents able to appeal as needed, and medical records to be released to the parents' attorney within 30 days of the investigation
 - Exploring ways to improve the credentialing process for substance abuse treatment providers
- Pensions and Benefits
 - Contributing additional funds to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System
 - Passing a bill to lower the dividend interest credit threshold and increase dividend shares
 - Allowing schools to participate in the DROP program
- Tax
 - Researching restrictions on the appraisal process and qualifications
 - Creation of a property tax ombudsman
 - Payment structure changes
 - Transparency in programs and exemptions
- Budget
 - Set aside a separate discussion on new funding for pay raises beyond the state pay plan and recoup the 1.5 percent lapse while freezing new full-time employee requests.
- Other items
 - Possible changes to State Fire Marshal Authority
 - Review the authority of the Mid-American Regional Council
 - Updates to the Kansas Technology-Enabled Fiduciary Financial Institutions Act
 - Eliminating the Rural Opportunity Zone Program and reallocating those funds to the Business and Job Development Tax Credit
 - Further exploration of licensure compacts

These topics, recommended by interim committees, are typically more likely to pass during a fast-paced session, with many ready to get to work on the upcoming 2026 elections.

*Hearing Held in first chamber committee

**Passed first committee

***Passed committee and first chamber floor

****Passed committee, first chamber floor, and hearing held in second chamber committee

Elections Overview

The 2026 elections will include all state house members serving in Topeka, all statewide officeholders, the U.S. House members, and one U.S. Senator from Kansas. Although the entire field will be finalized by the June 1, 2026, filing deadline, below is a list of filed or publicly active statewide candidates to date.

Kansas Governor:

Republicans:

Doug Billings, a podcaster from Olathe, filed to run, but his running mate, April McCoy, said she no longer wants to run for lieutenant governor. The Kansas attorney general suggested Billings will need to re-file if he wants to stay in the race.

Jeff Colyer, a former governor, lieutenant governor from Overland Park and a physician, has started fundraising but has not yet officially filed.

Joy Eakins, a former school board member from Wichita who owns a data consulting firm, has started campaigning.

Ty Masterson from Andover is the current Senate president and has served in the legislature in both the House and the Senate since 2005.

Charlotte O'Hara from Overland Park served in the state house from 2011-2013 and served as a Johnson County commissioner.

Dayton Moore, from Johnson County, previously served as the general manager of the Kansas City Royals. Moore has recently mentioned the possibility of exploring other state races.

Stacy Rogers from Wichita is a business owner and a former water commissioner who has worked in pharmacy and medical settings.

Phillip Sarnecki from Bucyrus is a business owner and financial advisor.

Vicki Schmidt of Topeka has served as the insurance commissioner since 2019. She previously served in the Kansas Senate from 2005 to 2019 and is a pharmacist by background.

Scott Schwab from Overland Park has served as secretary of state since 2019 and was a member of the Kansas House of Representatives from 2003 to 2019.

Democrats:

Ethan Corson (D-Fairway) has served in the Kansas Senate since 2021 and is an attorney by training.

Cindy Holscher (D-Overland Park) has been serving in the Kansas Senate since 2021 after representing in the House from 2017 to 2020. She has a background in advertising.

Marty Tuley from Lawrence is an author and personal trainer.

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Kansas Secretary of State:

Republicans:

Pat Proctor (R-Leavenworth) has served since 2021 in the House, and Ken Rahjes (R-Agra) has served in the State House since 2015.

Democrats:

Samuel Lane from Shawnee and Jennifer Day from Mission.

Kansas Insurance Commissioner:

At this time, the only announced candidate for the race is Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita), who has served in the House since 2013 and as speaker since 2023.

Kansas Attorney General:

This race is a rematch from the 2022 election with incumbent Republican Kris Kobach running again against Democrat Chris Mann.

Policy items are likely to see some votes during the 2026 session, and these will probably be featured in advertising for candidate races statewide.

Policy Overview

Kansas State Budget and Medicaid

Kansas State Budget

State revenue estimates released on Dec. 1, 2026, show that the state will end November 2025 with total tax collections of \$687.0 million, which is \$1.9 million, or 0.3 percent, below the latest estimates but up 1.7 percent from November 2024. The November estimates show that individual income tax collections increased, but corporate income tax collections remained below estimates and were also below the November 2024 levels.

Both the governor and legislature have at times expressed concern about the out-year ending balances of the State General Fund as they begin preparing to release the proposed budget for 2027. With some federal funding changes, it's expected that any increases in state budget revenue estimates from last year might be quickly offset by reductions in federal funds.

Again this year, the state legislature for the second time, will introduce a budget starting point different from the Governor's suggested budget, for the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees to work from.

Coverage Changes

With the federal government not extending the enhanced premium tax credit, non-expansion states like Kansas could see significant changes in who has insurance coverage as people decide whether they can afford plans without the EPTC.

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Children’s Health Insurance Program Eligibility Fix

For the past several years, the legislature has included language in the budget bill to ensure that eligibility is determined by the most current federal poverty level rather than the 2008 level. There have been bills introduced in previous years to address this language permanently, and it could come up again in 2026.

Health and Hospital Policy

340B

[SB 284](#) passed the Senate during the 2025 session with a vote of 34-6. The bill then went to the House, where, in a rare move, it was concurrently referred to both the Interstate Cooperation and the Committee on Insurance. This approach suggests that legislative leadership is unlikely to support a traditional process for advancing this legislation with a hearing or further consideration. The issue may be revisited in the 2026 session. ***

Medicaid Expansion

[SB 257](#)/[HB 2375](#), Expanding medical assistance eligibility and enacting the healthcare access for working Kansans (HAWK) act.

Hospital Pricing Transparency

[HB 2246](#) would enact the consumer protection related to hospital price transparency act. The bill, as amended, would require the Attorney General to notify a hospital of compliance and allow the Attorney General to notify CMS if hospitals are not in compliance and lists the provisions of federal law into state statute. ***

Medical Next of Kin/Guardianship

The state could consider enacting a medical next-of-kin process into state law to ensure patients can more easily transfer between care settings.

[HB 2144](#) enacting the Supported Decision-Making Agreements Act, establishes a statutory framework for adults seeking decision-making assistance and amends the crime of mistreatment of a dependent adult or elder.

Lay Caregiver Act

The Legislative Post Audit Committee has introduced [HB 2002](#) and [SB 3](#), which would amend the Lay Caregiver Act (passed in 2017) in KSA 65-431 A. The amendments would require the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to verify each hospital's compliance with the Lay Caregiver Act, conduct an annual compliance audit, compile the results and report to the health committees each year. The House bill did not have a hearing, and although the Senate bill had a hearing during 2025, it was not acted upon.

Abortion

[HB 2305](#) would require reporting certain abortion complications to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. It remains in the House Health and Human Services.

[HB 2353](#) would require that certain written information be provided to patients when a physician or health care provider administers or prescribes any medicine or drug for the purpose of inducing an abortion.

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[SB 174/HB 2171](#) would establish the Abolish Abortion Kansas Act, making all abortions subject to criminal prosecution.

[SB 198/HB 2009](#) would ban abortion except when necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman.

[HB 2010](#) would ban abortion procedures and create the crime of unlawful abortion and destruction of a fertilized embryo.

Licensure and Scope of Practice

[HB 2370](#) would require additional licensing requirements for assisted living facilities with dementia care.

[SB 41](#) adds APRNs to the definition of health care provider for purposes of the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act. *

[SB 229](#), as amended by committee, would require the adoption of new occupational licenses and material changes to existing licenses by certain state agencies to be approved by the Legislature. The bill would also require agencies to annually report certain information to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations. The Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Board of Nursing, Kansas Dental Board, State Board of Healing Arts, State Board of Pharmacy and State Board of Technical Professions would be exempt from the provisions of the bill. ***

[SB 253](#) enacts the Massage Therapist Licensure Act.

[HB 2072](#) enacts the Art Therapist Licensure Act.

[HB 2157](#) expands the pharmacist's scope of practice to include point-of-care testing and treatment of COVID-19.

[HB 2223](#) modifies provisions of the optometry law relating to the scope of practice. Passed the House on a vote of [97-24](#). ****

[HB 2251](#) requires the Kansas Board of Healing Arts to grant provisional licensure to certain international physicians with offers of employment at health care providers operating in Kansas.

[HB 2266](#) enacts the APRN Registered Nurse Compact. *

[HB 2366](#) expands the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors.

[HB 2367](#) provides naturopathic doctors a certificate of authorization for a business entity to practice medicine.

[HB 2368](#) provides for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.*

[HB 2369](#) allows pharmacists to administer certain vaccines to children and adults pursuant to a protocol.

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Pharmacy

Legislation could be introduced this year regarding Pharmacy Benefit Manager reforms to add oversight and authority and protection from claw-backs and unnecessary fees to pharmacies.

[SB 212](#) enacts the Prescription Drug Cost and Affordability Review Act to establish the Prescription Drug Pricing Board and Prescription Drug Affordability Stakeholder Council to review the cost of prescription medications and establish upper payment limits for certain prescription drugs.

[HB 2218](#) amends the definition of “psilocybin” in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, by adding crystalline polymorph psilocybin to Schedule IV of the Uniformed Controlled Substance Act.*

[HB 2244](#) modifies the composition of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy, prohibiting the Board of Pharmacy from adopting rules and regulations that would limit the use of telepharmacy.*

Workforce/Human Resources/Worker’s Compensation

[SB 189](#) provides injured employees the freedom of choice to designate their health care provider and requires the employer to pay for the services of such health care provider with regard to Workers' Compensation.

[SB 196](#) would require business entities and public employers to register and use the E-Verify program for employment purposes and prohibit income tax deductions, wages, and remuneration paid to unauthorized aliens. Hearing held in Senate Federal and State Affairs.

[SB 216](#) would enact the Kansas Paid Sick Time Act. The attempt to pull from the committee failed on a vote of [9-30](#).

[HB 2239](#) would require every employer to provide each employee with meal periods and rest periods.

[SB 218](#)/[HB 2151](#) increases the Kansas minimum wage.

Patient Care

[HB 2267](#) prohibits certain health care providers from providing “conversion therapy” for the purpose of sexual orientation or gender identity.

[HB 2100](#) establishes statewide standards for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis, permitting a pharmacist to initiate such medication, providing civil liability protections to pharmacists who initiate prophylactic therapy.

[SB 19](#) enacts the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act to prohibit discrimination against individuals who refuse medical care and creates a civil cause of action based on such discrimination and revokes the authority of the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties. *

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Miscellaneous

911 Operators

[SB 11](#) was introduced last session, which would require the 911 Board to establish requirements for 911 telecommunicators to receive training and continuous education in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *

Behavioral Health

[SB 243](#) requires outpatient competency evaluations in certain circumstances and requires the court to make findings for inpatient competency evaluations.

[HB 2236](#) establishing the Mental Health Intervention Team Program in the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services in the state statute, providing incentives for coordination between school districts, schools and the Mental Health Intervention Team. **

Good Samaritan Protections

Legislation to allow citizens to use expired Naloxone in the treatment of an individual in crisis. May be seen in 2026.

Tax

[SCR5011](#) relates to property taxation; limiting valuation increases for real property. ***

[SB 280](#) requires the approval by a majority of electors voting at an election in order for the governing body of any taxing entity to increase its total amount of property tax to be levied by more than the annual rate of inflation. *

[SB 283](#) decreases individual income tax rates, discontinues tax credits of the High-Performance Incentive Program and the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act, discontinues payroll withholding tax benefits of the Promoting Employment Across Kansas Act, discontinues the crediting of certain amounts to the Job Creation Program Fund and repeals certain tax credits. *

[HB 2001](#) continues the reimbursement from the taxpayer notification costs fund for printing and postage costs of county clerks.

[HB 2005](#) enacts the Veterans' Valor Property Tax Relief Act. **

[HB 2230](#) enacts the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

[HB 2024](#) enacts the Fighting Chance for Firefighters Act, provides a tax credit for firefighters with unreimbursed medical expenses for screening for occupation-related cancer. *

[HB 2094](#) authorizes the sale of electronic cigarettes in vending machines. *

[S Sub for HB 2396](#) authorizes the use of a protest petition to limit the funding of a taxing jurisdiction by property tax revenues exceeding a certain amount. ***

Insurance

[SB 25](#) enacts the Insurance Savings Account Act, allows individuals and corporations to establish insurance savings accounts with certain financial institutions. *

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[SB 219](#) imposes certain health insurance coverage requirements for screening and diagnostic examinations for breast cancer.

[HB 2296](#) requires certain health insurance plans to impose a no-cost sharing requirement for a diagnostic or supplemental breast cancer examination for breast cancer imposed on an insured.

[HB 2364](#) prohibits certain health insurers from requiring cost-sharing for nonopioid prescription drugs or providing less favorable coverage for such drugs compared to opioid or narcotic prescription drugs for the treatment of pain.

Public Assistance

[SB 85](#)***/[HB 2360](#)* directs the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families to review and compare data for public assistance program eligibility, remains in House Welfare Reform.

[SB 254](#)**/[HB 2373](#) prohibits unauthorized aliens from receiving any state or local public benefit in accordance with applicable federal law.

[HB 2287](#) eliminates certain restrictions on eligibility for public assistance.

Legal

[SB 127](#) expands the hearsay exception for statements made to a physician to all health care providers.*

Child Abuse

[SB 102](#) clarifies the identifying information in mandatory reports of abuse or neglect of children and increases the penalty for failing to report such abuse or neglect.

[SB 145](#) requires immediate notification of a report of abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency and provides for law enforcement agencies to request resources from the secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families.*

Cannabis

[SB 294](#) Medical Cannabis Act.

[SB 295](#) removes criminal penalties for and creates a civil penalty for possession of a personal-use quantity of marijuana.

[HB 2405](#) enacts the Adult Use Cannabis Regulation Act.

[SB 292](#) prohibits the transfer of hemp-derived cannabinoid products to any person under age 21, establishes packing and labeling requirements for such products.

KPERS/Retirement

[SB 238](#) provides a postretirement cost-of-living adjustment for certain KPERS 1 and KPERS 2 retirees.

[SB 282](#) enacts the Kansas Retirement Investment and Savings Plan Act.*

Other

[SB 136](#) limits contributions under the Campaign Finance Act made to political committees for the purpose of independent contributions and requires the reporting of such independent contributions.

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[SB 181](#) limits the annual amount of expenditures and demand transfers from the State General Fund, requires certification by the state treasurer and provides for additional requirements on the governor's and legislature's budget plans. ***

[SB 286](#) relates to the definitions of lobbyist, lobbying and lobbying client for the purposes of the state governmental ethics law.*

[SB 293](#) authorizes technical and community colleges to affiliate with universities.

[HB 2245](#) transfers oversight of the state employee health plan to the Kansas Insurance Commissioner. ***

[HB 2314](#) directs the secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to establish and expand peer support specialist certifications, and the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to pursue a Medicaid code for telehealth services provided by peer support specialists.*

[HB 2403](#) establishes the order of priority of a decedent's surviving parents who cannot agree on the disposition of such decedent's remains.

[SB 16](#) prohibits discrimination by financial services companies on the basis of social credit score and requires registered investment advisers to obtain written consent from clients prior to investing client money in mutual funds, equity funds, companies and financial institutions that engage in ideological boycotts.

[SB 150](#) prohibits the denial of coverage for the refilling of prescription topical eye medication.

[SB 151](#) requires the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to request a waiver from the United States Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to end participation in certain expenditure authorities under the KanCare demonstration. *

[SB 273](#) requires special elections to be held on the first Tuesday in March.

[HCR 5013](#) urges Congress to give state insurance regulators authority over Medicare Advantage plans. **

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