



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 29, 2024

Senate Committee Hears Agency Budgets

Today, the Senate Committee on Transparency and Ethics, chaired by Sen. Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia), heard agency budgets for the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, Kansas State Board of Nursing and Kansas Board of Pharmacy. The committee heard overviews from agency staff and the Kansas Department of Legislative Research to review the governor's budget recommendations and agency enhancement requests.

The committee asked about the difference in licensing facilities, as well as individuals. The committee inquired as to the number of physicians practicing in Kansas. They also asked about market rates for nurses in Kansas and those working as traveling nurses out of state. The Kansas Board of Pharmacy informed the committee they have been awarded two grants to keep the funding of K-TRACS intact. They may request a budget adjustment once those funds are awarded.

The committee accepted the budgets as proposed by the governor. The committee's recommendations will now go before the full Ways and Means Committee.

House Financial Institutions and Pensions Hears Bill on Financial Exploitation Act

Today, the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee, chaired by Representative Nick Hoheisel (R-Wichita), held hearings on legislation, including [House Bill 2562](#), the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act. The committee heard from proponents:

- Eric Turek, Kansas Insurance Department
- Clay Johnson, assistant general counsel, Kansas Insurance Department
- Travis Grauerholz, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
- Glenda DuBoise, state director, AARP
- Leslie Anderson, executive director, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

There was no neutral or opposition testimony. The committee will meet again this week to hear and work the bills before them.

House Health and Human Services Hears Bills and Vaccine Updates

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), heard an update from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on vaccines in Kansas. Ashley Goss, KDHE deputy secretary for public health, discussed the relevant state statutes and school and daycare vaccine requirements and exemptions. Goss also covered the requirements for college students, hospital employees, daycare workers and businesses. The committee requested clarification that hospitals receiving Medicare funding are required to meet both state and federal requirements.

The committee also held a hearing on [House Bill 2596](#), adding and removing certain substances in schedules I, II, IV and V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and making conforming changes to the criminal code definitions of fentanyl-related controlled substances. Alexandra Blasi, executive secretary of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy appeared before the committee as a proponent. Nicholas Reieger, private citizen appeared as a neutral conferee. There were no opponents to the bill. The committee recommended the bill for passage. It will now go to the full house floor.

The committee will meet again tomorrow for hearings on [House Bill 2547](#) and [House Bill 2578](#). HB 2547 authorizes schools to maintain certain emergency medication kits and to administer such medication in emergencies. HB 2578 provides that programs and treatments provided by a certified community behavioral health clinic be granted a renewal certification if such programs and treatments have been previously certified or accredited.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 390](#) – Concerning public health; relating to medical care; enacting the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act; prohibiting discrimination against individuals who refuse certain medical interventions and creating a civil cause of action against entities who discriminate based upon such medical care refusal; revoking the authority of the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to order individuals to isolate or quarantine and impose penalties for violations thereof – By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

[Senate Bill 391](#) – Concerning public health; relating to infectious or contagious diseases; changing the authority of the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and local health officers; naming the Constitutional Right to Health Freedom Act; revoking the authority of the secretary to order individuals to isolate or quarantine and impose penalties for violations thereof – By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

[Senate Bill 392](#) – Concerning the prescription monitoring program; relating to the attorney general; granting the Medicaid inspector general access to the prescription monitoring program database without a warrant; replacing the member of the Program Advisory Committee representing the Kansas Bureau of Investigation with a member nominated by the office of the attorney general – By Committee on Judiciary

[Senate Bill 395](#) – Concerning the University of Kansas Hospital Authority; requiring prior approval by the legislature or the Legislative Coordinating Council when the legislature is not in session when purchasing, leasing, trading, exchanging or otherwise acquiring, constructing, repairing, remodeling or renovating any real property or facility outside of the state of Kansas – By Committee on Ways and Means

[Senate Bill 404](#) – Concerning health and health care; relating to the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; permitting the use of expedited partner therapy for the treatment thereof – By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

[House Bill 2578](#) – Concerning health and health care; relating to certified community behavioral health clinics; providing for renewal certification of programs and treatments that have been previously certified or accredited – By Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Representative Buehler on behalf of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas

[House Bill 2579](#) – Concerning health professions and practices; relating to the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services; authorized activities; authorizing distribution of non-prescription over-the-counter medications – By Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Representative Ruiz on behalf of Johnson County MED-ACT, Kansas City Kansas Fire Department, Johnson County Emergency Medical Services Physician, Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue

[House Bill 2580](#) – Concerning children and minors; relating to the revised Kansas Code for Care of Children; providing authority for a court or a guardian to consent to mental, emotional or behavioral health screening and treatment of a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of care; granting immunity to providers who provide such screening and treatment in good faith; defining behavioral health treatment – By Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care, Requested by Laura Howard on behalf of the Kansas Department for Children and Families

[House Bill 2595](#) – Concerning insurance; relating to the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission; mandating coverage for certain allergen introduction dietary supplements for infants; requiring submission of an impact report on such mandatory coverage to the legislature – By Representatives Butler, Bloom, Buehler, Ellis, Johnson, Schlingensiepen and Underhill

[House Bill 2596](#) – Concerning controlled substances; adding and removing certain substances in schedules I, II, IV and V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act; making conforming changes to the criminal code definition of fentanyl-related controlled substances – By Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Representative Clifford on behalf of the State Board of Pharmacy

[House Bill 2599](#) – Concerning the Open Records Act; relating to charges for public records requested thereunder; prohibiting charges for electronic copies and determinations of whether a record exists; limiting charges for employee time required to make records available – By Committee on K-12 Education Budget, Requested by Representative Thomas

[House Bill 2614](#) – Concerning administrative rules and regulations; requiring state agencies to provide notice of revocation thereof; removing certain abolished or inactive state agencies from the five-year state agency review requirement – By Committee on Elections, Requested by Clay Barker, General Counsel, Kansas Secretary of State