



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 31, 2024

House Social Services Budget Committee Hears from KDADS

Yesterday, the House Social Services Budget Committee, chaired by Rep. Les Mason (R-McPherson), heard about agency budgets including those of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. The committee received an overview from the Kansas Legislative Research Staff and Deputy Secretary Scott Brunner of KDADS. The committee heard a budget overview of the mental health hospitals. Brunner highlighted Hospital programs, turnover and vacancy rates, admissions and wait lists. You can [view the presentation here](#).

The committee also approved the budgets for the Kansas Health Care Stabilization Fund and the Kansas Guardianship Program as recommended by the governor's budget. The committee will continue working budgets throughout the week.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Barbering Bill

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on [Senate Bill 363](#). The legislation amends statutes regulating the practice of barbering regarding licensure, examination and fees. Committee members inquired as to the increased emails asking for a hearing on Medicaid expansion. The chair indicated she understands that a hearing will occur in some committees.

The committee meets again on Thursday for a hearing on [Senate Bill 103](#), updating certain provisions of the Kansas Dental Practices Act relating to dentist information requested by patients, in-person practice requirements in dental offices using the licensee's name; unprofessional conduct and patient complaints.

House Appropriations Hears Updates on Community and Technical Colleges

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), heard an update from State Community and Technical Colleges. Heather Morgan, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, highlighted that enrollments have increased by 10,000 students in training, nursing programs and the CNA training but not staying for LPN training. Apprenticeships and related training, and average student loans for the programs also were covered. You can view the testimony here: [Community College](#) and [Technical College](#).

House Health and Human Services Hears EMS Related Bill

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), held a hearing on [House Bill 2579](#). The legislation authorizes the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services to distribute non-prescription over-the-counter medications. The committee heard from the following:

Proponents in writing and appearing before the committee:

- David Adams, Kansas EMS Association
- Paul Davis, Johnson County Department of Emergency Services
- Bryan Beaver, MD, EMS medical director

Opponents:

- Joseph House, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services indicated this is already being done.

The committee amended the bill to remove outdated language. The committee recommended the bill favorably as amended.

The committee also worked [House Bill 2578](#). The committee held lengthy discussions about who should be allowed to access the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic licensure with federally qualified health centers seeking the ability also to be deemed a CCBHC in the future. The bill was recommended favorably for passage as amended.

Child Welfare Committee Hears Bill About Medical Treatment

Today, the Child Welfare Committee, chaired by Rep. Susan Concannon (R-Beloit), held a hearing on [House Bill 2580](#). The legislation would include mental, emotional and behavioral health treatment to medical services that may be provided to a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of care.

Proponents of the bill, written and verbal, included:

- Rachel Marsh, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Alliance of Kansas
- Tanya Keys, Kansas Department of Children and Families
- Justin Horton, Cornerstones of Care

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Works Bill

Today, the Committee of Corrections and Juvenile Justice worked [House Bill 2487](#). The legislation provides immunity from prosecution for certain drug crimes when persons seek or provide medical assistance related to the use of a controlled substance with committee amendments.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 411](#) – Concerning state audits; abolishing the division of legislative post audit and the legislative post audit committee; creating the office of state auditor and providing for the powers and duties thereof; providing for the election of the state auditor and term of office; enacting the State Audit Act – By Senator Olson

[House Bill 2637](#) – Concerning hospitals; relating to rural emergency hospital licensure; expanding eligibility to facilities that meet criteria between January 2015 and December 2020 – By Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Representative Bryce on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association

[House Bill 2645](#) – Concerning postsecondary education; relating to the Nursing Service Scholarship Program; removing limits on the number of scholarship awards and the number of scholarships; removing the requirement to obtain a sponsor; modifying the terms and conditions for interest accrual on repayment obligations; abolishing the Nursing Service Scholarship Review Committee – By Committee on Education, Requested by Fred Patton on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents