



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 6, 2024

House Health and Human Services Holds Hearings on REH and Visitation Bills

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), held hearings on the following bills:

[House Bill 2548](#) – Enacts the No Patient Left Alone Act, requires facilities to allow in-person visitation to certain patients at hospitals, adult care homes and hospice facilities. The committee saw two amendments clarifying this applies to end-of-life care, allowing one or more visitors, and changing section (i) to ensure that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is reporting individual complaints. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage as amended.

Proponent testimony:

- Deann Feldt, private citizen and nurse
- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society
- Kylee Childs, LeadingAge Kansas

Neutral conferees seeking amendments included:

- [Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association](#)
- Nicol Milo, Mountain Regional Common Spirit Health

There were no opponents.

[House Bill 2637](#) – Expands eligibility for rural emergency hospital licensure to facilities meeting the criteria at any point after 2015.

Proponent testimony:

- [Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association](#)
- Drew Talbott, Ascension Via Christi Pittsburg
- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society
- Alex Feeman, Association of Kansas Municipalities

There were no opponents or neutral conferees.

The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage. It now goes to the full House.

The committee meets again tomorrow for a hearing on [House Bill 2622](#). HB 2622 amends the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act to prohibit smoking on the gaming floor of a lottery gaming facility or racetrack gaming facility.

House Takes Up Resolution on Kansas National Guard

Today, the House of Representatives held a debate on the following:

- [House Bill 2495](#) – Makes and concerns appropriations for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, for state agencies; increases expenditure limitations to the foregoing; funds for fiscal year 2024 salary increase for certain state employees. The bill was recommended favorably for passage.
- The body held a lengthy discussion on [House Resolution 6035](#) – Affirms state sovereignty and supports Texas in its efforts to combat illegal immigration.
- The House took a final action vote on [House Bill 2545](#) – Provides for the sale of property not retrieved by an occupant after notice, allows electronic signatures and delivery for rental agreements, defines property that has no commercial value, provides for the deemed effectiveness of rental agreements not signed or delivered by an owner or occupant and specifies custody of abandoned or towed property under the self-service storage act. The bill passed on a vote of [118-3](#) and will go before the Senate.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears Bill to Expand Silver Alerts

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 371](#). The legislation expands the Kansas Silver Alert Plan to provide public notice of missing persons 18 years of age or older who have an intellectual disability.

Conferees expressing support in writing or before the committee included:

- Nick Wood, Interhab
- Callie Simmons, Kansas City Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Delancy Allred, Autism Society
- Marvin Miller, special educator/parent

Other conferees providing written comments included Ed Klumpp with Law Enforcement communities submitting neutral testimony.

Opposition testimony was received from Bob Stuart from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The committee meets tomorrow to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 352](#). The legislation enacts the John D. Springer Patient's Bill of Rights to require hospitals to allow in-person visitation, adopt visitation policies and procedures and create a civil cause of action for violation of such rights.

House Federal and State Affairs Committee Recommends Bill Related to Cause of Death

Today, the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), worked [House Bill 2358](#). The legislation permits mid-level practitioners to provide medical certification to attest to an individual's cause of death to file a death certificate. The committee made one technical amendment and an amendment to further define "mid-level" practitioners. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage. It will now go to the full House.

House Insurance Committee Recommends Bills

Yesterday, the House Insurance Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Sutton (R-Gardner), passed out the following bills:

[House Bill 2478](#) – Adds "maternity center" to the definition of "healthcare provider" for purposes of the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act

[House Bill 2533](#) – Requiring that per diem amounts, expenses and funding for examinations be reasonable and establishing a tiered fee structure for examinations of insurance companies and societies based on gross premiums. The committee did make one amendment clarifying the terms of average and reasonable.

These bills now go to the full House of Representatives.

Governor's Budget Amendment Announced

Today, the governor's office announced what is known as a governor's budget amendment to her previously released fiscal year 2025 budget. The amendment invests more than \$23 million for Intellectual/Developmental Disability and Physical Disability waivers.

Governor Laura Kelly renewed the call for Medicaid expansion and highlighted that 15,000 Kansans with disabilities would be eligible for health insurance coverage. She suggested this investment could help reduce the waitlist by 500 Kansans. You can read more about the GBA by visiting [GBA Memo](#).