



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 7, 2024

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears Hospital Visitation Bill

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 352](#), known as the John D. Springer Patient's Bill of Rights. The legislation requires hospitals to allow in-person visitation, adopt visitation policies and procedures and creating a civil cause of action for violation of such rights.

Proponents included:

- Senator Mark Steffan (R-Hutchinson)
- Peggy Springer – spouse of John D. Springer
- Amy Siple, APRN, FNP GS-C
- Andrea Erickson, Individual
- Debbie Detmer, Individual
- Georganne Lovelace, Individual
- Julie Ribelin, Individual
- Karen Hershey, Individual
- Kathy Brown, Nurse and Attorney

Appearing in opposition:

- [Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association](#)
- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society

Debra Mize, Kansans for Health Freedom, appeared as a neutral conferee.

The committee also worked [Senate Bill 363](#), amending statutes regulating the practice of barbering regarding licensure, examination and fees. The bill now goes before the full Senate.

House Appropriations Works Budgets

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), held hearings and heard budgets from the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. The committee removed one full-time employee from the budget and recommended fiscal years 2024 and 2025 as amended. The committee also heard an overview from the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and made no changes to the sub-committee report.

The committee also held a hearing on [House Bill 2472](#). The legislation authorizes the governor to submit a budget report to the legislature that increases the total expenditures by not more than 2 percent of the total expenditures from the immediately preceding fiscal year. Appearing before the committee as a proponent was Rep. Henry Helgerson (D-Wichita). Neutral written testimony was submitted by the Kansas League of Municipalities. Opposition written testimony was submitted by the Kansas National Education Association.

The committee meets tomorrow to hear from Kansas University Presidents and continue report outs of budget sub-committees.

Legislative Modernization Committee Hears Rules and Regulations Bills

Today, the Legislative Modernization Committee, chaired by Rep. Barbara Wasinger (R-Hays), held hearings on two bills dealing with rules and regulations.

[House Bill 2614](#) requires state agencies to provide to the public notice of revocation of administrative rules and regulations and removes abolished state agencies from the state agency review requirement.

[House Bill 2615](#) provides for the publishing, printing and distribution of state laws and administrative rules and regulations.

The only conferee for both bills was proponent testimony from Clay Barker, Kansas Secretary of State's Office. The committees recommended both bills favorably for passage. They now go for the full House.

Committees Hear and Work Bills

Today, the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee held a hearing on [House Bill 2353](#). The legislation increases the amount of time a person may be held for treatment and adds criteria for when continued treatment may be ordered under the Care and Treatment Act for mentally ill persons.

Meanwhile, the House Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing on [House Bill 2622](#). HB 2622 amends the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act prohibiting smoking on the gaming floor of a lottery gaming facility or racetrack gaming facility.

Senate Ways and Means Takes Up Budget Subcommittees for State Hospitals

Today, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Sen. Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), heard budget report outs. The committee took up state institutions for mental health and intellectual disabilities. The Ways and Means Committee made no changes to the sub-committee recommendations.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 460](#) – Concerning public health; relating to anaphylaxis; requiring the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to adopt anaphylaxis prevention and response policies for schools and daycare facilities; setting guidelines and procedures therefor – By the Committee on Public Health and Welfare

[Senate Bill 461](#) – Concerning health and health care; relating to laser hair removal; creating the Laser Hair Removal Act; restricting the practice thereof to certain medical professionals – By the Committee on Public Health and Welfare

[House Bill 2709](#) – Concerning school districts; relating to drug abuse awareness education programs; establishing Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week; requiring the Kansas State Board of Education to designate such week each school year and develop statewide standards for instruction to certain students on the abuse of and addiction to fentanyl and other opioids; requiring school districts to provide such instruction during such week – By Reps. Martinez and Melton

[House Bill 2713](#) – Concerning health and health care; relating to insurance; enacting the Ensuring Transparency in Prior Authorization Act; imposing certain requirements and limitations on the use of prior authorization – By the Committee on Insurance, Requested by Rep. Essex on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association

[House Bill 2716](#) – Concerning the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; relating to the duties of the secretary; providing for the study and investigation of maternal deaths in the state of Kansas; continuing in existence exceptions to the disclosure of public records under the Open Records Act related to maternal death investigations – By Rep. Ousley

[House Bill 2723](#) – An Act making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; relating to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services; creating a grant program to fund proposed homeless shelter infrastructure; establishing requirements for such grants awarded – By the Committee on Welfare Reform, Requested by Jason Watkins on behalf of the Sedgwick County Commission

[House Bill 2742](#) – Concerning children and minors; relating to the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families; directing the secretary to reimburse a hospital when a child in the custody of the secretary remains at the hospital and is no longer receiving medical services – By the Committee on Child Welfare and Foster Care, Requested by Brad Smoot on behalf of Children's Mercy Hospital

[House Bill 2745](#) – Concerning occupational licensing; relating to occupational licensing, certification and registration fees; providing that military spouses of active military service members shall be exempted from all such fees – By the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, Requested by Jason Watkins on behalf of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce

[House Bill 2746](#) – Concerning health and health care; relating to health care professions; updating the requirements for receiving and renewing a license under the Dietitians Licensing Act – By the Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Rep. S. Ruiz

[House Bill 2747](#) – Concerning health professions and practices; relating to pharmacists; expanding the pharmacist scope of practice to include initiation of therapy for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis – By the Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Rep. Oropesa on behalf of Rep. Woodard

[House Bill 2749](#) – Concerning abortion; relating to reports on abortions performed in this state; requiring the reporting of the reasons for each abortion performed at a medical care facility or by a health care provider – By the Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Rep. Bryce on behalf of Kansans for Life

[House Bill 2750](#) – 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 the Committee on Health and Human Services, Requested by Rep. Bryce on behalf of Kansans for Life

[House Bill 2752](#) – Concerning health insurance; relating to dental benefit plans and services; establishing the Dental Ratio Act; requiring the calculation of the annual dental loss ratio by each dental benefit plan; requiring each dental benefit plan to file an annual report; rebating certain dollar amounts to insureds or plan administrators when the dental loss ratio percentage does not meet the required loss ratio percentage; authorizing the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations – By the Committee on Insurance, Requested by Kevin Robertson on behalf of the Kansas Dental Association

[House Bill 2756](#) – Concerning the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board; relating to the powers, duties and functions thereof; enacting the Art Therapist Licensure Act; providing for the regulation and licensing of professional art therapists – By Rep. Schreiber, Curtis, Meyer and Osman