



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 16, 2024

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Bill Limiting Local and State Powers

Today the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), met to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 391](#) - Enacting the constitutional right to health freedom act to regulate the activities of the secretary of health and environment related to public health functions; repealing statutes relating to the secretary's authority to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties.

The committee heard from the following proponents:

- Senator Mark Steffan (R-Hutchinson)
- William Mize, Kansans for Health Freedom
- Debbie Mize, Kansans for Health Freedom
- Michelle Eagleman, Individual
- Dr. Gayln Perry
- Debbie Detmer, Individual
- Connie Newcome, Individual
- Melissa Campbell, Individual
- Julie Pennington, Individual

Opponent testimony was provided by the following:

- Ashley Goss, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Heather Braum, Kansas Action for Children
- William Wilk, Sr, Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- Randy Bowman, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
- [Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association](#)

House Health and Human Services Committee Hears Bills

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita) met to hold hearings on two bills.

[House Bill 2784](#), transferring authority of certification of continuing care retirement communities from the Kansas insurance department to the Kansas department of aging and disability services and lowering the nursing facility provider assessment for continuing care retirement communities.

The committee heard proponent testimony from:

- Eric Turek, Kansas Insurance Department
- Steve Anderson, Kansas Medicaid Inspector General

The committee heard opposition testimony from:

- Linda Mowbray, Kansas Healthcare Association
- Rachel Monger, LeadingAge Kansas
- Mark Schulte, Kansas Adult Care Executives
- [Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association](#)

Neutral testimony was provided by Lacey Hunter with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services. The committee amended the bill to take out the bed tax changes that would negatively fiscally impact small nursing homes.

[House Bill 2793](#), prohibiting health care providers from performing healthcare services on minors without parental consent.

The committee heard proponent testimony from:

- Representative Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville)
- Rachelle Columbo, Kansas Medical Society
- Douglas Mund, Grace Fellowship
- Jill O' Connor, Private Citizen

The committee heard opposition testimony from:

- Carol Moreland, Kansas State Board of Nursing
- Dr. Dena Hubbard, Kansas Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
- Randy Callstrom, Wyandotte Behavioral Health
- Amy Campbell, Kansas Mental Health Coalition
- Charles Hunt, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
- Kimberly Martin, Kansas School Nurses Association
- Melissa Stiehler, Loud Light Civic Action
- Shannan Kimball, Kansas Association of School Boards
- Tarah Remington-Brown, Kansas Association of Family Physicians
- Raryn Jones, Equality Kansas

The committee will meet again tomorrow.

Monday, Feb. 18

Senate Public Health and Welfare 8:30 am 142S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 433](#) — Clarifying practice privileges of institutional license holders

Hearing: [Senate Bill 488](#) — Expanding the scope of the inspector general to audit and investigate all state cash, food or health assistance programs and granting the inspector general the power to subpoena, administer oaths and execute search warrants thereto.

Hearing: [Senate Bill 489](#) — Directing the department of corrections to establish a correctional center nursery for incarcerated expectant mothers and their child to allow certain expectant mothers to care and bond with their child for up to 36 months while incarcerated.

Senate Ways and Means 10:30 am 548S

Hearing: [House Bill 2495](#) — Making and concerning appropriations for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, for state agencies; increasing expenditure limitations to the foregoing; funding of the fiscal year 2024 salary increase for certain state employees

Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services 12:00 pm 548S

Deliberation: Agency budget - Health Care Stabilization Fund Board of Governors; Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

House Appropriations 9:00 am 112N

Budget report out - Chairperson Mason, Social Services Budget - Kansas Guardianship Program, State Institutions for Intellectual Disabilities

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development 1:30 pm 346S

Hearing: [House Bill 2745](#) — Providing that military spouses of active military servicemembers shall be exempted from all occupational licensing, registration and certification fees

House Education 1:30 pm 218N

Final action: [House Bill 2644](#) — Establishing uniform interest rate provisions for service scholarships administered by the Kansas board of regents that have repayment obligations as a part of the terms and conditions of such scholarship and authorizing the Kansas board of regents to recover the costs of collecting such repayment obligations and charge fees to cover the costs of administering such scholarship programs.

Final Action: [House Bill 2645](#) — Amending the nursing service scholarship program to remove limits on the amount of awards and number of scholarships, remove the sponsorship requirement, modify the interest rate terms for repayment obligations and abolish the nursing service scholarship review committee.

Final Action: [House Bill 2646](#) — Modifying the financial limitations on awards under the Kansas hero's scholarship act and broadening the eligibility requirements for such awards. Final Action:

Final Action: [House Bill 2539](#) — Removing the Kansas residency requirement for eligibility for a Kansas promise scholarship and modifying the definition of part-time student under such program.

House Higher Education Budget 1:30 pm 281N

Budget Recommendations: Washburn University; Community Colleges; Technical Colleges; University of Kansas Medical Center

House Social Services Budget 3:30 pm 152S

Hearing continuation: Recommendations for the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Senate Public Health and Welfare 8:30 am 142S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 490](#) — Updating certain provisions of the optometry law relating to scope of practice, definitions and credentialing requirements.

Senate Ways and Means 10:30 am 548S

Budget Reports: Healthcare Stabilization Fund Board of Governors; Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services 12:00 P.M. 548S

Deliberation: Agency budget - Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Kansas Department for Children and Families

Senate Utilities 1:30 pm 548S

Hearing: [Senate Bill 487](#) — Authorizing counties to contract with other counties to share 911 public safety answering point services and authorizing the distribution of 911 fee moneys to counties for such purposes.

House Federal and State Affairs 9:00 am 346S

Discussion & action: [House Bill 2667](#) — Concerning the lottery operating fund, increasing transfers to the community crisis stabilization centers fund and the clubhouse model program fund of the Kansas department for aging and disability services.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

House and Senate on floor

Thursday, Feb. 22

House and Senate on floor

Friday, Feb. 23

House and Senate on floor

KHA Bill Tracker

The [KHA Bill Tracker](#) is designed to keep you up-to-date on current legislation. KHA will update and share this document on a weekly basis while the legislators are in session.