



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 7, 2024

Senate Completes Work on Its Budget Bill

Today, the Senate Ways and Means met to finalize their budget. The Senate budget will be housed in [Substitute for Senate Bill 514](#).

The committee today saw a motion from Senator J.R. Claeys (R-Salina) to add funds for a maternal-fetal medicine program expansion in the Johnson County area.

The bill will now go to the floor of the Senate.

Senate Commerce Committee Holds Hearing on Unemployment Legislation

Today, the Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Senator Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), met to hold a hearing on [House Bill 2570](#). The legislation defines benefit year, temporary unemployment, wages and other terms in the employment security law, requires electronic filing for certain employers, establishes qualifications for the Employment Security Board of Review candidates, extends the deadline for new accounts following business acquisitions, makes certain changes to the employer rate schedules, enables employers to report claimant work search issues, confirms Legislative Coordinating Council oversight for the new unemployment insurance information technology system implementation, authorizes the secretary to grant temporary unemployment, requires the secretary to annually publish certain data, abolishes the Employment Security Interest Assessment Fund and provides relief for negative account balance employers.

Conferees submitting proponent testimony included:

- Phillip Hayes, Kansas SHRM, National Federation of Independent Business
- William Wilk, Kansas Chamber
- Dan Murray, National Federation of Independent Business
- Michael White, Kansas Contractors Association
- Andrew Wiens, Opportunity Solutions Project
- Kevin Walker, Overland Park Chamber

Secretary Amber Shultz, Kansas Department of Labor, appeared before the committee to answer committee questions. There were no opponents or neutral.

House Takes Final Action on Bills

Today, the House of Representatives took final votes on the following bills:

[House Bill 2676](#) creates the crime of encouraging suicide and providing criminal penalties therefor. Passed on a vote of [119-1](#).

[House Bill 2749](#) Requires medical care facilities and providers to report the reasons for each abortion performed at such facility or by such provider to the secretary of health and environment. Passed on a vote of [81-39](#).

[House Bill 2665](#) increases criminal penalties for a driver who leaves the scene of a vehicular accident when the accident results in the death of any person or more than one person, if the driver knew or reasonably should have known such an accident, resulted in injury or death. Passed on a vote of 120-0.

[Senate Bill 338](#) changes certain reporting requirements of group-funded liability and workers' compensation pools. Passed on a vote of [103-17](#).

[Senate Bill 339](#) updates the version of risk-based capital instructions in effect. Passed on a vote of [103-17](#).

[Senate Bill 356](#) requires that per diem amounts, expenses and funding for examinations be reasonable and establishes a tiered fee structure for examinations of insurance companies and societies based on gross premiums. Passed on a vote of [109-11](#).

[Senate Bill 398](#) authorizes the commissioner of insurance to set the amount of certain fees and requires the publication of such fees in the Kansas register. Passed on a vote of [103-17](#).

House Appropriations to Continue Work on Budget

This morning, the House Appropriations Committee added contents of their budget into House Bill 2273 and made adjustments to the budget including:

- Added \$2 million for Tiny-K but out of the Children's Cabinet
- Added \$60.9 million for long-term facilities add-on
- Added \$151,175 from Special Revenue Funds for a pharmacist to oversee the KTRACS program in the Board of Pharmacy
- Added remaining American Rescue Plan Act for statewide investments related to the World Cup
- Added \$15 million for Fort Hays State nursing facility
- Changed the distribution of the Comprehensive Grant Program to be private institutions 51 percent, Washburn 3 percent and public institutions 46 percent
- Added \$1million for additional credit monitoring through the courts
- Added \$2 million for state treasurer oversight of abortion alternative programs
- Motioned to remove some funding from the Board of Regents for review at Omnibus

- Proviso language was added to stop the Kansas Behavioral Science and Regulatory Board from requiring social work students to be in the classroom 50 percent of the time
- Added funding for DARE Program investments outlined in [House Bill 2613](#)
- Adding \$3.5 million for residents who have been exposed to contaminated water to be tested for cancer

The committee questioned if the OB-GYN codes were included in proposed Medicaid rate increases and will receive more information. The committee is slated to continue the discussion later this evening.

Health and Human Services Committee Works Gender Care Legislation

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), deleted the contents of Senate Bill 233 and inserted the contents of [House Bill 2791](#). The bill restricts the use of state funds to promote gender transitioning, prohibits health care professionals from treating children whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex, authorizes a civil cause of action against health care professionals for providing such treatments, authorizes professional discipline against a physician who performs such treatment, prohibits professional liability insurance from covering damages for health care providers providing gender transition treatment to children and adding violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians and nurses.

The committee recommended the following amendments to the bill:

- Deleted New Section 3
- Changed the language in New Section 5 that would say the health care professional has engaged in unprofessional conduct and such health care professional shall have their license revoked.
- Changed the liability from 30 years to 10 years from the date the individual turns 18 years of age
- Changed the cause of action on page 5 from 30 years to 10 years

The bill favorably passed as amended. The bill will now go to the House floor.