



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 13, 2024

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears and Works Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), discussed House Bill 2751. The legislation authorizes the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to condition or restrict a disability service provider license, grants the secretary authority to grant regulation waivers unrelated to health and safety and authorizes correction orders and civil fines to be appealed to the secretary.

Proponents included:

- Lacey Hunter - Commissioner at KDADS,
- Chris Stanyer - Goodwill Industries of Kansas, and
- Matt Fletcher, Interhab.

There were no opponents.

The committee also took final action on bills previously heard to include:

- [House Bill 2596](#) adds and removes certain substances in schedules I, II, IV and V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and makes conforming changes to the criminal code definition of "fentanyl-related controlled substances. The committee amended the bill to include Tianeptine. The committee recommended the bill favorably as amended.
- [House Bill 2629](#) requires the secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide a death certificate of a child to the state child death review board, increases the number of board members, allows for compensation and provides for the disclosure of certain records to certain persons for securing grants. The committee amended the bill to say once an autopsy is completed, the parents will be notified of how to obtain a copy of the autopsy. The committee recommended the bill favorably as amended.

House Committee on Local Government Hears/Works EMS Staffing Bill

Today, the House Committee on Local Government, chaired by Rep. Emil Bergquist (R-Park City), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 384](#). The bill allows EMS to grant a permanent exemption to allow ambulances in rural communities to operate with only the minimum personnel required by state law.

Proponents included:

- Spencer Duncan – Kansas League of Municipalities
- Sean Gatewood – Kansas EMS Association
- Joseph House – EMS Board
- Randy Leis – Meade County Commission

Neutral testimony was provided by Kari Rinker, American Heart Association.

The committee proceeded with recommending the bill as proposed. It now goes to the House floor.

House of Representatives Passes Bill Related to Gender-Affirming Care

Today, the House of Representatives took a final vote on [Senate Bill 233](#). The legislation restricts the use of state funds to promote gender transitioning, prohibits health care providers from treating children whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex, authorizes a civil cause of action against health care providers for providing such treatments, requires professional discipline against a health care provider who performs such treatment, prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for health care providers that provide gender transition treatment to children and adding violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians and nurses.

The bill passed on a vote of [80-40](#).

The legislation now goes back to the Senate where they can concur with house changes or non-concur, which would send the bill to a conference committee made up of the chair, vice-chair and ranking minority members of the House and Senate health committees.

Senate Debates the Budget Bill

Today, the Kansas Senate debated the state budget bill [Substitute for Senate Bill 514](#). Highlights from the bill include:

Health

- \$78.7 million, including \$30 million State General Fund, to increase Medicaid outpatient hospital reimbursement rates in fiscal year 2025 and \$157.4 million, including \$60 million SGF, to increase Medicaid outpatient reimbursement rates in FY 2026
- \$15 million SGF in on-time funding for childcare sustainability and workforce grants
- \$25.7 million, including \$10.3 million SGF, to increase physician provider codes by 8.0 percent
- \$10 million to support hospitals with adult inpatient behavioral health services in Kansas
- \$6.2 million, including \$2.4 million SGF, to increase PACE Medicaid rates to 90 percent of the amount that would otherwise have been paid if the participants were not enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

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- \$6.2 million, including \$2.4 million SGF, to increase PACE Medicaid rates to 90 percent of the amount that would otherwise have been paid if the participants were not enrolled in PACE
- \$20.7 million SGF to cover the shortfall in contract nursing staff costs to Larned State and Osawatomie State Hospitals

Long-Term Care

- \$30.1 million, including \$11.7 million SGF, to continue the Medicaid add-on to nursing facilities in 2024 at a rate of \$10 per Medicaid day

Other Items

- \$10 million SGF for Moderate Income Housing program to support housing and workforce development through a revolving loan fund
- \$10 million in additional grants to primary airports
- \$5.0 million SGF to the Children's Cabinet to provide public-private partnership establishing ongoing sustainable, community-level childcare solutions with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation counties
- \$14.3 million for apprenticeship programs at two-year institutions
- \$4.4 million SGF for the Fight Against Fentanyl effort

The Senate will continue to work into the late afternoon on the budget.

Expansion Hearings Set for Mar. 20

The hearings on Medicaid Expansion have been set for Mar. 20. The legislation will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee and in a special committee in the Senate made up of Ways and Means and Senate Public Health and Welfare members.

The House Bill is [House Bill 2556](#). The Senate Bill is [Senate Bill 355](#). We encourage you to provide written testimony as time before each committee will be limited. Written testimony is due by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, Mar. 18. You can submit your testimony by emailing [Tara Mays](#).

Introduction of Bills

[House Bill 2825](#) – Concerns health and health care; relates to hospitals; requires hospitals to provide online pricing information for certain items and services; enacts consumer protection related to the Hospital Price Transparency Act; deems non-compliance for such an act to be an unfair or deceptive trade practice; provides for monetary penalties for hospitals found to be non-compliant with such act

–By Committee on Appropriations –Requested by Rep. Sutton

[House Bill 2834](#) – Concerns the state health care benefits program; transfers officers, employees, powers, duties and functions relating to such program from the division of the state employee health benefits plan of the Department of Administration to the insurance department; establishes the commissioner of insurance as the chairperson of the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission; provides all management functions of such commission shall be administered by the commissioner of insurance; eliminates a pilot program regarding employer contributions for certain children

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