



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 18, 2024

House Insurance Committee Hears Legislation on Hospital Pricing Transparency Legislation

Today, the House Insurance Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Sutton (R-Gardner), held a hearing on [House Bill 2825](#). The legislation enacts hospital pricing transparency requirements at the state level and creates fines from the state and from individuals for being out of compliance.

Proponents included:

- Hayden Dublois, Opportunity Solutions Project
- William Wilk, Kansas Chamber, Topeka

Opponents included:

- [Shannan Flach, Kansas Hospital Association](#), Topeka
- Jim Blackwell, Great Plains Health Alliance, Wichita
- Sandra Dickerson, Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka
- [Emersen Frazier, Stormont Vail Health](#), Topeka
- [Nicole Milo, Common Spirit](#), Centennial, CO
- Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties
- Joe Tallen, Salina Regional Hospital, Salina
- Steve Kearney, Physicians Hospital of Kansas, Topeka
- Kevin Strecker, Ascension Via Christi Health, Wichita

The committee is slated to work the bill on Wednesday, Mar. 20.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Sen. Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a hearing on [House Bill 2484](#). The bill enacts the Social Work Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for social workers.

Proponents included:

- Rep. Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee)
- Becky Fast, The National Association of Social Workers - Kansas Chapter, Topeka
- David Fye, executive director of the Behavior Sciences Regulatory Board

There were no opponents or neutral conferees.

The committee also held a hearing on [House Bill 2578](#). The bill provides that programs and treatments provided by a certified community behavioral health clinic be granted a renewal certification if such programs and treatments have been previously certified or accredited and would keep other non-community mental health centers from becoming a CCBHC.

Proponents included:

- Kyle Kessler, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Topeka
- Tim DeWeese, Johnson County Mental Health Center
- Joan Tammany, COMCARE, Wichita
- Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health Services

Opponents included:

- Stuart Little, Behavioral Health Association of Kansas, Topeka
- Angela Henrick, KVC Kansas, Topeka

Neutral testimony was provided by:

- Andy Brown, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Topeka
- Sonja Bachus, Community Care Network of Kansas

The committee worked [House Bill 2777](#). The legislation restricts state fire marshal investigators from using body cameras during an inspection. The committee saw an amendment offered by Sen. Pat Pettey (D-Kansas City) to allow the state fire marshal to have audio services. The amendment allows the use of body cameras or still photos to collect evidentiary images. The committee meets again tomorrow.

Senate Federal and State Affairs Hears Legislation on Death Attestation Duties

Today, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), held a hearing on [House Bill 2358](#). The legislation permits advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants to provide medical certification to attest to an individual's cause of death to file a death certificate.

Proponents were Pam Scott, executive director, of the Kansas Funeral Home Association. The committee also saw bill introductions regarding the definition of an unborn child not including in vitro fertilization therapies and medical marijuana.

House Health and Services Committee Amends/Works Minors Receiving Care Bill

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), brought up [House Bill 2793](#). The legislation prohibits health care providers from performing health care services on minors without parental consent. The legislation was amended to limit in a school facility and says a provider cannot prescribe or treat without parental consent, with the exception of conducting a behavioral health assessment or intervention for a minor experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The committee added the amended bill to Senate Bill 287 and eliminated the original contents. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage as amended.