



KHA's Capitol Comments
May 1, 2024

Conference Committee Reports Finalized

The following Conference Committee Reports continue to make their way through the legislative process and to Governor Laura Kelly:

[CCR H Sub for SB 287](#), prohibiting a healthcare provider from administering any drug or diagnostic test or conducting behavioral health treatment to a minor in a school facility without parental consent; "; enacting the no patient left alone act to require hospitals, adult care homes and hospice facilities to allow in-person visitation in certain circumstances; authorizing such patient care facilities to adopt visitation policies and procedures; expanding licensure of rural emergency hospitals that meet criteria between January 2015 and December 2020; relating to emergency medical responder authorized activities; authorizing distribution of non prescription over-the-counter medications. The CCR was adopted by the House on a vote of [110-11](#) and the Senate on a vote of [26-10](#).

[CCR for HB 2531](#) establishes the Kansas Purple alert plan, relating to public notice of missing persons 18 years of age or older who have been diagnosed with an intellectual disability and are in certain dangerous circumstances. The CCR was adopted by the House on a vote of 120-0 and the Senate on a vote of 36-0.

Omnibus Budget Bill Updates

The final report is contained in the conference committee report on [House Bill 2551](#). The agreement will receive a final up or down vote in the House and Senate. Highlights of the budget bill include:

- \$30.2 million, including \$19.6 million in State General Funds, for Spring 2024 Human Services Caseload estimates
- \$1 million for the Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Program
- \$1 million for the Nursing Student Scholarship Program
- \$10 million for Rural Family Physician Residency Program expansion grant with private matchings required
- Allows allied health programs to be eligible for the Promise Scholarship Act
- Additional funding to begin construction on a regional psychiatric hospital in Sedgwick County that could accommodate up to 100 beds

- Language requiring annual registration and quarterly reporting of supplemental health care nurse staffing agencies
- \$5.0 million for child and adult behavioral health beds
- Funds for Medicaid coverage of dental exams, x-rays and cleanings
- \$2.5 million SGF for Mirror, Inc., to create a regional inpatient juvenile substance use treatment center in South-Central Kansas with a minimum capacity of 40 beds
- \$121,500 for HIV testing and supplies
- \$47,000 for the Kansas City Full Circle Program to provide drug abuse prevention services to youth
- \$904,442 and 8.5 full-time employees for the Office of Attorney General Medicaid Inspectors to enforce new laws on organized retail crime, age verification of websites harmful to minors and commercial financial disclosures
- Language to delay the enforcement of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act against drug manufacturers participating in the 340B Drug Pricing program until the U.S. Supreme Court issues an opinion on related litigation
- Language requesting the State Employee Health Benefits Plan to provide a study on the affordability of employee cost-sharing related to diagnostic and supplementary breast cancer mammograms. The bill includes language requiring approval by the Health Care Commission, including remarks from dissenting HCC members. The report would be submitted to the legislature on or before March 1, 2025
- Language clarifying a maternity center is a health care provider for the purposes of the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act

The bill passed the Senate on a vote of [22-11](#) and the House on a vote of [71-49](#).

Legislative Farewells and Filings

This week was full of policy finalization but also many farewells as announcements were made about legislators leaving their current posts to run for other offices, or retiring from their current elected office. Those include the following:

- Sen. Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick). House member Rep. Steven Owens (R-Hesston) has announced he will run for her seat.
- Sen. Dan Kerschen (R-Garden Plains). Sitting state Sen. Chase Blasi (R-Wichita) has announced he will run for the district seat.
- Sen. Rob Olson (R-Olathe). Current Rep. Adam Thomas (R-Olathe) and Democrat challenger Stacey Knowell have already filed for the seat.
- Sen. Kristen O'Shea (R-Topeka). Current Rep. Kenny Titus (R-Manhattan) has said he will seek to fill that seat.
- Sen. John Doll (R-Garden City). Current Rep. Bill Clifford (R-Garden City) has filed for the seat.
- Sen. Mark Steffan (R-Hutchinson). Current Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Sylvia) has filed for the seat.
- Rep. Tory Blew (R-Great Bend) has filed to run for the Senate seat currently held by Alicia Straub (R-Ellinwood).

- Rep. Michael Houser (R-Columbus) will be retiring.
- Rep. Trevor Jacobs (R-Fort Scott). Three Republicans have filed for the seat including Kaety Bowers, Rick James and Joshua Jones.
- Rep. Eric Smith (R-Burlington)
- Rep. John Eplee (R-Atchison) has filed for the Senate seat currently held by Sen. Dennis Pyle (R-Hiawatha)
- Rep. Vic Miller (D-Topeka) has announced he will run for an open seat in the state Senate

Candidates for state House and Senate have until June 3 to file with the Secretary of State to run for office.

More Work for the Legislature?

While the 2024 session ended with the Sine Die adjournment, after midnight on May 1, many are asking if there will be a possible return before January 2025.

With the final tax plan assembled during the last few hours of the 2024 regular session, Gov. Laura Kelly's chief of staff has indicated that if the governor looks to veto the bill, there could be a call to return to continue work on tax reform. We will continue to keep you posted as bills from the regular session make their way to the governor's desk.