



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 27, 2025

House Appropriations Passes Board of Nursing Budget

Today, the House Appropriations Committee heard the report from Representative Dave Buehler (R-Lansing), chair of the House Social Service Budget Committee, on the Kansas State Board of Nursing. The committee members asked about outside contracting expenditures and the impaired provider contract. The committee recommended the agency budget as it came from the subcommittee.

The committee also covered budgets for the Kansas Lottery, Racing and Gaming Commission, Abstracter's Board of Examiners, the Board of Technical Professions and the Board of Indigent's Defense Services.

The committee chairman indicated that the Appropriations Committee aims to pass the budget out of the full Appropriations Committee by Feb. 13.

House Higher Education Budget Hears from KBOR and University of Kansas

Today, the House Committee on Higher Education Budget, chaired by Representative Steven Howe (R-Salina), heard a presentation from the Kansas Legislative Research Staff on Student Affordability.

The Kansas Board of Regents President and CEO Blake Flanders gave a presentation and highlighted the fiscal year 2026 budget requests, including:

- Student affordability and student access at public universities
- Information technology infrastructure and cybersecurity upgrades
- The state's share of delivery of academic courses
- \$1.5 million for the Kansas Hero's Scholarship
- \$1 million for Adult Education Center
- \$6.361 million for student success initiatives
- \$51 million in expanding research in cancer, animal health and oral health
- \$21 million in Strengthening Regional Outcomes for Kansas Initiative
- \$5 million for K-State 105
- \$7.5 million for Animal Health KSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- \$10 million in the University of Kansas School of Architecture
- \$8.6 million to expand the Medical Student Loan Program

- \$5 million for Wichita State University School of Dentistry
- \$3.3 million for Washburn University Operating Grant
- \$5 million for Washburn University to expand Science Labs

The University of Kansas Chancellor Dr. Douglas Girod updated the committee on the University of Kansas programs highlighting:

- 7,200 degrees/certificates are earned annually
- 70 percent of students remain in Kansas following graduation, with 35 percent out-of-state remaining in the region following graduation
- Economic impact of \$8 billion annually
- Research investments of \$502 million annually and \$50 million with Kansas vendors across 65 counties annually
- The tourism dollars created by the university
- The ability to respond to industry needs, such as those of the K.U. Cancer Center, Panasonic, the hydrogen and tech industry and the Gateway District.
- Enrollment trends highlighting that 2024 was the largest incoming freshman class ever
- Emphasized the Kansas Board of Regents request regarding the Kansas Medical Student Loan Program, IT investments and a new architecture and design building

The committee will meet again on Tuesday to discuss and act on the budgets before them.

House Social Services Budget Committee Hears KDHE Budget

Today, the House Social Services Budget Committee met to discuss the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Health budget. The committee, chaired by Representative David Buehler (R-Lansing), reviewed the agency budget as proposed by the agency, as proposed by Governor Laura Kelly and as assembled by the Legislative Budget Committee. The Kansas legislative research staff gave the committee an overview of enhancements and changes in the agency budgets, including those for fiscal year 2025:

- Health Inspections Enhancement request of \$2 million
- Gainwell contract increase of \$4.8 million State General Funds
- \$6.0 million for electronic pre-admission screening and resident review to help with long-term care options and placements
- \$16,820 for epidemiologists positions
- \$13.8 million for immunizations grants
- \$7.7 million for Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Funds
- \$6.9 million for the Strengthening Public Health Grant
- \$2.6 million for all other adjustments

FY 2026 enhancements requested include:

- \$1.0 million for IT security upgrades
- \$2.0 million for health inspection increases
- \$2.3 million for infectious disease prevention to backfill federal loss
- \$70,639 epidemiologists positions
- \$504,978 for local public health programs
- \$2.0 million electronic pre-admission screening and resident review to help with long-term care options and placements
- \$5.0 million State General Funds for Gainwell contract increase
- \$12.9 million for centralized managed care organizations, with 11.5 million in one-time costs
- \$1.5 million partial hospital services at Children's Mercy Hospital

Other changes included:

- Deleting \$5.0 million for in-patient behavioral health observation and transportation program
- Additions for the childcare health and safety grants
- Medicaid expansion, as proposed in Governor Kelly's budget funds, consisting of a positive \$78 million to the State General Fund.

KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek and staff members also appeared before the committee to review the agency budget. The committee will hold public testimony on the KDHE budget on Tuesday.

Introduction of Bills

[Senate Bill 77](#) by the Committee on Government Efficiency – Concerning administrative rules and regulations; requiring state agencies to provide notice of revocation thereof; removing certain abolished or inactive state agencies from the five-year agency review requirement

[Senate Bill 82](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning rural emergency hospitals; relating to nursing facility physical environment regulatory requirements; requiring the secretary for aging and disability services to grant waivers to certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care

[House Bill 2094](#) by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs, requested by Kevin Barone on behalf of The Capitol Lobby Group – Concerning tobacco products; authorizing the sale of electronic cigarettes in cigarette vending machines

[House Bill 2096](#) by the Committee on Taxation, requested by Reily Goyne on behalf of the Friends of Historic Preservation – Concerning income taxation; relating to the Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit; providing for transferability of credits from the year that the credit was originally issued

[House Bill 2100](#) by Representative Woodard – Concerning pharmacists and pharmacy; relating to HIV postexposure prophylaxis; requiring the Kansas Board of Pharmacy to issue protocol for pharmacists to dispense post-exposure prophylaxis to certain individuals