



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**January 29, 2025**

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Works Bills**

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee worked on [Senate Bill 63](#). The committee saw an amendment bill that would make the effective date upon publication in the *Kansas Register* and list the damages and injunctive relief to include attorney's fees. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

Committee members also brought other amendments that were not added to the bill, such as:

- Specifically expressing the ability of antipsychotic medications to not apply under the bill's language
- Striking the language related to the definition of social transitions and state buildings
- Removal of the severability clause if the courts strike down the legislation

The bill will now go to the full Senate.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, Jan 30, to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 31](#), dealing with the Kansas Dental Practices Act.

**House Appropriations Hears Board of Regents Budget**

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), heard a report out on the Kansas Board of Regents budget. In a discussion on the added items, the chair indicated a need to restrain spending due to tax reform and overall expenditures. It was suggested the committee would be making final budget adjustments during the week of Feb. 10. The committee recommended the Board of Regents budget without adjustments, as well as the Kansas Department of Credit Unions, Office of the State Bank Commissioner, State Library, Kansas State School for the Blind and Kansas State School for the Deaf.

The committee will continue budget report outs tomorrow.

**House Health and Human Services Works Bills**

Today, in House Health and Human Services, chaired by Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), introduced legislation dealing with the following key items:

- The Healthcare Provider Assessment Program
- Allied Health Services Scholarship
- Require the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services to seek a physical environment waiver from the federal government when a hospital converts to a Rural Emergency Hospital but retains skilled nursing facility beds.

The committee also saw bill introductions on the following topics:

- Anesthesiologist Assistants to be licensed and practice in Kansas
- Optometrists' Scope of Practice
- Additional licensing for Dementia Assisted Living Facilities
- Respiratory Licensure Compact
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses' Licensure Compact
- Physician Assistant Licensure Compact
- Smoking in casinos
- Definition of the Food and Drug Administration compound and rescheduling
- The first week of February is Burn Awareness Week
- Expanded the scope of the Medicaid Inspector General to investigate food and health assistance programs
- Requiring the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to create an informational video for caregivers on the status of abortion law in Kansas

The committee also worked on [House Bill 2071](#). The committee amended the legislation to change the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*, changed the liability cause of action and outlined damages the plaintiff can seek. The legislation will now go to the House for debate.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, Jan. 30.

#### **House Social Services Budget Hears KDADS Overview**

The House Social Services Budget Committee will hear a budget overview from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services late this afternoon. The KDADS staff will present the budget ahead of public comment on the agency budget slated for Thursday, Jan. 30. The committee is anticipated to work Friday on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Health and KDADS budgets.

#### **Senate Takes Emergency Final Action on Bill**

This afternoon, the Kansas Senate motioned to take a final vote on [Senate Bill 63](#) as amended by the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee this morning. The legislation passed on a vote of 32-8 and will now go to the House.