



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 10, 2025

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held bill hearings, including:

[Senate Bill 126](#) enacts the physician assistant licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants.

Proponents:

- Keith Marshall with the Adjutant General's Department,
- Michelle Richart with the United States Department of Defense
- Doug Smith with the Kansas Academy of Physician Associates
- William Wilk with the Kansas Chamber

[Senate Bill 175](#) updates the definition of an athletic trainer and provides an exemption for those licensed in another state, District of Columbia, territory, or foreign country to practice in Kansas.

Proponents:

- Kimberly Martin with the Kansas School Nurses Association
- Shawna Jordan with the Kansas Athletic Trainers Society

Neutral:

- Travis Oller with the Kansas Chiropractic Association

Opponents:

- Jennifer Caswell with the American Physical Therapy Association, Kansas Chapter

The committee will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11, for further bill hearings.

Senate Judiciary Hears Legislation on Third-Party Litigation

Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Kellie Warren (R-Leawood), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 54](#), limiting discovery and disclosure of third-party litigation funding agreements in certain circumstances and requiring the reporting of such agreements to the judicial council for study.

Proponents:

- Eric Stafford of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce highlighted how this would increase insurance premiums. He stated negotiations with the attorney general's office have been ongoing and suggested further clarifying language.
- Phillip Davidson of Hinkle Law Firm highlighted the difficulty of settling cases when third parties fund them and how that makes the process more inefficient and inequitable.
- Dan Murray of the National Federation of Independent Businesses discussed the history of caps on non-economic damages and noted that small businesses don't have in-house counsel.
- Beth Smoller, Kansas Association of Insurance Agents, gave an overview of social inflation and increasing litigation costs.
- Rachele Columbo, Kansas Medical Society and KAMMCO highlighted how a healthy litigatory environment helps with access to care.

Opponents:

- Dai Wai Chin Feman, director of Commercial Litigation Strategies of Parabellum Capital
- John Federico, on behalf of the International Legal Finance Association

The committee will meet again throughout the week.

House Health and Human Services Committee Hears Bills

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), held a hearing on the following bills:

[House Bill 2039](#) removes physical, occupational and speech therapies from the Credentialing Act.

The [Kansas Hospital Association testified](#) to highlight broader credentialing delays. Other proponents included Stephanie Underwood, Fox Rehabilitation.

[House Bill 2217](#) expands the scope of the inspector general to audit and investigate all state cash, food or health assistance programs and grants the inspector general the power to subpoena, administer oaths and execute search warrants.

Proponents included:

- Inspector General Steven Anderson

Written opposition was provided by:

- Marc Altenbernt, Kansas Department for Children and Families
- Heather Braum, Kansas Action for Children
- Andy Bronw, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

[House Bill 2280](#) clarifies that the authorized activities of paramedics, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technicians and emergency medical responders may be authorized upon the order of a health care professional, permits certain ambulance services to offer service for less than 24 hours per day, every day of the year, and requires entities using automated external defibrillators to register with the Emergency Medical Services Board.

Proponents:

- Joseph House, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services
- Dave Johnston, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association
- Con Olson, Tech EMS
- Jason White, Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue
- Leah Filter, Kansas Association of School Boards

The committee will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11, for additional bill hearings.

Insurance Committee Hears Hospital Price Transparency Bill and Others

Today, the House Insurance Committee, chaired by Representative Bill Sutton (R-Gardner), held a hearing on the [House Bill 2244](#), modifying the Kansas Board of Pharmacy and prohibiting the Kansas Board of Pharmacy from adopting rules and regulations that would limit or condition the use of telepharmacy. However, the chair decided that the bill needed further revising and skipped over the bill, indicating it may be something to work on into next year.

Next, the committee heard [House Bill 2245](#), transferring oversight of the state employee health plan to the Kansas Insurance Commissioner. The committee saw no proponents but heard a speech by Chairman Bill Sutton (R-Gardner) to give the committee background.

Opponents:

- Adam Profitt, Secretary for the Department of Administration

Finally, the committee held a hearing on [House Bill 2246](#), enacting the Hospital Price Transparency Act. The [Kansas Hospital Association testified](#) in opposition to the legislation. The committee saw no proponents but heard a speech by Chairman Bill Sutton (R-Gardner) of support.

Opponents:

- Bill Lane, Stormont Vail Health, Topeka
- Weston Tallman, Rice Community Health, Lyons
- Ruth Duling, Girard Medical Center – Written
- Steve Kearney, Physicians Hospitals of Kansas
- Nicole Milo, CommonSpirit Health – Written

The committee will meet again on Wednesday to work bills.