



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**February 12, 2025**

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

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), met virtually to hold hearings on the following bills:

[Senate Bill 193](#) removes law enforcement agencies and officers from the Kansas Board of Pharmacy's statewide opioid antagonist protocol.

Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police was a proponent, and there were no other conferees.

[Senate Bill 145](#) requires immediate notification of a report of abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency and provides for law enforcement agencies to request resources from the secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

Neutral testimony was provided by:

- Ed Klumpp, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police
- Tanya Keys, Kansas Department of Children and Families
- Kerrie Lonard, Kansas Office of the Child Advocate

The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, Feb. 13, to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 67](#), which authorizes registered nurse anesthetists to engage in independent practice and prescribe drugs and prohibits registered nurse anesthetists from performing an abortion or prescribing drugs to induce an abortion.

**Senate Commerce Committee Hears Occupational Licensure Bill**

Today, the Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Senator Larry Alley (R-Winfield), met virtually to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 229](#). The bill provides for the termination of all current and new occupational licensing requirements adopted by an agency or enacted by the legislature after five years unless extended by a joint resolution of the legislature, requiring that the adoption of new occupational licensing requirements by a state agency be approved by a joint resolution of the legislature and providing for notice to agencies and the legislature and a procedure for legislative review of such occupational licensing requirements. The following agencies are exempt: the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, Kansas Board of Examiners in

Optometry, Kansas State Board of Nursing, Kansas Dental Board, Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, Kansas Board of Pharmacy or any other regulatory agency for health care providers established by state law. "Agency" does not include the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions.

Proponents:

- Elizabeth Patton, Americans for Prosperity
- Wendy Doyle, UnitedWe
- Randy Stookey, Kansas Grain and Feed

The committee also heard from neutral conferee Clay Barker with the Kansas Secretary of State's office, who raised concerns on mechanics on implementation and flagged a few possible clarifications needed.

### **Governor Vetoes First Bill of 2025 Session**

Yesterday, Governor Laura Kelly vetoed the first bill of the 2025 session. [Senate Bill 63](#), restricts the use of state funds to promote gender transitioning, prohibits health care providers from providing gender transition care to children whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex, authorizes a civil cause of action against health care providers for providing such treatments, requires professional discipline against a health care provider who performs such treatment, prohibits professional liability insurance from covering damages for health care providers that provide gender transition treatment to children and adds violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians. The legislation had previously passed the Senate on a vote of [32-8](#), and the House on a vote of [83-35](#). The legislature will likely take up a veto-override attempt in the coming days.

### **Senate Ways and Means Hears Bills**

Today, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), held hearings on the following:

[Senate Bill 101](#) creates the drug abuse resistance education (DARE) educator position.

Proponents:

- Randy Combs with the Office of the Attorney General
- Rhonda and Andrew Burris private citizens who lost their son to a drug overdose.

The committee also heard from Representative Robyn Essex (R-Olathe) who supported the legislation.

[Senate Bill 214](#) enacts the Attorney Training Program for Rural Kansas Act to provide financial assistance to lawyers and law students who practice law in rural areas.

Proponents:

- Justice K.J. Wall
- JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn University
- Ann Sagan, Board of Indigent Defense Services
- Ashley Comeau, Kansas Women's Attorney Association
- Angela Meyer, Rural Justice Initiative Committee
- Susan Richmeier, Finney County Attorney

The committee also received a briefing from the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

### **Introduction of Bills**

[Senate Bill 238](#) by the Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance – Concerning retirement and pensions; relating to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System; providing for a postretirement cost-of-living adjustment for certain retirants; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System

[Senate Bill 250](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning health and health care; relating to treatments for life-threatening illnesses; enacting the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments Act to permit certain manufacturers to make individualized investigative treatments available to eligible requesting patients

[Senate Bill 251](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning health and health care; relating to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; requiring the department to submit an annual report to the legislature concerning the newborn screening program; specifying the contents of the report

[Senate Bill 253](#) by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare – Concerning health professions and practices; enacting the Massage Therapist Licensure Act; providing for regulation and licensing of massage therapists; powers, duties and functions of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts

[Senate Bill 254](#) by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs – Concerning immigration; relating to state and local public benefits and eligibility thereof; prohibiting aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States from receiving any state or local public benefit in accordance with applicable federal law; requiring individuals 18 years of age and older who apply for any state or local public benefit to provide proof of being lawfully present; prohibiting the state or any county or local agency from providing any public benefit to any alien without first verifying that the alien is lawfully present by use of the existing systematic alien verification for entitlements program; requiring state and local agencies administering public benefits to cooperate with the United States Department of Homeland Security in achieving verification of an alien's lawful presence; relating to release prior to criminal trial; requiring any person charged with a crime who is not a citizen or national of the United States to undergo verification of such person's immigration status; creating a rebuttable presumption that a person determined to be an alien who is unlawfully present is at risk of flight

[Senate Bill 257](#) by the Committee on Ways and Means – Concerning health and health care; relating to health insurance coverage; expanding Medical Assistance eligibility; enacting the Healthcare Access for Working Kansans (HAWK) Act; directing the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to study certain Medicaid expansion topics; adding meeting days to the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight to monitor implementation of expanded Medical Assistance eligibility

[House Bill 2333](#) by the Committee on Insurance, requested by Eric Turek on behalf of the Kansas Insurance Department – Concerning insurance; renaming the Kansas Insurance Department as the Kansas Department of Insurance; renaming the Office of the Securities Commissioner of Kansas as the Department of Insurance, Securities Division; renaming the Securities Commissioner as the Department of Insurance Assistant Commissioner, Securities Division; eliminating the requirement that the Senate confirm the Department of Insurance Assistant Commissioner, Securities Division appointee

[House Bill 2335](#) by the Committee on Insurance, requested by Representative Proctor – Concerning insurance; relating to the Healthcare Provider Insurance Availability Act; adding maternity center to the definition of health care provider

[House Bill 2339](#) by the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, requested by Representative Wasinger on behalf of LeadingAge Kansas – Concerning adult care homes; relating to enhancing adult care home services; providing for adult care home workforce development through scholarships for part-time nursing students; setting minimum education levels for instructors at nursing schools; establishing the Intergenerational Child Care Program to enhance the adult care home environment by supporting adult care homes offering child care services through the awarding of grants by the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; creating the Intergenerational Child Care Fund; authorizing the secretary to administer the fund

[House Bill 2353](#) by the Committee on Judiciary, requested by Jeanne Gawdun on behalf of Kansans for Life –Concerning health and health care; requiring certain written information be provided to patients when a physician or health care provider administers or prescribes any medicine or drug for the purpose of inducing an abortion

[House Bill 2359](#) by the Committee on Judiciary, requested by Nancy Strouse on behalf of the Kansas Judicial Council – Concerning guardians and conservators; enacting the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act and the Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship and Other Protective Arrangements Act

[House Bill 2360](#) by the Committee on Welfare Reform, requested by Representative Awerkamp – Concerning Public Assistance; relating to the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families and the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; directing the secretaries to enter into agreements with commercial entities and state agencies for the continuous review and comparison of data for Public Assistance eligibility; requiring the secretary for the Kansas Department for Children and Families to review federal sources to verify such eligibility

[House Bill 2361](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative W. Carpenter on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association – Concerning education; relating to scholarship programs; creating the Kansas Healthcare Service Scholarship Program; adding part-time students to the list of eligible participants; adding allied health programs and health science programs to the list of eligible programs; transferring funds from the State General Fund to the Kansas Healthcare Service Scholarship Program; abolishing the Nursing Scholarship Program

[House Bill 2364](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Dan Murray on behalf of the American Chronic Pain Association – Concerning health insurance; relating to coverage for nonopioid prescription drugs for the treatment of pain; prohibiting certain health insurers from requiring cost-sharing for nonopioid prescription drugs or providing less favorable coverage for such drug than that for opioid or narcotic prescription drugs

[House Bill 2365](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative W. Carpenter on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services – Concerning health and health care; relating to state hospitals; establishing the South Central Regional Mental Health Hospital

[House Bill 2366](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Kevin Barone, Kansas Naturopathic Doctors Association – Concerning health and health care; relating to the practice of naturopathy; licensure and regulation of naturopathic doctors; broadening the scope of practice of naturopathic doctors

[House Bill 2367](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Kevin Barone on behalf of the Kansas Naturopathic Doctors Association – Concerning health and health care; relating to naturopathic doctors; providing naturopathic doctors a certificate of authorization for a business entity to practice medicine

[House Bill 2368](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Buehler on behalf of the Kansas Association of Anesthesiologist Assistants – Enacting the Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensure Act; providing for the powers, duties and functions of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts thereunder

[House Bill 2369](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Heather Sprague on behalf of the Kansas Association of Chain Drugstores – Concerning health and health care; amending the Pharmacy Act of the State of Kansas; allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines pursuant to a vaccination protocol

[House Bill 2370](#) by the Committee on Health and Human Services, requested by Representative Buehler on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association – Concerning health and health care; relating to assisted living facilities; requiring additional certification for assisted living facilities with dementia care

[House Bill 2373](#) by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs – Concerning immigration; relating to state and local public benefits and eligibility thereof; prohibiting aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States from receiving any state or local public benefit in accordance with applicable federal law; requiring individuals 18 years of age and older who apply for any state or local public benefit to provide proof of being lawfully present; prohibiting the state or any county or local agency from providing any public benefit to any alien without first verifying that the alien is lawfully present by use of the existing systematic alien verification for entitlements program; requiring state and local agencies administering public benefits to cooperate with the United States Department of Homeland Security in achieving verification of an alien's lawful presence; relating to release prior to criminal trial; requiring any person charged with a crime who is not a citizen or national of the United States to undergo verification of such person's immigration status; creating a rebuttable presumption that a person determined to be an alien who is unlawfully present is at risk of flight

[House Bill 2374](#) by the Committee on Appropriations, requested by Representative Francis on behalf of the University of Kansas – Relating to health care professions; creating a specialty practice student loan program; establishing the Specialty Medical Loan Repayment Fund; allowing for transfers from the Psychiatry Medical Loan Repayment Fund and the OBGYN Medical Loan Repayment Fund to the Specialty Medical Loan Repayment Fund; abolishing the Psychiatry Medical Loan Repayment Fund and the OBGYN Medical Loan Repayment Fund

[House Bill 2375](#) by the Committee on Appropriations, requested by Representative Ballard on behalf of the Office of the Governor – Concerning health and health care; relating to health insurance coverage; expanding Medical Assistance eligibility; enacting the Healthcare Access for Working Kansans (HAWK) Act; directing the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to study certain Medicaid expansion topics; adding meeting days to the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight to monitor implementation of expanded Medical Assistance eligibility