



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 13, 2025

Senate Public Health and Welfare Holds Hearing on CRNA Bill and Works Legislation

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 67](#). The legislation allows registered nurse anesthetists to engage in independent practice and prescribe drugs and prohibits registered nurse anesthetists from performing an abortion by prescribing drugs to induce an abortion.

Proponents:

- Jeremy Salisbury, Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Jason Worth, CRNA Manhattan
- William Wilk, Kansas Chamber of Commerce

Opponents:

- Rachele Colombo, Kansas Medical Society
- Kathy Periman, MD, Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists

The committee also worked the following bills:

[Senate Bill 82](#) requires the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services secretary to grant physical environment waivers for Rural Emergency Hospital swing beds. The committee recommended the bill favorably for passage.

[Senate Bill 88](#) requires the state long-term care ombudsman and regional ombudsman to receive training in memory care.

[Senate Bill 193](#) removes law enforcement agencies and officers from the state board of pharmacy's statewide opioid antagonist protocol. The committee did amend at the proponents' request in a substitute for Senate Bill 193.

These bills will now go before the full Senate for further review.

The committee will meet on Friday, Feb. 14, to hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 250](#). The legislation enacts the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments Act to permit a manufacturer to make an individualized investigative treatment available to a requesting patient.

House Appropriations Committee Takes Up Action on the Budget Bill

Today, the House Appropriations Committee took up the budget bill contained in [House Bill 2007](#). The committee made the following adjustments to the House budget bill:

- Cuts open full-time employees for all agencies except state hospitals and corrections with appeals available to the State Finance Council
- Eliminates the ability to allow electronic benefit transfer card expenses for candy and soda
- Further investments and renaming the Docking Building to Bob Dole Building
- Shifts funds from the State General Fund to American Rescue Plan Act interest for programs, including:
 - KC BioHub, Kansas Industrial Training/Kansas Industrial Retraining, Kansas Department for Children and Families for client management software
 - Children's Cabinet Dodge City Child Care Investment
 - Rural Remote Workplaces, Department of Agriculture for Federal Aviation Administration unmanned aircraft system test ranges
 - Healthcare Upskilling and Training Grant Program
 - Blueprint for Literacy
 - Forensic Science Laboratory
 - KHP Upgrade of Hangar at Jabara

This will draw down most of the remaining ARPA funds except for about \$2 million

- \$1 million for efficiency review
- \$38.1 million SGF for state employee pay increases for positions based on market analysis, including the Kansas Board of Regents, but excludes legislators and statewide elected officials.

The committee is scheduled to meet again at 5:00 p.m. today to finalize the budget before sending it to the full House.

Senate Committee on Tax Works Rural Opportunity Zone Bill

Today, the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, chaired by Senator Caryn Tyson (R-Parker), worked [Senate Bill 69](#), which extends the Rural Opportunity Zone. The committee saw a motion from Senator Jeff Klemp (R-Lansing) to extend the program for recipients to use the amounts of the student loan repayments for housing or child care, the motion made by Senator Klemp passed. The committee also saw a motion by Senator Jeff Klemp (R-Lansing) to increase eligibility to allow people in non-ROZ counties who move to a ROZ county to be eligible for the program for up to 36 months. The committee approved the amendment. The committee recommended the bill favorably as amended, so it will now go to the full Senate.

House Health and Human Services Committee Hears Bills

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

[House Bill 2219](#) enacts the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants.

Proponents:

- Michelle Richart, U.S. Department of Defense
- Keith Marshall, Adjutant General's Department
- William Wilk, Kansas Chamber
- Kerstin Stephens, Kansas Academy of Physician Associates,
- Kevin Harper, Teladoc

[House Bill 2284](#) directs the Kansas Department of Administration to adopt written policies governing the negotiated procurement of managed care organizations to provide state Medicaid services pursuant to a contract with the Kansas Program of Medical Assistance.

Proponents:

- Representative Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado)

[House Bill 2249](#) requires the secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to grant physical environment waivers for certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care.

Proponents:

- [Tara Mays, Kansas Hospital Association](#)
- Aaron Herbal, Mercy Hospital, Inc., Moundridge.

[House Bill 2307](#) transfers the power to authorize and oversee certain activities regarding prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions awareness programs from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Proponents:

- Lola Kernell, Kansas Council of Developmental Disabilities
- Jeanne Gawdun, Kansans for Life
- Mike Burgess, Disability Rights Center of Kansas

The committee also took action on the following bills:

[House Bill 2249](#) requires the secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to grant physical environment waivers for certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care.

[House Bill 2307](#) transfers the power to authorize and oversee certain activities regarding prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions awareness programs from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities.

[House Bill 2219](#) enacts the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants.

These bills will now go to the House floor for further review. The committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, Feb. 14.

House Higher Education Budget Committee Hears Nursing Initiatives Grant Program Bill

Today, the House Higher Education Budget Committee, chaired by Representative Steven Howe (R-Salina), held hearing on House Bill 2248, which establishes the Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Program and authorizes the Kansas Board of Regents to approve need-based or competitive grants for the expansion of nursing faculty, laboratory supplies and tools for student success at postsecondary educational institutions.

Proponent testimony was received from:

- [Kansas Hospital Association](#)
- [AdventHealth](#)
- LeadingAge Kansas
- Blake Flanders, Kansas Board of Regents, highlighted a desire to keep the matching grant.

The committee also heard [House Bill 2195](#) establishing the Kansas Technical College Operating Grant Fund administered by the Kansas Board of Regents.

The committee will meet on Friday, Feb. 14.

Federal and State Affairs Committee Meets

Today, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), held bill introductions on the following topics:

- A feasibility study on new energy generation
- A bill to appoint delegates to the convention of states in Kansas
- The designation of Ruby Bridges Day at the Capitol
- 340B Drug Pricing Program

The committee took final action on [Senate Concurrent Resolution 1604](#), making application to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states to propose amendments to limit the federal government. The committee recommended it favorably, so it will now go to the Senate floor.