



KHA's Capitol Comments
February 14, 2025

Senate Public Health and Welfare Meets to Hear and Work Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a hearing on [Senate Bill 250](#). The legislation enacts the right to try for individualized treatments and to permit a manufacturer to make an individual's investigative treatment available to a requesting patient.

Proponents:

- Dr. Patrick Bailey of the Goldwater Institute
- Jayson Kaufman, Private Citizen with a terminally ill child
- Kendra Riely, Private Citizen with a terminally ill child

Neutral written testimony:

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts

The committee also worked [Senate Bill 175](#), which 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.

House Appropriations Committee Kicks out Budget Bill

Last night, just before 8:00 p.m., the House Appropriations Committee finalized their work on the House Appropriations bill and funding agencies for the next two fiscal years. The budget bill includes:

- \$10 million in add-on payments for adult behavioral health beds at hospitals
 - \$5 million for behavioral health patient observation and transportation reimbursements for hospitals, law enforcement or counties
 - \$1 million for a health care upskilling and training grant program
 - \$17.7 million SGF for nursing home rebasing
 - \$40.9 million for nursing home daily add-on payment
- Rebase of PACE rates at 90 percent

The bill, contained in [House Bill 2007](#), will be reviewed by the House next week. The Senate is slated to take up the state budget after final House approval.

Next Week's Schedule

The committees will finish hearing bills on Monday, and both the House and Senate will be in session working bills all day ahead of the turnaround deadline, which marks the unofficial halfway point of the legislative session.

Monday, Feb. 17

House Health and Human Services – 1:30 p.m. – Room 112N

Hearing: [House Bill 2365](#) – Establishes the South Central Regional Mental Health Hospital

Hearing: [House Bill 2368](#) – Provides for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants

Hearing: [House Bill 2316](#) – Directs the deposit of civil penalties collected for violations of correction orders issued by the state fire marshal into the Disability Community Services Providers' Civil Monetary Penalty Reinvestment Fund or the adult care homes' civil monetary penalty.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

House and Senate on Floor

Wednesday, Feb. 19

House and Senate on Floor

Thursday, Feb. 20

House and Senate on Floor

Friday, Feb. 21

KHA Bill Tracker

The [Kansas Hospital Association Bill Tracker](#) is designed to keep you up-to-date on current legislation. KHA will update and share this document weekly while the legislators are in session.

House Health and Human Services Works Bills

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

[House Bill 2159](#) creates the Emergency Opioid Antagonists Assistance Grant Fund to provide emergency opioid antagonists to law enforcement agencies and removes law enforcement from the Kansas Board of Pharmacy's statewide opioid antagonist protocol. The committee amended the bill and recommended it favorably for passage.

[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. The committee amended the bill and recommended it favorably for passage.

[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 thereto.

Those bills will now go to the full House for further review.

House Higher Education Budget Committee Passes Nursing Initiative Grant Bill

Today, the House Higher Education Budget Committee, chaired by Representative Steven Howe (R-Salina), took action on [House Bill 2248](#), which puts in state statute and creates additional flexibilities in the Kansas Nursing First Initiative Grant Program. The committee offered amendments and recommended that the bill be favorable for passage. The bill will now go to the full House for further review.

House Insurance Committee Works Hospital Price Transparency Bill

Today, the House Insurance Committee, chaired by Representative Bill Sutton (R-Gardner), took up [House Bill 2446](#). The committee saw a motion by Representative Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson) to strike section 4, which created a new cause of action. The committee saw comments that this bill is unnecessary from Representative Cindy Neighbor (D-Shawnee) and Ken Collins (R-Mulberry). Representative Kristey Williams (R-Augusta) mentioned a need for stakeholders in multiple industries to come together for consumers. Representative Silas Miller (D-Wichita) noted that state laptops block some of the information, and he was able to pull them up at home. Representative Kirk Haskins (D-Topeka) suggested the bill should be tabled without any proponents. The committee then recommended the bill favorably for passage. The bill will now go to the House floor.

The committee also worked [House Bill 2445](#). The legislation transfers officers, employees, powers, duties and functions relating to the Kansas Health Care Benefits Program from the Division of the State Employee Health Benefits Plan within the Kansas Department of Administration to the Kansas Insurance Department, establishing the commissioner of insurance as the chairperson of the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission, providing that all management functions of such commission be administered by the commissioner of insurance and eliminating a pilot program regarding employer contributions for certain children.

Introduction of Bills

[House Bill 2383](#) by the Committee on Appropriations, requested by Representative Turk on behalf of Senator Titus – Concerning child care; relating to the Kansas Department of Administration, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; establishing a pilot program to provide health services to child care providers; making telehealth consultation services available to eligible child care providers; providing up to \$100 per month in reimbursements for prescription medication costs to child care providers accepted into the health services program; prohibiting cities, counties or other political subdivisions from regulating licensed child care providers more strictly than state law; requiring the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide a list of licensed child care providers to any city, county or other political subdivision upon request; providing any licensed in-home or group-home child care providers that receive a lower tier of reimbursement under the child and adult care food program to be matched with the top tier of funding that is otherwise made available to other providers under the program; developing and providing free orientation and training programs and training materials to child care providers and licensees; allowing orientation and training to count as continuing education hours; requiring the department and the Kansas Children's Cabinet to develop a training reimbursement program