



***KHA's Capitol Comments***  
**March 5, 2025**

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

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), held a confirmation hearing for Donald Hall to the University of Kansas Hospital Authority.

The committee also held hearings on the following bills:

- [House Bill 2075](#) requires that a permanency hearing for a child in the custody of the secretary be held within nine months from such child's removal from the home.
- [House Bill 2219](#) enacts the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants.

The committee took action on the following bills:

- [House Bill 2068](#), the Cosmetology Compact, the committee added in contents of [House Bill 2219](#), dealing with the Physician Assistants compact and recommended the bill, as amended, favorably for passage.
- [House Bill 2069](#), the School Psychologist Compact, the committee added in contents of [House Bill 2070](#), dealing with the Dietitians Compact, and recommended the bill, as amended, favorably for passage.

The committee will meet again tomorrow.

**House Appropriations Committee Hears Updates on Nursing and Budget Bill**

Today, the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill), received an update on nursing in Kansas, hearing from the following conferees:

- Amy Garcia, Kansas Nursing Workforce Center
- Carol Moreland, Kansas State Board of Nursing
- Scott Brunner, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, [presented](#) on staffing agency reporting, as well as state hospitals contracting nursing
- Meghan Shreve, associate director, Interhab
- Allison McCain, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

Committee members asked if we need to consolidate nursing programs, if the immigration policies have made it harder to attract workers, if there are faculty challenges, if there are K-12 gaps, if there is a need for APRN care in rural Kansas, and if there are unfilled slots at each nursing program. The committee indicated there would be an interim on contract nursing in state hospitals.

The committee also held a hearing on [Senate Bill 14](#). The legislation provides for continuous state budgets until amended, lapsed or eliminated by the legislature, temporary reallocations and establishing conditions and limitations.

Proponents:

- Senate President Ty Masterson (R-Andover).

The committee had many questions about how this could cause future litigation or change oversight and interactions between the legislative and executive branches of government.

Opponent:

- Leah Fliter, with the Kansas Association of School Boards

Representative Kyle Hoffman (R-Coldwater) suggested that there will be an amendment that will require that a budget be passed by both chambers and vetoed before the ability to go back to previous budgets as this legislation dictates. The chair suggested that the committee work on the legislation tomorrow.

### **Senate Ways and Means Committee Continues Budget Discussions with KDHE**

Today, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), continued agency budget discussions for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and began hearings on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Health budget. The committee heard from Secretary Janet Stanek, and the committee members asked questions about the agency's requests. The committee will continue to hear agency budgets tomorrow, including:

- Kansas Office of Veterans Services
- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- State Fire Marshal
- Office of the Attorney General
- Board of Indigents Defense Services

### **House Health and Human Services Holds Hearings on Bills Including Provider Assessment**

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), held a hearing on the provider assessment bill. [House Bill 2250](#) allows the provider assessment to be increased up to 6 percent and allows certain additional Critical Access Hospitals to participate. [Proponent testimony](#) was provided by Audrey Dunkel with the Kansas Hospital Association.

The committee also held hearings on the following bills:

- [House Bill 2386](#) updates income eligibility requirements for the state Children's Health Insurance Program
- [Senate Bill 126](#) enacts the Physician Assistance Licensure Compact
- [House Bill 2397](#) increases state financial assistance for local health departments under certain circumstances
- [House Bill 2399](#) establishes an advance universal newborn screening program, provides for the reimbursement of certain treatment services and increases the transfer of moneys to the Kansas Newborn Screening Fund.

The committee will plan to work these bills tomorrow.

The committee worked [Senate Bill 88](#), requiring the state long-term care ombudsman and regional ombudsman to receive training in memory care, recommending it favorably for passage.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, March 6.

### **House Commerce Committee Hears Nursing Instructor Bill**

Today, the House Commerce Committee met to hold a hearing on bills. Among those was [House Bill 2392](#), which facilitates nursing workforce development by setting maximum education levels for instructors at nursing schools as a requirement for state approval.

Proponent testimony was provided by [Kylee Childs](#), LeadingAge Kansas, with written supporting testimony provided by the Kansas Chamber.

Neutral written only testimony was submitted by the [Kansas State Board of Nursing](#).

Opposition written only opposition was provided by [Johnson County Community College](#).

### **Senate Slated to Debate Judicial Selection Process Bill**

Today, the full Kansas Senate will debate [Senate Concurrent Resolution 1611](#). The legislation amends the state constitution relating to the supreme court; provides for the direct election of justices; abolishes the supreme court nominating commission; permits justices to make contributions to and hold office in a political party or organization and take part in political campaigns.

### **Senate Federal and State Affairs**

Today, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee worked bills today, including [Senate Bill 254](#). The legislation prohibits illegal immigrants from receiving any state or local public benefit in accordance with applicable federal law. The committee amended the bill to ensure that bail is not denied to undocumented workers and recommended the bill favorably for passage.

Tomorrow, the committee will hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 196](#). The legislation requires business entities and public employers to register and use the e-verify program for employment purposes and prohibits income tax deductions for wages and remuneration paid to unauthorized aliens.

### **KHA Bill Tracker**

The [KHA Bill Tracker](#) keeps you up-to-date on current legislation. KHA will update and share this document daily while the legislators are in session.