



KHA's Capitol Comments
March 12, 2025

Senate Public Health and Welfare Hears Bills

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on the following bills:

- [House Bill 2311](#) prohibits the secretary from adopting and enforcing policies for placement, custody and the appointment of a custodian that may conflict with sincerely held religious or moral beliefs regarding sexual orientation or gender identity and creating a right of action for violations
- [House Bill 2365](#) establishes the South Central Regional Mental Health Hospital

The committee also took final action on:

- [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.

The committee saw an amendment defining public places and private homes and added language to say only public places would need to register, added language to limit liability for entities that own AED devices and amended the bill to allow that in rural counties, the EMT or another qualified medical professional be in the back of an ambulance, but the driver wouldn't have to be.

The committee recommended the bill favorably as amended.

The committee will meet next on Thursday, March 13.

House Federal and State Affairs Hears Bill

Today, the House Federal and State Affairs Committee held a hearing on [House Bill 2204](#). The legislation declares that the World Health Organization, the United Nations and the World Economic Forum have no power within Kansas or any political subdivisions thereof to enforce any rule, regulation, fee, tax, policy or mandate.

Proponents included:

- Teddy Love, Kansas citizen
- Nick Reinecker, Kansas citizen
- Jamie Kissinger, Precinct Committee Member
- Erica Sheets, Moms for Liberty

The committee will meet on Thursday, March 13.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Works KDHE Budget

Today, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Senator Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), continued work on agency budgets. Senator Mike Fagg (R-El Dorado) made a motion to add \$20 million State General Funds and \$50 million All Funds to increase hospital outpatient Medicaid rates. The committee voted unanimously to include the funds to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment budget. The committee also saw the following amendments to the KDHE agency budget:

- Added funds back to the KDHE budget for the Blue Cross Blue Shield daycare program
- Gainwell technology contract additions for KDHE
- Eliminate 30 federally funded positions
- \$750,000 Tuberculosis outbreak response
- Language to re-determine KanCare on a month-to-month basis

The committee also saw the following amendments to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services agency budget:

- Increase to Meals on Wheels to make it a total of \$3 million
- \$4 million from certified community behavioral health clinic planning grants would now go to fund increases in the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grants for substance use treatment for low-income individuals
- \$5 million to add 180 slots to the Intellectual / Developmental Disability Waiver to increase new slots to 500 and reduce the waiting list cap in coordination
- Proviso calling for an interim committee to strike language and instead replace with a study on providers taking KanCare
- Brain Injury Waiver Rates, adding \$3.5 million, to increase hourly rate to bring in line with Missouri
- Delete \$6 million for one-time grants that the House had added to the KDADS budget
- Delete \$830,000 for the renovation of a homeless shelter in Liberal

- Add \$195,000 for the creation of a directory of all long-term care centers across the state
- Increase in adolescent substance abuse Medicaid rates
- Delete \$8 million for contracts at Osawatomie in the fiscal year 2026
- Removed a portion of contract expenditures at Larned for contracts in fiscal years 2025 and 2026
- \$8 million for provider rates for those on IDD waivers

House Health and Human Services Committee Meets to Hear Bill

Today, the House Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Representative Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado), held a hearing on [House Bill 2223](#). The legislation modifies certain provisions of the optometry law relating to scope of practice, definitions and credentialing requirements.

The committee heard from proponents and opponents of the legislation for the length of the committee.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, March 13.

House Takes Final Action on Provider Assessment Legislation

Today, the House Committee of the Whole met. The House took final votes on [House Sub for Senate Bill 126](#). House Sub for Senate Bill 126 allows the hospital provider assessment to go up to 6 percent and allows some Critical Access Hospitals to participate in the program as determined by the Healthcare Access Improvement Panel Committee. The bill also contains Newborn Screening Cap Funding, increases in Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility and increases some transfers to local health departments. The bill passed on a vote of [119-3](#).

The committee also took final votes on the following:

- [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. The bill passed on a vote of [85-37](#).
- [Senate Bill 82](#) requires the secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to grant physical environment waivers for certain rural emergency hospitals to provide skilled nursing facility care. Passed on a vote of 122-0.
- [Senate Bill 88](#) requires the state long-term care ombudsman and regional ombudsman to receive training in memory care. Passed on a vote of [121-1](#).
- [Senate Bill 175](#) updates the definition of athletic trainer and provides an exemption for those licensed in another state, District of Columbia, territory or foreign country to practice in Kansas. The bill passed on a vote of [121-1](#).

- [Senate Bill 193](#) exempts law enforcement agencies that do not provide emergency opioid antagonists pursuant to the statewide protocol from the requirement to procure a physician medical director. Passed on a vote of 122-0.

The House also debated the following bills:

- [Senate Bill 18](#) provides for the hunter nation distinctive license plate
- [Senate Bill 98](#) provides for the Route 66 Association of Kansas distinctive license plate
- [Senate Bill 121](#) authorizes the commissioner of insurance to select and announce the version of certain instructions, calculations and documents in effect for the upcoming calendar year and causes such announcement to be published in the *Kansas Register*, allows certain life insurers to follow health financial reports and adopts certain provisions from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Holding Company System Regulatory Act relating to group capital calculations and liquidity stress testing

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.