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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KOTA

Kansas Legislative Report

March 15, 2024

Overview

As the sports world prepares for March Madness, Topeka is preparing for its own version as the legislative calendar consists of critical deadlines for legislation. Next week is the last week most committees will meet, creating an urgent environment to finish hearings and recommend bills out of committee. Most bills must be passed by the second chamber by March 28 while the first week of April is reserved for conference committees to reconcile any differences between House and Senate versions.

The intense schedule of the next three weeks is interesting enough, but we'll also see many controversial issues come to a head before the April recess. The Senate has developed and passed another large tax package bill while the House is tackling several bills pertaining to foreign adversaries. This week the House and Senate each debated and passed their own budget bills that will be negotiated in budget conference committee.

Occupational Licensing

The Senate Committee on Commerce had a hearing this week on HB 2745, a bill providing that military spouses of active military service members shall be exempted from all occupational licensing, registration, and certification fees. Proponents included representatives from the Sedgwick Board of County Commissioners, the Kansas Chamber, Home Base Wichita, the Kansas African American Affairs Commission, the Greater Wichita Area Veterans Advocacy Board, the National Guard Association of Kansas, the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, and the Kansas Adjutant General's Department. Neutral testimony was presented from the Kansas Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Technical Professions. There were no opponents. The committee ended the week with final action on the bill. It now awaits its day to be heard by the full Senate.

Medicaid Expansion

Next week advocates of Medicaid Expansion will have the chance to weigh in on the Governor's Medicaid Expansion Bill. On March 20 at 10:30AM, the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare and Senate Committee on Ways and Means will hold a joint informational hearing on Medicaid Expansion. That same day, the House Committee on Health and Human Services will hold a hearing on HB 2556 at 1:30PM.

State Budget

This week the Senate featured a multi-hour debate of its budget bill on the Senate floor. Substitute for SB 514 passed the Senate with a 24-15 vote. Within the budget was the addition of \$23M, including \$8.9M from the State General Fund, to add 250 slots to the I/DD waiver and 250 slots to the PD waiver for FY 2025. The Senate also added language directing the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services to oversee the registration of supplemental nursing staff agencies for FY 2025 and requiring such agencies to submit a report to KDADS on the rates charged by the agencies to facilities in Kansas.

Senate Health Committee

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare started the week with hearings on HB 2547, HB 2579, and HB 2784. HB 2547 is a bill authorizing schools to maintain certain emergency medication kits and to administer such medication in emergency situations. Proponents included the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas School Nurses Organization, the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy, the American Lung Association, Kansas Action for Children, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Kansas State Board of Nursing, the Kansas Public Health Association, and private citizens. There were no opponents or neutrals. HB 2579 authorizes the board of emergency medical services to distribute non-prescription over-the-counter medications. Proponent testimony was presented by Johnson County Emergency Services, the Kansas EMS Association, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, the Kansas Medical Society, Wyandotte County Fire Department, MARCER, the Kansas Public Health Association, the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment, and the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy. The Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services testified as neutral. There were no opponents. HB 2784 is a bill transferring authority for certification of continuing care retirement communities from the Kansas Insurance Department to KDADS and lowering the nursing facility provider assessment for continuing care retirement communities. The Kansas Insurance Department, LeadingAge Kansas, KDADS, and Representative Brenda Landwehr (R – Sedgwick) testified in favor of the bill. In the following meeting, the

committee scheduled a hearing for HB 2751, a bill authorizing KDADS to condition or restrict a disability service provider license, granting the secretary authority to grant regulation waivers unrelated to health and safety and authorizing correction orders and civil fines to be appealed to the secretary. KDADS, Goodwill Industries, and Interhab testified as proponents. There was no opponent or neutral testimony recorded. The committee ended the week with a hearing on HB 2629 is a bill requiring the Secretary for Health and Environment to provide a death certificate of a child to the state child death review board, increasing the number of board members, allowing for compensation, and providing for the disclosure of certain records to certain persons for securing grants. The committee amended the bill to include coronary reporting after an autopsy. The bill was passed out of committee favorably as amended.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 111 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee	Enacting the massage therapist licensure act to provide for regulation and licensing of massage therapists	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	01/27/2023 - Senate Referred to Public Health and Welfare
SB 112 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee	Amending the scope of practice for registered nurse anesthetists to allow independent practice within the scope of the licensee's education and qualifications	In House Health and Human Services	04/04/2023 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
SB 121 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee	Broadening the scope of practice of naturopathic doctors and changing certain provisions pertaining to the licensure and regulation of naturopathic doctors	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	02/01/2023 - Senate Referred to Public Health and Welfare
SB 269 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee	Exempting charitable raffle prizes of alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverages from the Kansas liquor control act, the club and drinking establishment act and the Kansas cereal malt beverage act	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	02/21/2023 - Senate Referred to Federal and State Affairs

H Sub for SB 352 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee	Enacting the no patient left alone act to require facilities to allow in-person visitation to certain patients at hospitals, adult care home and patient care facilities	On General Orders in House	03/11/2024 - House Committee Report recommending substitute bill be passed, by Health and Human Services
SB 384 Senate Local Government Committee	Allowing ambulances in rural communities to operate with only the minimum personnel required by state law	On General Orders in House	03/13/2024 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Local Government
SB 430 Senate Commerce Committee	Providing workers compensation act coverage for the Kansas national guard, limiting benefit reductions for retirement benefits, increasing dependents death benefits, reducing certain functional impairment requirements, increasing compensation for certain disability categories and for treatment without authorization, raising the evidentiary standard for future medical treatment, limiting certain procedures for post-award medical benefit claims, allowing benefit payment by funds transfer or payment cards, establishing procedures for neutral healthcare examinations, exchanges and admission of medical reports, extending employee injury notification deadlines, eliminating the deadline for motions to avoid dismissal for lack of prosecution, providing for expedited settlement and digital recording of hearings and other changes to the workers compensation act	On General Orders in House	03/05/2024 - House Withdrawn from Consent Calendar; placed on General Orders
SB 433 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee	Clarifying practice privileges of institutional license holders	On General Orders in House	03/06/2024 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Health and Human Services
SB 449 Senate Judiciary Committee	Expanding the definition of healthcare provider for individuals providing care at the scene of an emergency or accident	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	02/06/2024 - Senate Referred to Public Health and Welfare

HB 2239 House Welfare Reform Committee	Allowing for exemptions from continuing education requirements for work experience	In House Welfare Reform	02/01/2023 - House Referred to Welfare Reform
HB 2257 House Health and Human Services Committee	Providing for the licensure and regulation of music therapists by the state board of healing arts and establishing the music therapy advisory committee	In House Health and Human Services	02/02/2023 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
HB 2337 House Health and Human Services Committee	Defining in-state and interstate practitioners under the Kansas telemedicine act, establishing certain standards of care, requiring certain insurance coverage of in-state telemedicine services and establishing the Kansas telehealth advisory committee	In House Health and Human Services	02/08/2023 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
HB 2388 House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Requiring that licensing bodies provide verified electronic credentials to credential holders, including military servicemembers and others receiving Kansas credentials based on their credentials from other jurisdictions, and use centralized electronic credential data management systems with instantaneous credential verification and an auditable record	In Senate Commerce	03/21/2023 - Senate Referred to Commerce
HB 2556 House Appropriations Committee	Expanding medical assistance eligibility and enacting the cutting healthcare costs for all Kansans act	In House Health and Human Services	03/13/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Health and Human Services: Wednesday, 3/20, 1:00 PM, Rm 112-N
HB 2669 House Health and Human Services Committee	Codifying the mental health intervention team program administered by the Kansas department for aging and disability services in state statute	In Senate Education	03/13/2024 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Education: Tuesday, 3/19, 1:30 PM, Rm 144-S
HB 2670 House Health and Human Services Committee	Requiring the department of health and environment to develop and publish educational information regarding the use of nonopioids	In House Health and Human Services	02/02/2024 - House Referred to Health and Human Services

HB 2713 House Insurance Committee	Enacting the ensuring transparency in prior authorization act to impose requirements and limitations on the use of prior authorization in healthcare	In House Interstate Cooperation	02/07/2024 - House Referred to Interstate Cooperation
HB 2745 House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Providing that military spouses of active military servicemembers shall be exempted from all occupational licensing, registration and certification fees	On General Orders in Senate	03/14/2024 - Senate Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Commerce
HB 2746 House Health and Human Services Committee	Updating requirements for receiving and renewing a license under the dietitians licensing act	Stricken from Calendar in House	02/23/2024 - House Stricken from Calendar by Rule 1507
HB 2756 Mark Schreiber, R-60th	Enacting the art therapist licensure act to provide for the regulation and licensing of professional art therapists	In House Health and Human Services	02/08/2024 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
HB 2818 House Federal and State Affairs Committee	Providing for a legislative review process and criteria when considering bills that propose new or additional occupational regulation, requiring the joint committee on administrative rules and regulations to review such bills and authorizing the joint committee to direct regulatory entities or to contract with a consulting firm to provide a report to the legislature to inform the legislature's consideration of such bill	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	03/06/2024 - House Scheduled Hearing in Commerce, Labor and Economic Development: Tuesday, 3/12, 1:30 PM, Rm 346-S