

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KOTA

Kansas Legislative Report

March 22, 2024

Overview

March Madness has reached Topeka as most committees wrapped up their business for the year. Committees collectively recommended dozens of bills to move forward in the process while hundreds of other bills not receiving action will effectively be lost. There are just two weeks left before the April break, with next week planned for debates on the House and Senate floor and the first week of April reserved for conference committees to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions.

Despite the committee work, the Senate and House kept busy on the floor debating bills. The House debated and passed its mega budget bill. The differences with the Senate's budget will be negotiated in conference committee soon. Several controversial issues are yet to be resolved. While the Senate passed another major tax package last week that features a single rate for income tax, the House is proposing a modified approach by lowering income tax rates with a two-bracket system. Both packages offer several additional tax cuts in various forms. School finance and education policy will lead a list of dozens of bills with anticipated floor debate next week.

Occupational Licensing

The Senate heard HB 2745 on the floor this week. HB 2745 is a bill providing that military spouses of active military service members shall be exempted from all occupational licensing, registration, and certification fees. No amendments were

made to the bill, and it passed the Senate unanimously. The bill will now go to the Governor awaiting a signature or veto.

Medicaid Expansion

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare had a joint meeting with the Senate Committee on Ways and Means regarding Medicaid Expansion. Proponents included representatives from the Sunflower Foundation, the North Carolina General Assembly, the Hays Medical Center, KDHE, the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, and Three Rivers Independent Living. Opponent testimony was presented by Representative Will Carpenter (R –Butler County), Representative Beverly Gossage (R –Johnson County), Opportunities Solution Project, the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, the Cato Institute, Kansas Family Voice, and Americans for Prosperity. The Kansas Health Institute provided neutral testimony. A large amount of written testimony was submitted by proponents, opponents, and neutrals.

Later this week, the House Committee on Health and Human Services held a hearing for HB 2556, a bill expanding medical assistance eligibility and enacting the Cutting Healthcare Costs for All Kansans Act. Proponents included representatives of KDHE, the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, the Sunflower Foundation, the Hutchinson Regional, the Johnson County Mental Health Center, the Sedgwick County Sheriff Department, the 3 Rivers Center for Independent Research, and the North Carolina Legislature. Opponent testimony was presented by Representative Will Carpenter (R –Butler County), Representative Beverly Gossage (R –Johnson County), Opportunities Solution Project, the Cato Institute, Kansas Family Voice, Americans for Prosperity, the Kansas Policy Institute, Kansans for Life, the Kansas Chamber, and multiple private citizens. The American Cancer Society Action Network and Kansas Health Institute testified as neutral.

The following day, the House Committee on Health and Human Services discussed the bill (HB 2556) and a motion was made to advance the bill out of committee was unsuccessful.

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

<p>SB 430 Senate Commerce Committee</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>On General Orders in House</p>	<p>03/05/2024 - House Withdrawn from Consent Calendar; placed on General Orders</p>
<p>SB 433 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee</p>	<p>Clarifying practice privileges of institutional license holders</p>	<p>On General Orders in House</p>	<p>03/06/2024 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Health and Human Services</p>
<p>SB 449 Senate Judiciary Committee</p>	<p>Expanding the definition of healthcare provider for individuals providing care at the scene of an emergency or accident</p>	<p>In Senate Public Health and Welfare</p>	<p>02/06/2024 - Senate Referred to Public Health and Welfare</p>
<p>HB 2239 House Welfare Reform Committee</p>	<p>Allowing for exemptions from continuing education requirements for work experience</p>	<p>In House Welfare Reform</p>	<p>02/01/2023 - House Referred to Welfare Reform</p>
<p>HB 2257 House Health and Human Services Committee</p>	<p>Providing for the licensure and regulation of music therapists by the state board of healing arts and establishing the music therapy advisory committee</p>	<p>In House Health and Human Services</p>	<p>02/02/2023 - House Referred to Health and Human Services</p>
<p>HB 2337 House Health and Human Services Committee</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>In House Health and Human Services</p>	<p>02/08/2023 - House Referred to Health and Human Services</p>

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	Pending enrollment	03/20/2024 - Senate Final Action: Passed; Yeas 40, Nays 0

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
HB 2825 House Appropriations Committee	Enacting consumer protection related to hospital price transparency act	On General Orders in House	03/21/2024 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Insurance