



Memorandum

Date: February 18, 2022
Re: Legislative and Policy Report

Overview

This week was the last full week for committees to hear and work bills as the first half of the session concludes. Despite a snowy Thursday, most committees met to work bills before Monday's deadline. Committees will have one last chance on Monday to hear and work bills before spending the rest of next week on the floor of their respective chambers debating and passing bills before Turnaround Day, February 24th. That marks the deadline for when non-exempt bills must pass their chamber of origin, or else they are effectively dead for the remainder of the Session.

Additionally, as budget subcommittees continue their reports to the full budget committees for state agencies, the budget will gradually be assembled. The full Senate Ways and Means and House Appropriations committees will have their budgets assembled by early to mid-March when they will begin to conference on the budget and reconcile differences before First Adjournment on April 1st.

Because next week, when the Legislature will be all about debating bills on the floor, this report is designed to give you an idea of the issues that are still alive and most likely to see action before Turnaround. Right now, most bills will be dead and this report highlights bills that still have a chance to advance.

Big Picture Issues

Latest on Redistricting

- As expected, the Congressional map passed by the Legislature a couple weeks ago has now been challenged in court. Lawsuits brought by Loud Light and the ACLU were filed in state court early this week.

SPARK Update

- The Advisory Panels (APs) will hold their second round of meetings this week and next.
 - Thursday, February 17th: Efficiency & Modernization.
 - Friday, February 18th: Health & Education.
 - Friday, February 18th: Economic Revitalization.
 - Friday, February 25th: Connectivity.
- The AP meetings can be streamed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfChGWc38RE1tmAKNmQxPg/featured>

Current Healthcare Issues

Health committees, compared to other years, have not passed out a large volume of bills, though we expect the potential for action next week in a few topic areas:

- 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL).

- Preventing Changes to KanCare (HB 2463).
- Vaccinations.
- APRN scope of practice.

While not a large volume of bills, these topics are likely to cause rigorous debate next week.

Hearings of Note this Past Week

Action on HB 2281: Implementation and Funding for 988 NSPL.

- HB 2281, which had hearings last year, was heard again and worked this week in House Health.
- The bill as amended by the committee, is summarized here: http://kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measures/documents/supp_note_hb2281_01_0000.pdf
- Expect action on House floor next week. If committee discussion was any indication, there may be lengthy discussion on the cell phone tax and efforts to cap the monthly fee cost for businesses with multiple phone lines. Work on the bill is far from being resolved, as when the Health Committee voted it out, they also referred it to the House Energy and Utilities Committee to further examine the telecom piece.
- In short, the committee amended the bill as follows:
 - Adds \$0.20 cell phone tax to partially fund services associated with the 988 hotline.
 - Adds language similar to 911 fee statutes (i.e., liability protections for providers; preemption for any subdivisions that would try to impose their own 988 fee, etc.).
 - Each school district that issues student ID cards to students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to include on such ID cards the 988 number.

Hearing on SB 497 Human Trafficking Awareness Training.

- SB 497 would authorize the Attorney General to coordinate training regarding a multidisciplinary team approach to intervention in reports involving alleged human trafficking for law enforcement agencies and requiring training on human trafficking awareness and identification for certain child welfare agencies, juvenile justice agencies, mental health professionals and school personnel.
- The bill was heard in Senate Judiciary on February 16th and the following organizations support the bill: Kansas Associations of Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, and Peace Officers; Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking; Human Trafficking Advisory Board; Children's Alliance of Kansas; and American Family Action of Kansas and Missouri.
- No opposition or neutral testimony. However, underlying this bill are a wide range of professional associations that question the universal application of this mandatory training requirement.

SB 200 Pharmacy Scope of Practice Passes the Senate.

- SB 200 as amended by the Senate Health Committee passed the Senate 37-2 on February 16th.
- As a reminder, the Senate committee amended the bill to allow a pharmacist to initiate therapy within the framework of a statewide protocol for influenza, strep, or UTIs, as opposed to a broader list of conditions proposed last Session.

- The current bill summary provides more information on the bill as amended:
http://kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measures/documents/supp_note_sb200_01_0000.pdf

Budget Hearings

- House Appropriations' Social Services Budget Committee recommendations for KDHE are scheduled for Friday, February 18th. Several key components include extended postpartum coverage and several other Medicaid issues.
- DCF and KDADS budgets were also up for hearings and recommendations this week, and the Senate subcommittee continues its work on DCF's budget today. The full budget committees will review the subcommittee recommendations in the coming weeks.
- The House Social Services Budget committee made several recommendations for DCF's budget, including adding \$5 million to address the child welfare workforce crisis. The committee stipulated that efforts to secure SPARK funding should be the first priority, but if not recommended by SPARK, then the committee will include the \$5 million in its recommendation. The committee will make its recommendations for KDADS on Monday.

Upcoming Hearings

- Senate Judiciary hearing on SB 466 on 2/18. The bill prohibits local units of government from implementing mask mandates.
- Both Health committees will meet Monday to work bills.
- Senate Public Health & Welfare (SPHW) will meet Monday to work two APRN scope of practice bills. One of the bills, SB 174, was heard last year, while the other, SB 454, was introduced this year and has not had a hearing. It is expected the two bills will be combined.
- House Health on Monday will hear HB 2498 which would prohibit the KDHE Secretary from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for children.

KAAP Related Items

- HB 2632 CARE Providers passed out of Children & Seniors committee and is headed to the House floor for debate next week.
- HB 2463 was tabled in House Health committee after a request for an AG opinion on the matter. Though the bill is stalled until the AG's opinion is issued, the bill remains in play, whether it is worked Monday or if it is blessed to be worked after Turnaround. The Committee had not begun debate on the bill and the decision to table will likely be reversed on Monday.
- Vaccinations. We continue to monitor Senate Substitute for HB 2280 (off label prescribing and create personal vaccine exemption), currently sitting in Senate Health, in addition to HB 2498 (prohibit KDHE from requiring COVID vaccine.) which will be heard in House Health on Monday, and potentially passed out of committee.
- House Insurance Committee this week passed HB 2110, which would require insurance coverage for PANS/PANDAS by the state health care benefits program and require the state employee health care commission to submit an impact report on such coverage to the Legislature.
- Bills Potentially in Play Next Week:
 - HB 2632 CARE Providers.
 - APRN Scope of Practice: SBs 174 and 454.

- Vaccines: HB 2498 and Senate Sub for HB 2280.
- HB 2281 NSPL.
- HB 2463, pending AG opinion.

Upcoming Activities

The legislative schedule of hearings is updated regularly throughout the week can be found in the House and Senate calendars on the Legislature website at:

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/chamber/calendars/

Additionally, all hearings are now available online live and archived by the end of each day. You can find those hearings on the Legislature website at: [http://sg001-](http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/)

[harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/](http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/)

Monday, February 21st.

Senate Health. 8:30 AM.

- Discussion & Action on SB 174: Updating scope of practice requirements for APRNs without a supervising physician.
- Discussion & Action on SB 454: Amending the APRN scope of practice to permit the prescribing of controlled substances without a supervising physician.

House Health. 1:30 PM.

- Hearing on HB 2498: Prohibiting KDHE Secretary from requiring COVID-19 vaccination for children attending school.
- Likely final action on HB 2463: Preventing further changes to KanCare.