



KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

Legislative Monitoring: Keeping Up with Health Legislation

Kansas Nonprofit Forum
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Hello!



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Today's Learning Objectives

1. Define legislative monitoring and describe its importance for public health and health policy professionals.
2. Describe KHI's legislative monitoring process and publications.
3. Identify best practices and strategies for legislative monitoring and engaging with policymakers.



Legislative Monitoring: What is it?

- Legislative monitoring is the process of keeping track of bills and amendments as they move toward becoming laws.
- Legislative monitoring includes a review of the provisions of selected bills, reviewing legislative calendars, committee agendas and written testimony submitted by conferees, and attending legislative committee meetings and bill hearings.
- Monitoring legislative activity is time-consuming and challenging but provides opportunities to participate in the legislative process and the creation or revision of policies impacting topics of importance to organizations and individuals.

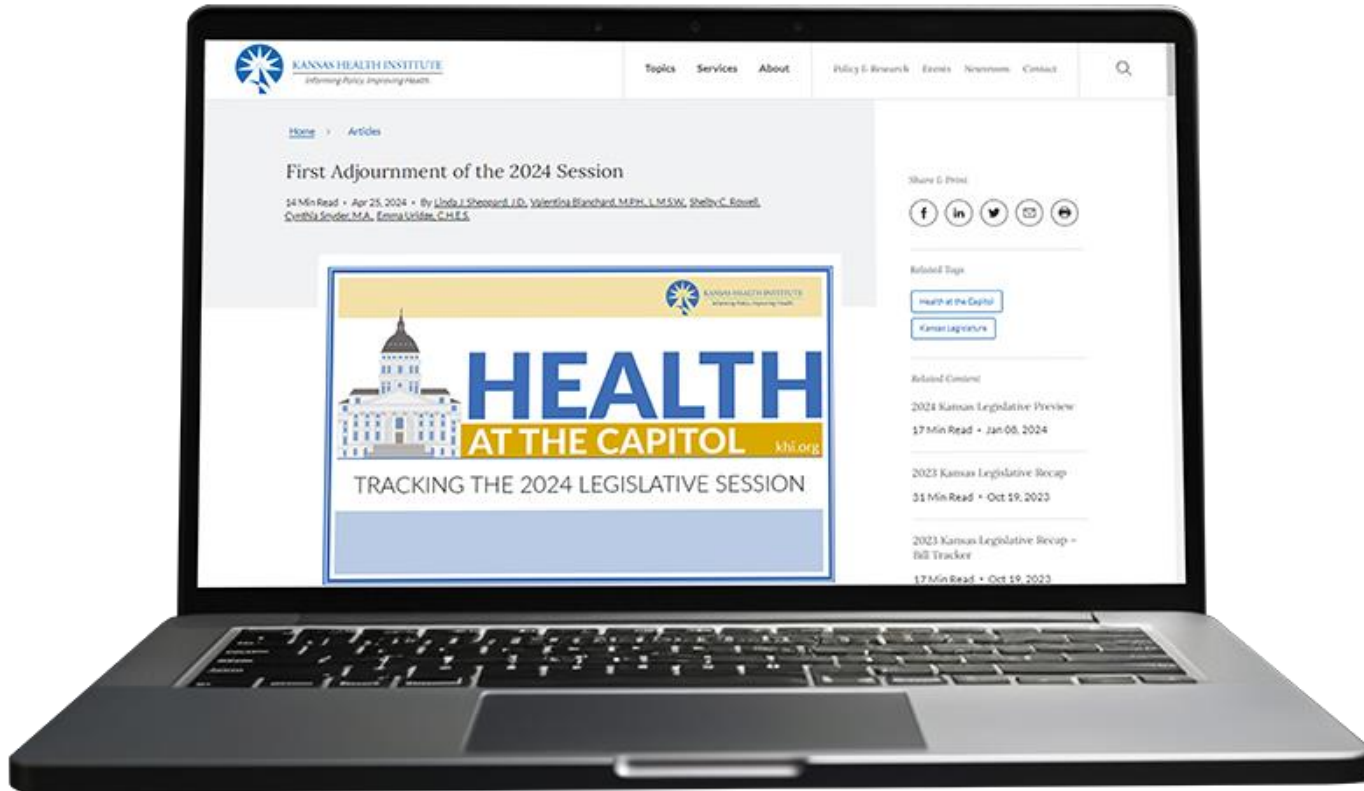


Legislative Monitoring: The KHI way

- During 2024 legislative session, KHI monitored 14 committees and tracked more than 100 health-related bills.
- Prepared weekly Health at the Capitol (HATC) summary describing activity of committees that met or held hearings each week.
- HATC includes:
 - Summary of committee activity during the week;
 - Brief description of the bills that were heard or discussed; and
 - Summary of testimony presented and questions asked by committee members.



Legislative Monitoring: The KHI way



Legislative Monitoring: The KHI way

- For 2024, started production of short videos featuring staff describing what happened in committees as supplement to HATC.
- Following the end of the session, began preparation of annual legislative recap issue brief that includes:
 - Summary of main topic areas and bills considered by the Legislature during the session.
 - Bill tracker presenting bills, by topic area, and showing their progress during the session from introduction through signature or veto.




Legislative Monitoring: The KHI way

- In October, KHI will begin preparation of its annual legislative preview issue brief - our “crystal ball” vision of what might be addressed by legislators during the 2025 session.
- Throughout the session, KHI staff looks for opportunities to present neutral testimony to inform legislators about relevant data or research they can use when considering legislation.
- KHI staff also respond to specific requests from legislators or legislative staff for data or research to answer questions that arise during their discussions.



Legislative Monitoring: The KHI way

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2023 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RECAP

ISSUE BRIEF

Session Overview

The 2023 legislative session began on Jan. 9 and ended on Friday, April 28. During the session, 800 bills were introduced, including more than 80 health-related bills, and 98 bills became law, including more than 15 health-related bills. Because 2023 was the first year of a legislative biennium, a total of 655 bills will be carried over to the 2024 legislative session.

Child welfare, workforce, vaccinations and abortion legislation were key areas of activity for the 2023 Legislature. The new House Committee on Welfare Reform considered a number of bills related to public assistance programs and held a roundtable on homelessness. A plan to eliminate the sales tax on food, effective Jan. 1, 2024, a full year before the date approved by legislators in 2022, was included in a larger tax bill that was vetoed by Gov. Kelly, despite her support for the issue. Two bills to expand Medicaid introduced in early February, also supported by the Governor, failed to receive hearings.

**2023
LEGISLATIVE
RECAP**

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

Child welfare was a high priority for legislators during the 2023 session. The House Child Welfare and Foster Care Committee held its inaugural meeting during the first week of the session and took action on 15 bills

KEY POINTS

- ✓ Child welfare was a high priority for legislators, with action on 15 bills on a variety of issues, including revising the Newborn Infant Protection Act related to the legal surrender of infants.
- ✓ Legislators continued to look for ways to expand the health care workforce, including passage of **SB 112** by the Senate, which would permit registered nurse anesthetists to practice to the full extent of the scope of their education and qualifications, with some exceptions. The bill is alive and may be acted upon during the 2024 session.
- ✓ Although five cannabis bills were introduced during the session, only **SB 135**, which would create the Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, received a hearing. The bill is alive and may be acted upon during the 2024 session.
- ✓ In response to concerns regarding overdose deaths resulting from the presence of fentanyl, legislators passed **SB 174**, which amends the definition of "drug paraphernalia" to exclude tests used to detect the presence of fentanyl and other harmful controlled substances.
- ✓ Gov. Kelly vetoed House Substitute for **SB 169**, which would have accelerated the elimination of the sales tax on food to Jan. 1, 2024. In her veto message, the Governor expressed concern about other provisions of the bill, including replacement of all individual income tax brackets with a single rate of 5.15 percent and the \$1.3 billion cost of the bill over the next three years.

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2023 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

2023 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

Introduction

The 2023 Kansas legislative session began on Monday, January 9. Because 2023 is the first year in the legislative biennium, or two-year cycle, none of the more than 50 unfinished health-related bills from last session remain on the calendar.

In addition to the re-election of Gov. Laura Kelly, the 2022 general election included races for all 125 House seats. As a result of the election, and some resignations, there will be 33 new House members in 2023 and three new senators. Republicans continue to hold majorities in both chambers with 28 Republicans, 11 Democrats, and one independent in the Senate and 85 Republicans and 40 Democrats in the House.

Legislators and other stakeholders were busy throughout the summer and fall with 25 interim committees — including seven committees specifically focused on health-related issues — meeting during August through mid-December. Medical marijuana will likely be on the table early in the session after members of the Special Committee on Medical Marijuana met for four days during October through

**Figure 1. 2023 Kansas Legislative Makeup**

HOUSE
85R/40D
63 Votes Needed to Pass a Bill
84 Votes Needed to Override a Veto

SENATE
28R/11D/1I
21 Votes Needed to Pass a Bill
27 Votes Needed to Override a Veto

Dan Hawkins
Speaker of the House
R-Wichita

Laura Kelly
Governor

Ty Masterson
President
R-Andover

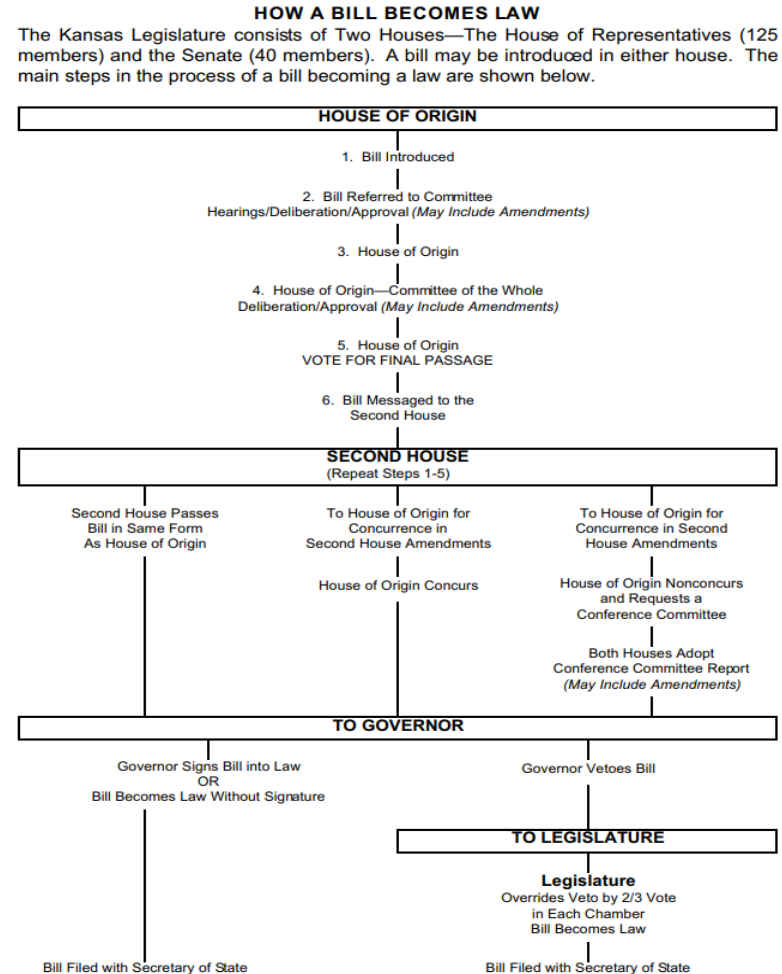
December. The 2023 Legislature also may consider issues or recommendations from other interim committees.

KEY POINTS

- ✓ During the 2023 session, legislators will likely review several issues related to KanCare, including Medicaid expansion and the work of the 2022 Special Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waiver Modernization.
- ✓ The recommendations of the 2022 Special Committee on Mental Health Beds that met five times between August and December include development of up to 50 state institution beds to be located in the Sedgwick County area.
- ✓ It is likely that a medical marijuana bill will be introduced at the beginning of the 2023 session that will include recommendations from the 2022 Special Committee on Medical Marijuana that met four times during October and December.
- ✓ In 2023, legislators may consider "Tobacco 21" legislation to codify federal law raising the minimum age for the sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21 years. Recent research continues to show high rates of use of e-cigarettes among middle and high school students during 2022.



Legislative Monitoring: Path from bill to law



Legislative Monitoring: Identifying bills

- After you identify a bill or bills that will impact an issue of interest decide:
 - Do you support or oppose the bill, or are you neutral but interested in the outcome?
 - What's your organization's position on the issue?
 - How high of a priority is this bill and how much do you want to participate in the legislative process?
- After identifying legislation, you can move to taking action.
 - Attend committee hearings live or virtually.
 - Engage with committee members, present testimony.



Legislative Monitoring: Tools and resources

The Kansas Legislature website is a great place to start.

kslegislature.gov



Legislative Monitoring: Tools and resources

- kslegislature.gov
 - House and Senate members, including leadership
 - Roster: names of legislators, district they represent and contact information at the Capitol
 - Individual legislators: photos, home information, occupation, committee membership
 - Committees: when they meet (date and time), chairs, members, staff, detailed agendas, testimony, minutes
 - Bills and Laws: numerical listing and search feature



Legislative Monitoring: Tools and resources

- kslegislature.gov
 - Calendars: daily description of committees meeting that day, when and where they meet and brief description of their agenda.
 - Audio/Video: links for live stream of each chamber, calendar view of committee meetings and links to listen live or for recordings, link to Kansas Legislature channel on YouTube.



Legislative Monitoring: Tools and resources

- Other helpful tools and resources:
 - Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD)
 - Kansas Division of Budget
 - Governor's Website
 - Newsletters/Media Outlets (Hawver/State Affairs, Kansas Reflector, Sunflower State Journal) (subscriptions required)
 - KanFocus (bill search and tracking tool, detailed bill summaries, fiscal notes, bill history, links to related bills - subscription required)



Legislative Monitoring in a Nutshell

- An opportunity to participate in the legislative process and the creation of health-related policy and law.
- It's time consuming and challenging but so valuable!
- KHI has a comprehensive legislative monitoring process and a team of analysts who prepare detailed information about health-related legislation that can be accessed at khi.org.
- There are many steps in establishing and conducting a legislative monitoring process, but . . .
- There are lots of tools and resources to help you get started and to stay informed.



Share Your “Crystal Ball” Predictions

What do you think are the potential issues that the Legislature will address during the 2025 Session?



THANK YOU!

Any Questions?



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