

Kansas State Nurses Association Legislative Update



April 2016

2016 Kansas Legislative Session, Number 3



The Legislature is on break until April 27th. They will get new revenue estimates April 20th, then come back for the “veto” session and wrap things up. It could take a few days or a few weeks. Bills that are in conference committees remain viable which provides opportunity to communicate with legislators.

Go to this link to get an overview of all legislative activity.
http://kslegislature.org/li/m/pdf/kansas_legislative_procedure.pdf
Or you can go to the Kansas Legislature website and click on Bills & Laws to locate specific bills if you know the bill number.

SB 358 Nurse Educator Service Scholarship Program Act was signed into law by the Governor.

The amendment is as follows: SB 358 amends definitions in the Nurse Educator Service Scholarship Program Act. The bill adds to the definition of “school of nursing” accredited independent institution,” which is defined as a not-for-profit institution of higher education that has its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas, is operated independently and not controlled or administered by the state, maintains open enrollment, and holds accreditation to grant a master of science or doctoral degree in nurse education or nursing administration from a national accrediting entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

SB 255 A bill on the Governor’s desk awaiting action related to health care and of interest to nursing is SB 255 that establishes an interstate compact for licensing emergency medical services personnel. It will allow for EMS workers to work across state lines more easily.

Bills of Major Importance to Nursing:

- **House Substitute for Senate Bill No. 402.**

This bill made a sudden appearance and was introduced by Rep Dan Hawkins on a Friday with very little opportunity for input from nursing before it went to a conference committee. The bill is con-



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cerning certified nurse-midwives' scope of practice which would allow for independent practice within specified parameters, requiring dual licensure under the Board of Healing

Arts and the Kansas State Board of Nursing for those seeking independent practice. It is opposed by the national organization of nurse midwives, the APRN organization in Kansas, KSNA, and KSNB.

Final action on this bill before Good Friday was to bundle four bills into one bill with bill number 2615. The bills included in this bundle are HB2615 which deals with charitable healthcare providers and dentists; HB2456 dealing with Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; SB449 that would standardize regulatory statutes administered by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board; and SB402. You will need to access each bill individually to review contents.

This bill (HB2615) is still active. It is important to contact the members of the conference committee to voice opposition to SB402. Committee members are:

Chairman Rep Dan Hawkins from Wichita, Dist 100
Rep Willie Dove from Bonner Springs, Dist 38
Rep Jim Ward from Wichita, Dist 86
Sen Michael O'Donnell from Wichita, Dist 25
Sen Elaine Bowers from Concordia, Dist 36
Sen Laura Kelly from Topeka, Dist 18

- **HB2721**

This bill had a hearing in the House Committee on General Government Budget on March 15th and was tabled indefinitely. The bill establishes three committees to study strategic shared resources, consolidated leadership and budgetary oversight relating to boards, commissions, councils, authorities and other governmental entities. The impetus for this bill comes from the Kansas Statewide Efficiency Review by Alvarez and Marszal. The Board of Nursing is included in this review and can provide efficiency data.

- **No number bill**

The proposal to bring the Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts under one director was submitted to the revisors' office by Rep Dan Hawkins as the first step in bill development. It has not been completed in that office and therefore has no number. A number must be assigned before it officially becomes a bill that can be introduced in committee. This proposal presents significant concerns for the nursing profession – we are on high alert with this one! If and when appropriate, KSNA will send a call for action to the membership.

- **HB2369**

This bill has provided for media coverage recently. This bill creates the Kansas Tanning Facilities Act and would prohibit a tanning facility from providing access to a tanning device to any individual under 18 years of age. The facility could incur a fine up to \$250 for each violation. The bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate on March 14th. No action recorded since that date.

- **HB463**

This bill is in the Committee on Ways and Means and section 1.b. contains the concern we feared could happen and now it is in a bill. It has to do with the Children's Initiative funds which this bill proposes to abolish and



transfer all moneys to the state general fund. No doubt you have heard the opposition to this section in the news media. It is a lengthy bill.

Status of bills from *Legislative Update* in February...

Bills with No Changes:

HB 2451 Expanding mandatory reporters of child

abuse (adding animal control officers...and persons authorized to take custody of an animal...when investigating suspected cruelty to animals.)

This bill had a hearing Jan 27th. It remains in the House committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice.



SB 9 Cannabis Compassion and Care Act (Medicinal Marijuana)

This bill was referred to the Senate committee on Public Health and Welfare. No action has been taken since January 2015.

HB 2058 and SB 265 The Kansas Caregiver Advice, Record, Enable (CARE) Act sponsored by AARP the requires documentation of the name of the caregiver upon admission and mandates discharge teaching.

This bill (SB 265) was referred to the Senate committee on Public Health and Welfare but did not receive a hearing. HB 2058 received a hearing on Feb 3rd but no further action has occurred. It remains in the House committee, Health and Human Services.

HB 2313 Healthcare Worker Assault Legislation sponsored by ENA, law enforcement, KMS, EMS and KHA, making assault on a healthcare worker a high level misdemeanor.

HB 2313 had a hearing in Feb, 2015 and remains in the House committee Corrections and Juvenile Justice. No action taken.

HB 2515 Abolishing the death penalty and creating the crime of aggravated murder, and provide for sentences of imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole. The legislation would not be retroactive to people on death row nor apply in cases where the crime was committed before July 1, 2016.

This bill was referred to the House committee on Judiciary on January 25th. It remains in committee.

Updates on Bills:

SB 274 Increase unbelted seatbelt fines from \$10 to \$60 that would also fund the SAFE program, a seat belt education program for Kansas high schools.

This bill passed the Senate in April 2015 and was referred to the House committee on Transportation which had a hearing on March 3rd. No action taken.

Issues to Monitor:

The Community Paramedic is a topic of discussions in joint meetings between the KSNB and the Board of Healing Arts. Another meeting is scheduled for May 23rd.

Expanding Medicaid. There was no action taken in either Chamber.

Opiates-Pain Medication Guidelines that are being developed and adopted in some states.

