Kansas Legislative Research Department March 25, 2026

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION
2026 KANSAS LEGISLATURE

KLRD

Providing objective research and fiscal analysis for the Kansas Legislature

This publication contains summaries of bills passed by the Legislature as of the end of the legislative day on March 20, 2026. Bills that have not yet been signed by the Governor are included.

A supplement containing summaries of bills passed after that date will be distributed during the week of March 30, 2026. An additional supplement will be mailed after the wrap-up session in April.

Highlights, a summary of major legislation, will be prepared after the Legislature adjourns and will be mailed to legislators as soon as possible. The *2026 Summary of Legislation*, which accounts for all bills enacted by the 2026 Legislature, will be distributed at a later date.

These documents are available on the Kansas Legislative Research Department's website: https://klrd.gov/.

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ABORTION

Woman's-Right-to-Know Act; HB 2727

HB 2727 allows plaintiffs to elect to limit recovery in claims brought for violations of the informed consent provisions of the Woman's-Right-to-Know Act (Act) and does not allow parties to the suit to request the convening of medical malpractice screening panel.

The bill allows a plaintiff, in any action brought under the Act for an alleged violation of the informed consent requirements, to elect to limit their recovery to capped statutory damages, reimbursement of amounts paid by or on behalf of the plaintiff, and recovery of reasonable attorney's fees.

The bill specifies its provisions could not be construed to limit its application to actions related to medication abortion procedures.

The bill provides if a plaintiff elects to limit their recovery under the bill, neither party to the suit could compel the use of a medical malpractice screen panel as provided for by law.

Informed Consent—Woman's-Right-to-Know Act; HB 2729

HB 2729 amends the informed consent provisions of the Woman's-Right-to-Know Act (Act) concerning required information and required notice signs for both abortion procedures and medication abortion.

The bill specifies that the information required to be provided by abortion providers under the Act shall be on a form provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Department) and that such form may be provided in hard copy format on white paper or electronically transmitted to a woman.

[*Note:* Under the Act, unless a medical emergency exists, certain information must be provided in writing to a woman seeking an abortion procedure 24 hours in advance of an abortion procedure or prior to providing or inducing a medication abortion.]

Additionally, the bill requires the informed consent and medication abortion reversal notice signs required by the Act to state that such notice is from the Department.

Fees for Seed Retailers, Seed Wholesalers, and Live Plant Dealers; SB 425

SB 425 increases the maximum registration fee caps for seed retailers and seed wholesalers and authorizes fees for late registrations by seed retailers, seed wholesalers, and live plant dealers.

Registration Fee Caps

The bill increases the following maximum registration fees:

- For seed retailers, increases from $30 to $50; and
- For seed wholesalers, increases from $300 to $400.

[*Note:* These fee amounts are established in KAR 4-2-21.]

Late Registration Fees

Continuing law states seed retailer and seed wholesaler licenses expire on August 31 following the date the registration is issued unless the registration is renewed annually. The bill authorizes a late registration fee to be assessed depending on when the previously obtained registration is renewed:

- $25 if renewed on or after September 15, but before October 15, immediately following the date of expiration; and

- $50 if renewed on or after October 15.

Continuing law regarding live plant dealer licenses states all licenses expire on January 31, following the date of issue. The bill allows a similar grace period and states that renewal of a license on or after the February 15 immediately following expiration is subject to a $25 late fee.

Online Map of Applied-for Diversions of Water; HB 2477

HB 2477 requires the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture to publish on its official website a map and all orders identifying the locations of all applied-for water diversions and proposed changes in points of diversion.

The bill expands notice requirements by requiring individual notice to all landowners within one-half mile of an applied-for diversion or a proposed change in the point of diversion of more than 300 feet. The bill removes the current requirement to notify surrounding water right owners that a water conservation area is being established.

BUSINESS, COMMERCE, AND LABOR

Mutual Waiver of Consequential Damages in Public Construction Contracts; SB 335

SB 335 amends the Kansas Fairness in Public Construction Contract Act to require public construction contracts entered into by a public entity and a contractor to include a mutual waiver of consequential damages.

The bill provides the form that such waivers substantially take, specifying certain types of damages to be waived by the owner and contractor, including:

- Damages incurred by the owner for:
    - Rental expenses;
    - Loss of use, income, profit, financing, and business and reputation; and
    - Loss of management or employee productivity or services of such persons; and
- Damages incurred by the contractor for:
    - Principal office expenses, including personnel compensation; and
    - Losses of financing, business and reputation, and profit, except anticipated profit arising directly from the construction.

The bill also allows the public entity and contractor to agree to waive additional items of consequential damage as needed for the applicable construction project.

The bill does not preclude an owner's claims of liquidated damages, a contractor's claims for extended general conditions, or either party's claims of direct damages arising from delay in accordance with the requirements and terms of the contract.

Foster Family Homes; HB 2524

HB 2524 amends law concerning the Department for Children and Family's (DCF) licensing of family foster home applicants and licensees.

The bill permits DCF to allow for the continuation of a license of a family foster home when:

- The applicant or licensee otherwise qualifies for such licensure; and
- A person who resides in such home:
  - Has been convicted or adjudicated of an offense as described in continuing law;
  - Was a child with such conviction or adjudication in custody and placed in such home by the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary);
  - Is less than 26 years of age; and
  - Maintains residence in such home or has been legally adopted by a person who resides in such home.

The Secretary can grant a license or allow the continuation of a license if there are no safety concerns, as determined by the Secretary, and if a person residing in such home otherwise meets the above-listed requirements, but:

- Is older than 26 years of age; or
- Has an additional conviction or adjudication after release from the custody of the Secretary.

This bill allows an applicant or licensee of a family foster home to appeal to the Secretary for review if licensure has not been granted. If this arises, the Secretary's decision upon review of the appeal will be final.

Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children; HB 2557

HB 2557 enacts the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC or Compact) and repeals the current ICPC codified at KSA 38-1201 through KSA 38-1206.

Findings and Declarations

The bill makes the following findings and declarations:

- That finding suitable homes for children who have lost or never had homes requires the full attention and resources of the state of Kansas;

- That the needs of children and adults cannot be met by restricting child placement services and supervision to the state of Kansas;

- That would-be parents and children have a need for love, security, and fulfillment that can be met only when children in need of placement are matched with adults who can care for them; and

- A variety of circumstances makes interstate placements of children essential and offers compelling reasons for an interstate compact under which the jurisdictional, administrative, and human rights and obligations involved can be protected.

The bill declares that it shall be the policy of this state, in adopting the ICPC, to cooperate fully with other states in providing that no children shall be sent or brought into any other party state for placement in foster care or as a preliminary to a possible adoption unless the sending state complies with each and every requirement in this interstate compact.

Enactment of Compact

Article I, Purpose and Policy

The purpose of the Compact is to:

- Provide a process through which children subject to the Compact are placed in safe and suitable homes in a timely manner;

- Facilitate ongoing supervision of a placement, the delivery of services, and communication between the states;

- Provide operating procedures that ensure children are placed in safe and suitable homes in a timely manner;

- Provide for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of the Compact and regulating the covered activities of the member states;

- Provide for uniform data collection and information sharing between member states under the Compact;

- Promote coordination between the Compact, the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance, and other compacts affecting the placement of and that provide services to children otherwise subject to the Compact;

- Provide for a state's continuing legal jurisdiction and responsibility for placement and care of a child that it would have had if the placement were intrastate; and

- Provide for the promulgation of guidelines, in collaboration with Indian tribes, for interstate cases involving Indian children as is or may be permitted by federal law.

Article II, Definitions

The Compact defines various terms used throughout the Compact, including:

- "Approved placement" means the public child placing agency (CPA) in the receiving state that has determined the placement is both safe and suitable for the child;

- "Placement" means the act by a public or private CPA intended to arrange for the care or custody of a child in another state;

- "Receiving state" means the state to where a child is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought; and

- "Sending state" means the state from where the placement of a child is initiated.

Article III, Applicability

When the Compact applies. The provisions of the Compact will apply to the interstate placement of a child:

- Subject to ongoing court jurisdiction in the sending state, due to allegations or findings that the child has been abused, neglected, or deprived as defined by the laws of the sending state, provided, however, that the placement of such a child into a residential facility shall only require notice of residential placement to the receiving state prior to placement;

- Adjudicated delinquent or unmanageable based on the laws of the sending state and subject to ongoing court jurisdiction of the sending state if:

    - The child is being placed in a residential facility in another member state and is not covered under another compact; or

    - The child is being placed in another member state and the determination of safety and suitability of the placement and services required is not provided through another compact; or

- By a public or private CPA as a preliminary step to a possible adoption.

When the Compact does not apply. The provisions of the Compact do not apply to the interstate placement of a child:

- In a custody proceeding when a public CPA is not a party, provided the placement is not intended to effectuate an adoption;

- With a non-relative in a receiving state by a parent with the legal authority to make such a placement provided, however, the placement is not intended to effectuate an adoption; or

- By one relative with the lawful authority to make such a placement directly with a relative in a receiving state.

The Compact also does not apply to the placement of a child:

- Into a residential facility by their parent;

- With a non-custodial parent, provided that:

    - The non-custodial parent proves to the satisfaction of a court in the sending state a substantial relationship with the child;
    - The court in the sending state makes a written finding that placement with the non-custodial parent is in the best interests of the child; and
    - The court in the sending state dismisses its jurisdiction in interstate placements when the public CPA is a party to the proceeding.

The Compact also does not apply to:

- A child entering the United States from a foreign country for the purpose of adoption or leaving the United States to go to a foreign country for the purpose of adoption in that country;

- Cases when a U.S. citizen child living overseas with their family, at least one of whom is in the U.S. Armed Services and who is stationed overseas, is removed and placed in a state; or

- The sending of a child by a public or private CPA for a visit as defined by the rules of the Interstate Commission for the Placement of Children (Commission).

Applicability to child with family in the armed services. For purposes of determining the applicability of the Compact to the placement of a child with a family in the armed services, the Compact will specify the public or private CPA may choose the state of the service member's permanent duty station or the service member's declared legal residence.

Concurrent application with other applicable interstate compacts. The Compact specifies nothing in the Compact shall be construed to prohibit the concurrent application of the provisions of the Compact with other applicable interstate compacts.

The Compact provides that the Commission may, in cooperation with other interstate compact commissions having responsibility for the interstate movement, placement, or transfer of children, promulgate like rules to ensure the coordination of services, timely placement of children, and the reduction of unnecessary or duplicative administrative or procedural requirements.

Article IV, Jurisdiction

Sending state retains jurisdiction. Except in the case of private and independent adoptions and in interstate placements when the public CPA is not a party to a custody proceeding, the Compact provides that the sending state shall retain jurisdiction over a child with respect to all matters of custody and disposition of the child that it would have had if the child had remained in the sending state. Such jurisdiction shall also include the power to order the return of the child to the sending state.

Conference between sending state court and receiving state court. When an issue of child protection or custody is brought before a court in the receiving state, the Compact requires the receiving state court to confer with the court of the sending state to determine the most appropriate forum for adjudication.

Testimony. The Compact provides, in cases that are before courts and subject to the Compact, the taking of testimony for hearings before any judicial officer may occur in person, telephone, audio-video conference, or other such means as approved by the rules of the Commission. The Compact further provides that judicial officers may communicate with other judicial officers and persons involved in the interstate process as may be permitted by their canons of judicial conduct and any rules promulgated by the Commission.

Termination of jurisdiction. The court in the sending state has authority to terminate its jurisdiction if:

- The child is reunified with the parent in the receiving state who is the subject of allegations or findings of abuse or neglect, only with the concurrence of the public CPA in the receiving state;
- The child is adopted;
- The child reaches the age of majority under the laws of the sending state;
- The child achieves legal independence pursuant to the laws of the sending state;
- A guardianship is created by a court in the receiving state with the concurrence of the court in the sending state;
- An Indian tribe has petitioned for and received jurisdiction from the court in the sending state; or
- The public CPA of the sending state requests termination and has obtained the concurrence of the public CPA in the receiving the state.

The bill requires the receiving state CPA to be notified when a sending state court terminates its jurisdiction.

Limitations on jurisdiction. The bill states nothing shall defeat a claim of jurisdiction by a receiving state court that is sufficient to deal with an act of truancy, delinquency, crime, or behavior involving the child in the receiving state that would be a violation of its laws.

The bill states nothing in its provisions could limit the receiving state's ability to take emergency jurisdiction for the protection of the child.

Adoptions. The substantive laws of the state where an adoption will be finalized will solely govern all issues relating to the adoption of the child, and the court where the adoption proceeding is filed would have subject matter jurisdiction regarding all substantive issues relating to the adoption, except when:

- The child is a ward of another court that established jurisdiction over the child prior to the placement;
- The child is in the legal custody of a public agency in the sending state; or
- When a court in the sending state has otherwise appropriately assumed jurisdiction over the child, prior to the submission of the request for approval of placement.

The Compact prohibits a final decree of adoption from being entered in any jurisdiction until the placement is authorized as an approved placement by the public CPA in the receiving state.

Article V, Placement Evaluation

Public CPA assessment. The Compact requires the public CPA to provide a written request for assessment to the receiving state prior to sending, bringing, or causing a child to be sent or brought (sending) into a receiving state.

Private CPA request for approval. For placements by a private CPA, the Compact provides that a child may be sent into a receiving state, upon receipt and immediate review of the required content in a request for approval of a placement in both the sending and receiving state public CPA. The Compact requires content to accompany a request for approval to include:

- A request for approval identifying the child, birth parent(s), the prospective adoptive parent(s), and the supervising agency, signed by the person requesting approval;
- The appropriate consents or relinquishments signed by the birth parents in accordance with the laws of the sending state or, where permitted, the laws of the state where the adoption will be finalized;
- Certification by a licensed attorney or authorized agent of a private adoption agency that the consent or relinquishment is in compliance with the applicable laws of the sending state or, where permitted, the laws of the state where finalization of the adoption will occur;
- A home study; and

- An acknowledgment of legal risk signed by the prospective adoptive parents.

Additional information. The Compact provides that the sending state and the receiving state may request additional information or documents prior to the finalization of an approved placement, but they cannot delay travel by the prospective adoptive parents with the child if the required content for approval has been submitted, received, and reviewed by the public CPA in both the sending state and the receiving state.

Approval from public CPA. The Compact requires approval from the public CPA in the receiving state for a provisional or approved placement as provided for in the rules of the Commission.

Procedure for assessment. The procedures for making the request for an assessment are required to contain all information and be in such form as provided for in the rules of the Commission.

Upon receipt of a request from the public CPA of the sending state, the receiving state is required to initiate an assessment of the proposed placement to determine its safety and suitability. If the proposed placement is a placement with a relative, the public CPA of the sending state may request a determination for a provisional placement.

The public CPA in the receiving state can request from the public or private CPA in the sending state the supporting or additional information necessary to complete the assessment or approve the placement.

The public CPA in the receiving state will be required to approve a provisional placement and complete or arrange for the completion of the assessment within the timeframes established by the rules of the Commission.

For a placement by a private CPA, the Compact prohibits the sending state from imposing any additional requirements to complete the home study that are not required by the receiving state, unless the adoption is finalized in the sending state.

The Commission is authorized to develop uniform standards for the assessment of the safety and suitability of interstate placements.

Article VI, Placement Authority

Except as otherwise provided in the Compact, no child subject to the Compact can be placed into a receiving state until approval for such placement is obtained.

If the public CPA in the receiving state does not approve the proposed placement, the Compact prohibits the child from being placed. The receiving state is required to provide written documentation of any such determination in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Commission. Such determination will not be subject to judicial review in the sending state.

Administrative and judicial review. The Compact provides that if the proposed placement is not approved, any interested party will have standing to seek an administrative review of the receiving state's determination.

The administrative review and any further judicial review associated with the determination will be conducted in the receiving state pursuant to its applicable administrative procedures act.

If a determination not to approve the placement of the child in the receiving state is overturned upon review, the placement is deemed approved, provided that all administrative or judicial remedies have been exhausted or the time for such remedies has passed.

Article VII, Placing Agency Responsibility

The bill outlines the responsibilities for the interstate placement of a child made by a public CPA or state court:

- The public CPA in the sending state has financial responsibility for:
    - The ongoing support and maintenance for the child during the period of the placement, unless otherwise provided for in the receiving state; and
    - As determined by the public CPA in the sending state, services for the child beyond the public services that the child is eligible for in the receiving state; and
- The receiving state has financial responsibility only for:
    - Any assessment conducted by the receiving state; and
    - Supervision conducted by the receiving state at the level necessary to support the placement as agreed upon by the public CPAs of the receiving and sending state.

Nothing in the Compact can prohibit public CPAs in the sending state from entering into agreements with licensed agencies or persons in the receiving state to conduct assessments and provide supervision.

The bill also outlines responsibilities for the placement of a child by a private CPA preliminary to a possible adoption, stating the private CPA is required to be:

- Legally responsible for the child during the period of placement as provided for in the law of the sending state until the finalization of the adoption; and
- Financially responsible for the child absent a contractual agreement to the contrary.

The public CPA in the receiving state is required to provide timely assessments, as provided for in the rules of the Commission, and provide for the supervision and services for the child, including timely reports, during the period of the placement.

Nothing in the Compact can be construed as to limit the authority of the public CPA in the receiving state from contracting with a licensed agency or person in the receiving state for an assessment or the provision of supervision or services for the child or otherwise authorizing the provision of supervision or services by a licensed agency during the period of placement.

Advisory council. Each member state is required to provide for coordination among its branches of government concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, the Compact and Commission activities, through the creation of an advisory council or use of an existing body or board.

Central compact office. Each member state is required to establish a central state compact office that will be responsible for state compliance with the Compact and the rules of the Commission.

Compliance with Indian Child Welfare Act. The public CPA in the sending state is required to oversee compliance with the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 USC 1901 *et seq*., for placements subject to the provisions of the Compact, prior to placement.

Limited agreements between states. With the consent of the Commission, states will have authority to enter into limited agreements that facilitate the timely assessment and provision of services and supervision of placements under the Compact.

Article VIII, Commission for the Placement of Children

Establishment. The member states of the Compact will establish the Commission, which will be a joint commission of the member states and have the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth in the Compact, and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent concurrent action of the respective legislatures of the member states.

Members. The Commission consists of one commissioner from each member state, appointed by the executive head of the state human services administration with the ultimate responsibility for the child welfare program. The appointed commissioner has the legal authority to vote on policy-related matters governed by the Compact binding the state.

Voting. Each member state represented at a meeting of the Commission is entitled to one vote. A majority of the member states will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the Commission. A representative cannot delegate a vote to another member state, but a representative can delegate voting authority to another person from their state for a specified meeting. In addition to the commissioners of each member state, the Commission is required to include persons who are members of interested organizations as defined in the bylaws or rules of the Commission. Such members are ex officio and not entitled to vote on any matter before the Commission.

Executive committee. The Commission is also required to establish an executive committee that has the authority to administer the day-to-day operations and administration of the Commission, but it will not have the power to engage in rulemaking.

Article IX, Powers and Duties of the Commission

The Commission has the power to:

- Promulgate rules and take all necessary actions to effect the goals, purposes, and obligations as enumerated in this compact;

- Provide for dispute resolution among member states;

- Issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or interpretation of the Compact, its bylaws, rules, or actions;

- Enforce compliance with the Compact or the bylaws or rules of the Commission;

- Collect standardized data concerning the interstate placement of children subject to the Compact as directed through its rules that must specify the data to be collected, the means of collection, and data exchange and reporting requirements;

- Establish and maintain offices as may be necessary for the transacting of its business;

- Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

- Hire or contract for services of personnel or consultants as necessary to carry out its functions under the Compact and establish personnel qualification policies and rates of compensation;

- Establish and appoint committees and officers, including, but not limited to, an executive committee;

- Accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services and to receive, utilize, and dispose thereof;

- Lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed;

- Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal, or mixed;

- Establish a budget and make expenditures;

- Adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and operation of the Commission;

- Report annually to the legislatures, governors, the judiciary, and state advisory councils of the member states concerning the activities of the Commission during the preceding year. The Compact requires such reports to include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the Commission;

- Coordinate and provide education, training, and public awareness regarding the interstate movement of children for officials involved in such activity;

- Maintain books and records in accordance with the bylaws of the Commission; and

- Perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of the Compact.

Article X, Organization and Operation of the Commission

Bylaws. Within 12 months after the first Commission meeting, the Commission is required to adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Compact. The Compact will require its bylaws and rules to establish procedures on making Commission information and official records available to the public.

Meetings. The Compact outlines meeting requirements of the Commission, including, but not limited to, meeting once per calendar year. The Compact provides that meetings that are likely to disclose protected information can be closed by a 2/3 vote. The bylaws can provide for meetings to be conducted by telecommunication or other electronic communication.

Officers and staff. The Compact describes the officers and staff to be selected or appointed by the Commission's executive committee.

Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification. The Commission's staff director and its employees are immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities. The Compact prohibits protection for a person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by a criminal act or the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of such person.

The Commission is required to defend the staff director and employees and, subject to the approval of the Attorney General or other appropriate legal counsel of the member state, to defend the commissioner of a member state in a civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such person.

To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state, or the Commission, the representatives or employees of the Commission will be held harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment, including attorney fees and costs, obtained against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities. The actual or alleged act, error or omission cannot have resulted from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such persons.

Article XI, Rulemaking Functions of the Commission

Principles of rulemaking. The Commission is required to promulgate and publish rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of the Compact. Such rulemaking will be required to conform to administrative procedure acts the Commission deems consistent with due process requirements under the *U.S. Constitution*.

When promulgating a rule, the Commission is required, at a minimum, to:

- Publish the entire text of the proposed rule, stating the reason or reasons for that proposed rule;

- Allow and invite any and all persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, and such information shall be added to the record and be made publicly available; and

- Promulgate a final rule and its effective date, if appropriate, based on input from state or local officials, or interested parties.

Rules binding as administrative rules. Rules promulgated by the Commission will have the force and effect of administrative rules and will be binding in the compacting states.

Judicial review. No later than 60 days after a rule is promulgated, an interested person can file a petition in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or in the federal district court where the Commission's principal office is located for judicial review of such rule. If the court finds that the Commission's action is not supported by substantial evidence in the rulemaking record, the court must hold the rule unlawful and set it aside.

Rejection. If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, those states may, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact, cause such rule to have no further force and effect in any member state.

Effect on existing rules. The existing rules governing the operation of the ICPC superseded by the Compact will be null and void no less than 12, but not more than 24, months after the first meeting of the Commission, as determined by the members during the first meeting.

First rules of the Commission. Within the first 12 months of operation, the Commission is required to promulgate rules addressing the following:

- Transition rules;
- Forms and procedures;
- Timelines;
- Data collection and reporting;
- Rulemaking;
- Visitation;
- Progress reports and supervision;
- Sharing of information and confidentiality;
- Financing of the Commission;

- Mediation, arbitration, and dispute resolution;
- Education, training, and technical assistance;
- Enforcement; and
- Coordination with other interstate compacts.

Emergency rules. Upon determination by a majority of the members of the Commission that an emergency exists, the Commission can promulgate an emergency rule only if it is required to:

- Protect the children covered by the Compact from an imminent threat to their health, safety, and well-being;
- Prevent loss of federal or state funds; or
- Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule required by federal law.

An emergency rule is effective immediately upon adoption, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures are retroactively applied to such rule as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 90 days after the effective date of the emergency rule.

The Compact requires an emergency rule to be promulgated as provided for in the rules of the Commission.

Article XII, Oversight, Dispute Resolution, and Enforcement

Oversight. The Commission is required to oversee the administration and operation of the Compact, while the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each member state are required to enforce the Compact and the rules of the Commission.

The Compact requires all courts to take judicial notice of the Compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of the Compact.

The Commission is entitled to receive service of process in any action when the validity of a Compact provision or rule is the issue for which a judicial determination has been sought and has standing to intervene in any proceedings. Failure to provide service of process to the Commission will render any judgment, order, or other determination void as to the Commission, the Compact, its bylaws, or rules of the Commission.

Dispute resolution. The Commission is required to attempt, upon the request of a member state, to resolve disputes that are subject to the Compact and may arise among member states and between member and nonmember states.

The Commission is required to promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes among compacting states. The costs of such mediation or dispute resolution is the responsibility of the parties to the dispute.

Enforcement. If the Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under the Compact, its bylaws or rules, the Commission has the authority to:

- Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance;
- Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default and the means of curing the default;
- Initiate, by majority vote of the members, against a defaulting member state legal action to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact, its bylaws, or rules; or
- Avail itself of any other remedies available under state law or the regulation of official or professional conduct.

Article XIII, Financing of the Commission

The Commission is required to pay for the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

The Commission is authorized to levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff in a total amount sufficient to cover the Commission's annual budget as approved by its members each year.

The Compact requires annual audits of all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission by a certified or licensed public accountant.

Article XIV, Member States, Effective Date, and Amendment.

Member states. The Compact provides that any state is eligible to become a member state, and the Compact will be effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the compact into law by not less than 35 states.

Effective date. The effective date will be upon enactment of the compact into law by the 35th state. Thereafter it will be effective and binding as to any other member state upon enactment of the compact into law by that state.

Amendments. The Commission is authorized to propose amendments to the compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment will be effective and binding on the member states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous consent of the member states.

Article XV, Withdrawal and Dissolution

Withdrawal. Once effective, the Compact will continue in force and remain binding upon each and every member state. A member state can withdraw from the Compact specifically

repealing the statute that enacted the Compact into law. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state can occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the Compact or upon such later date as determined by the members of the Commission.

Dissolution of compact. The Compact will dissolve effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the member state that reduces the membership in the Compact to one member state. Upon the dissolution of the Compact, the Compact will be null and void and will be of no further force or effect, and the Compact requires the business and affairs of the Commission to be concluded and surplus funds to be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

Article XVI, Severability and Construction

The provisions of the Compact are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision is deemed unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the Compact will be enforceable. The Compact requires its provisions to be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes. Nothing in the Compact can be construed to prohibit the concurrent applicability of other interstate compacts to which the states are members.

Article XVII, Binding Effect of Compact and Other Laws

Nothing in the Compact can prevent the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is consistent with the Compact. All lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the Commission, will be binding upon the member states, and all agreements between the Commission and the member states will be binding in accordance with their terms. In the event any provision of the Compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, such provision will be ineffective.

Article XVIII, Indian Tribes

Notwithstanding any other provision in the Compact, the Compact authorizes the Commission to promulgate guidelines to permit Indian tribes to utilize the Compact to achieve any or all of the purposes of the Compact. The Commission is required to make reasonable efforts to consult with Indian tribes in promulgating guidelines to reflect the diverse circumstances of the various Indian tribes.

Compact Administrator

Authorization. The Compact authorizes the Governor to designate a Compact Administrator, who serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Compact Administrator is required to adopt rules and regulations to effectively carry out terms of the Compact and is directed to cooperate with all agencies and officers of state government in facilitating the proper administration of the Compact or of any supplementary agreement or agreements entered into by the state pursuant to the Compact.

Supplementary agreements. The Compact Administrator is authorized and empowered to enter into supplementary agreements with appropriate officials of other states pursuant to the Compact. In the event that a supplementary agreement requires or contemplates the use of any institution or facility of this state or requires or contemplates the provision of any service by this state, the supplementary agreement has no force or effect until approved by the head of the

department or agency under whose jurisdiction the institution or facility is operated or whose department or agency will be charged with the rendering of the service.

Financial arrangements. The Compact Administrator, subject to the approval of the State Director of Accounts and Reports, is authorized to make or arrange for any payments necessary to discharge any financial obligations imposed upon the State by the Compact or by any supplementary agreement entered into pursuant to the Compact.

Enforcement; penalty for failure to comply with provisions of compact. The courts, departments, agencies, and officers of the State and its subdivisions are required to enforce this Compact and do all things appropriate to the effectuate the Compact's purposes and intent that may be within their respective jurisdictions. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Compact by any professional providing services related to the placement of children will be a class C misdemeanor. As used in this section, "professional" means any person who receives payment or compensation for providing services related to the placement of children for adoption.

Holding Certain Convicted Individuals Without Bond Until Sentencing; SB 358

SB 358 requires individuals convicted of certain felonies to be held without bond in the county jail until sentencing.

The bill provides that a person who has been convicted of an off-grid felony; a severity level 1, 2, 3, or 4 nondrug felony; or a severity level 1 or 2 drug felony must remain in the county jail until sentencing.

If such a person was released on bond prior to trial, bond must be revoked immediately and the person must be remanded and held without bond in the county jail until sentencing.

If such person was in custody without having posted bond prior to trial, that person's bond must be modified immediately so that the person is held without bond and must remain in the county jail until sentencing.

Kansas Sentencing Commission—Digital Filings; HB 2552

HB 2552 requires certain forms filed with the Kansas Sentencing Commission (Commission), including presentence investigation reports and certain journal entries, to be completed and submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Commission.

The bill prohibits a court from receiving or recognizing the validity of such documents completed and submitted in any other form and manner.

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Theft; Buying Sexual Relations; Criminal Use of a Financial Card; Unlawful Use of a Laser Pointer; HB 2347

HB 2347 amends and creates laws related to the crimes of theft, buying sexual relations, criminal use of a financial card, and unlawful use of a laser pointer.

The bill makes technical amendments to remove outdated statutory references.

Theft—Culpability and Motor Vehicles

The bill changes the required culpability of a person obtaining control over stolen property or services contained within the theft statute from "knowing" such property or services were stolen from another to a requirement the person "has reason to know" such property or services were stolen from another.

The bill also makes theft of a motor vehicle that is valued between $500 and $1,500 a severity level 10 nonperson felony.

Buying Sexual Relations

The bill increases criminal penalties and amends laws concerning diversion agreements for buying sexual relations, requires certain offenders to complete an educational or treatment program regarding commercial sexual exploitation, and require the Attorney General to approve such programs in consultation with the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA).

Educational or Treatment Programs Regarding Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The bill requires, prior to July 1, 2027, the Attorney General, in consultation with OJA, to approve one or more educational or treatment programs regarding commercial sexual exploitation.

The bill requires the Attorney General to adopt rules and regulations necessary for the governing of the educational or treatment programs on or before January 1, 2027. The bill requires the rules and regulations to include, but not be limited to:

- Criteria for the evaluation, approval, and monitoring of such programs;
- Any form required to implement such programs;
- Any requirements for staff who will be directly providing services to clients of such programs; and
- Any report, record, or other information that may be required to be kept and maintained by such programs.

The bill requires these educational or treatment programs to be completed by persons convicted after July 1, 2027, of human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of a child, or buying sexual relations, if ordered by a court. For convictions occurring prior to this date, a court may, but is not required to, order a suitable educational or treatment program.

For convictions of buying sexual relations occurring prior to July 1, 2027, a court is required to order a suitable educational or treatment program, while a person convicted after that date is required to complete an Attorney General-approved program. [*Note:* Prior law provided discretion for a court in ordering a person convicted of buying sexual relations to complete a suitable educational or treatment program.]

Increased Penalties for Buying Sexual Relations

Under prior law, the offense of buying sexual relations was classified as a class A person misdemeanor on a first offense and a severity level 9 person felony on a second or subsequent offense. The bill reclassifies all violations of buying sexual relations as a severity level 9 person felony and increases the minimum fine amount from $1,200 to $2,000.

The bill also amends the Code for Municipal Courts to remove references to misdemeanor violations of city ordinances prohibiting persons from buying sexual relations.

Diversion Agreements for Buying Sexual Relations

The bill amends law concerning diversion agreements entered into in lieu of further criminal proceedings for a violation of buying sexual relations to prohibit a person from entering into a diversion agreement if such person has entered into a diversion agreement for a violation of a municipal ordinance that prohibits buying sexual relations, when the violation occurred prior to July 1, 2026.

Criminal Use of a Financial Card—Gift Cards

The bill amends the crime of criminal use of a financial card to include certain conduct involving gift cards and defines related terms.

The bill redesignates the crime as criminal use of a financial card or gift card, and adds the following conduct as an act constituting the crime, when committed with the intent to defraud and to obtain money, goods, property, or services:

- Acquiring or retaining possession of a gift card or gift card redemption information without consent of the cardholder, issuer, or seller; or

- Altering or tampering with a gift card.

The bill provides that conduct involving a gift card is classified and penalized in the same manner as conduct involving a financial card in continuing law, as follows:

- Severity level 7 nonperson felony if the money, goods, property, or services obtained within a seven-day period are of the value of $25,000 or more;

- Severity level 9 nonperson felony if the money, goods, property, or services obtained within a seven-day period are of the value of at least $1,000 but less than $25,000; and

- Class A nonperson misdemeanor if the money, goods, property, or services obtained within a seven-day period are of the value of less than $1,000.

Definitions

The bill adds definitions of "closed-loop gift card," "gift card," "gift card issuer," "gift card redemption information," "gift card seller," and "open-loop gift card," and amends the definition of "cardholder" to mean:

- The person or entity to whom or for whose benefit a financial card is issued; or

- The person to whom a physical or virtual gift card is issued or any person who has agreed with the card issuer to pay obligations arising from the issuance of a gift card to another person.

Unlawful Use of a Laser Pointer

The bill creates the crime of unlawful use of a laser pointer and establishes related penalties in the Kansas Criminal Code.

The crime is defined as knowingly directing light from a laser pointer at:

- A law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of the officer's duties, which would be a class A person misdemeanor; or

- An aircraft in flight or the flight path of an aircraft, which would be a severity level 9 person felony.

The bill exempts certain persons from the application of the crime:

- Any person who is authorized by an aircraft manufacturer or the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct research and development or flight test operations, while conducting such research or flight tests;

- Members or elements of the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. Department of Homeland Security acting in an official capacity for the purpose of research, development, operations, testing, or training; or

- An individual using a laser emergency signaling device to send an emergency distress signal.

"Laser pointer" is defined by the bill as a device that emits light amplified by the stimulated emission of radiation that is visible to the human eye.

The bill specifies that anyone who commits the crime of unlawful use of a laser pointer may also be prosecuted for, convicted of, and punished for assault or battery.

Caleb's Law—Crime of Sexual Extortion; HB 2537

HB 2537 enacts "Caleb's Law," which amends the definition of the crime of sexual extortion to include additional conduct; creates the crimes of aggravated sexual extortion causing great bodily harm and aggravated sexual extortion causing death; and requires the Attorney General to prepare and provide certain educational materials and information concerning sexual extortion.

Sexual Extortion

The bill amends the definition of sexual extortion by adding provisions that include communicating, by any means, a threat to distribute an image, video, or other recording of a person that is of a sexual nature, or depicts a person in a state of nudity:

- With the intent to coerce such person to produce or provide anything of value; or
- That causes the person to produce or provide anything of value.

Sexual Extortion Criminal Penalties

The bill raises criminal penalties for existing sexual extortion offenses in certain circumstances and specifies the criminal penalty for the offenses created by the bill.

Communicating Threats with Intent to Coerce—Engage in Sexual Conduct or Create, Provide, or Distribute a Sexual Recording

[*Note:* The base offense continues to be classified as a severity level 7 person felony.]

If the offender is over age 18, and the victim is less than age 18, or the victim is a dependent adult, the offense will be classified as a severity level 6 person felony.

Communicating Threats with Intent to Coerce—Produce or Provide Anything of Value

The offense will be classified as a severity level 7 person felony.

If the offender is over age 18, and the victim is less than age 18, or the victim is a dependent adult, the offense will be classified as a severity level 6 person felony.

Communicating Threats That Causes Victim to Engage in Sexual Conduct or Create, Provide, or Distribute a Sexual Recording

[*Note:* The base offense continues to be classified as a severity level 4 person felony.]

If the offender is over age 18, and the victim is less than age 18, or the victim is a dependent adult, the offense will be classified as a severity level 3 person felony.

Communicating Threats That Causes Victim to Produce or Provide Anything of Value

The offense will be classified as a severity level 4 person felony.

If the offender is over age 18, and the victim is less than age 18, or the victim is a dependent adult, the offense will be classified as a severity level 3 person felony.

Aggravated Sexual Extortion Causing Great Bodily Harm

The bill creates a new offense of aggravated sexual extortion causing great bodily harm, which is defined as sexual extortion resulting in great bodily harm to the victim, and the trier of fact finds that the sexual extortion of the victim was the proximate cause of such harm. It shall not be a defense that the victim contributed to their own great bodily harm.

Aggravated sexual extortion causing great bodily harm will be classified as a severity level 3 person felony.

Aggravated Sexual Extortion Causing Death

The bill creates a new offense of aggravated sexual extortion causing death, which is defined as sexual extortion resulting in death to the victim, and the trier of fact finds that the sexual extortion of the victim was the proximate cause of the victim's death. It shall not be a defense that the victim contributed to their own death.

Aggravated sexual extortion causing death will be classified as a severity level 1 person felony.

Definitions

The bill defines the terms "image, video, or other recording" to mean any photograph, film, video, picture, digital or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, including, but not limited to, any such item that has been created, in whole or in part, altered, or modified by artificial intelligence, or any digital means to appear to depict or purport to depict a person, regardless of whether such person was involved in the creation of the original image, video, or other recording.

The term "dependent adult" means the same as defined in the crime of mistreatment of a dependent adult or elder person in the Kansas Criminal Code.

Attorney General Educational Materials

The Attorney General is required to prepare and provide educational materials and information concerning sexual extortion as defined by the bill. The Attorney General is also required to collaborate with the State Board of Education and law enforcement agencies to educate and notify schools, students, parents and guardians, and the public about the

amendments made by the bill and the availability of educational materials and information concerning sexual extortion.

On or before July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General is required to file a report regarding implementation of the educational materials requirements of the bill with the Governor, the Senate President and Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader of the House, and the State Board of Education.

Sidnee's Law; HB 2747

HB 2747 requires courts to consider certain factors in determining whether a prior violation of law is comparable to any act described in certain driving under the influence (DUI) crimes when calculating a person's criminal history score under the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines. The bill is known as "Sidnee's Law."

Criminal History Considerations When Current Crime of Conviction is for Involuntary Manslaughter by DUI or Aggravated Battery by DUI

Current law provides that certain prior adult convictions or juvenile adjudications for DUI and similar laws are scored as felonies for criminal history purposes if the current crime of conviction is for a violation of involuntary manslaughter by DUI or aggravated battery by DUI.

The bill adds a provision specifying for the purposes of determining whether a violation of a law of another state, an ordinance of any city, or resolution of any county prohibits any act described in the crimes of DUI or commercial DUI, the bill requires the court to consider the following factors found in continuing law:

- The name of the out-of-jurisdiction offense;
- The elements of the out-of-jurisdiction offense; and
- Whether the out-of-jurisdiction offense prohibits similar conduct to the conduct prohibited by the closest approximate Kansas offense.

Criminal History Considerations When Current Crime of Conviction is for Leaving the Scene of Certain Vehicle Accidents

Current law provides that certain prior convictions are scored as person felonies for criminal history purposes if the current crime of conviction is for a violation of leaving the scene of certain vehicle accidents.

The bill adds a provision specifying for the purposes of determining whether a violation of a city ordinance of law of another state also constitutes a violation of DUI, the bill requires the court to consider the factors described above.

The bill becomes effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register.*

Education Levels for Instructors at Nursing Schools; SB 334

SB 334 establishes education levels for instructors at nursing schools as a requirement for state approval.

The bill requires, in addition to other requirements in continuing law, that faculty at a school seeking approval from the Board of Nursing (Board) as a school for professional nurses or at a school for practical nurses possess a nursing degree awarded by a state or nationally accredited school of nursing approved by the Board that is at least one level more advanced than the degree awarded by the program in which they are teaching. The bill prohibits the Board from requiring additional or more advanced credentials for such faculty.

The bill authorizes the Board to grant an exemption from this requirement to a school facing hardships in hiring faculty.

Required Personal Communication Device and Social Media Policies; Senate Sub. for HB 2299

Senate Sub. for HB 2299 requires each school district and accredited nonpublic school, as defined in the bill, to adopt policies and procedures regarding the use of personal electronic communication devices (personal devices) and social media platforms. The bill also provides indemnity for lost or damaged devices, exempts virtual schools, and adds provisions regarding nonpublic school accreditation and the rights of certain accredited nonpublic schools.

Personal Electronic Communication Device Policies (New Section 2)

Required Policy

The bill requires each school district and accredited nonpublic school, defined as a nonpublic school accredited by the State Board of Education (State Board), to adopt policies and procedures regarding student use of personal devices during the school day, to:

- Prohibit student access and use of personal devices during the school day;
- Require all personal devices to be turned off and securely stored in a location that is:
    - Not on the student's person; and
    - Inaccessible;
- Authorize students to not bring personal devices to school by leaving the devices at home or in a vehicle, even if such vehicle is on school grounds;
- Set enforcement procedures and disciplinary actions for violations of the policies and procedures;

- Authorize students to use personal devices during the school day if such use is:
    - Required to implement a student's individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan or approved by a licensed physician as a medical necessity to support the health or well-being of the student; and
    - The intervention of last resort after determining there is no other reasonable alternative option available for such student; and
- Designate and make available a school telephone or other communication device that a student is allowed to use to contact a parent or person acting as parent.

[*Note:* A "504 plan" is a document required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding accommodations for students with disabilities.]

Optional Policy

The bill also permits school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to adopt policies and procedures to limit or prohibit student use of personal devices during school-sponsored events or events occurring outside of the school day.

Exemptions

The bill exempts any time associated with a student's travel to or from a learning experience not located on the school premises from both the required and optional policies and procedures discussed previously. Such learning experiences include any:

- Postsecondary educational course;
- Career technical education course;
- Work-based learning program; or
- Other alternative educational opportunity.

Definitions

The bill defines three terms used in the bill:

- "Accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school" means a nonpublic elementary or secondary school that is accredited by the State Board. "Accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school" includes any nonpublic elementary or secondary school that is dually accredited by the State Board and an accrediting entity other than the State Board;
- "Personal electronic communication device" means any wireless electronic communication device that:
    - Provides for voice, text, or video communication between two or more parties, including, but not limited to, a mobile or cellular phone, tablet, computer, watch, wireless headphones or earbuds, text messaging device, or personal digital assistant; and

- Is not owned or issued to students by the school district or accredited nonpublic elementary and secondary school; and

- "School day" means the time from the start of school until dismissal at the end of the day on the school premises, including, but not limited to, in any classroom, structured or unstructured learning setting, recess, lunch, or passing period.

Social Media Policies (New Section 3)

Required Policy

The bill requires all school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to adopt policies and procedures to prohibit school employees from:

- Privately or directly communicating with any students via social media platforms; and

- Requiring the use of social media for any assignment or extracurricular activity.

The bill allows school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to approve a social media platform to be used for official school purposes, which is defined:

- To mean the broadcasting or posting of public, one-way communications that pertain to school functions, activities, or events; and

- To exclude private communications, direct communications, or two-way communications with any student.

Definition of Social Media Platform

The bill defines the term "social media platform" to mean an online website or application that permits a person to become a registered user and create an account or profile for the primary purpose of creating, sharing, or interacting with user-generated content that is publicly viewable by users. Such term includes, but is not limited to, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, X, and TikTok.

The bill also states that the term "social media platform" does not include:

- Any online website or application whose primary purpose is educational;

- Any platform approved by the board of education or governing authority of an accredited nonpublic school that:

  - Is owned, licensed, or contractually controlled by the school district or nonpublic school;

  - Allows for required user accounts;

  - Allows communications to be monitored, archived, retained, or audited in compliance with policy or law;
  - Is accessible to parents or guardians; and
  - Is used by employees in accordance with policy;

- Email;

- Direct messaging services that only share messages between a sender and named recipient and do not display or post messages publicly or to users not identified as recipients by the sender of the message; and

- Any online product or service that does not have school-specific features or identifiers and the predominant purpose is to post educational materials, news, or resources, and user comments or other interactive functionality is incidental to such predominant purpose.

Certification Requirement (New Section 4)

The bill requires the governing body of each school district and accredited nonpublic school to certify to the State Board, on or before September 1, 2026, that it has adopted the policies and procedures required by the bill. The certification will be submitted in a form and manner prescribed by the State Board.

Indemnity Provision (New Section 5)

The bill states that no school district, accredited nonpublic school, or employees or agents thereof are liable for any damage to or storage of personal electronic devices brought to school.

Virtual Schools (New Section 6)

The bill states that none of the policies and procedures required by the bill apply to any virtual school as defined in the Virtual School Act.

Accredited Nonpublic Schools (New Section 1 and Sections 7 and 8)

General Definition (New Section 1)

The bill states that whenever the terms “accredited nonpublic school,” “accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school,” “accredited nonpublic high school,” “accredited private schools,” or words of like effect are referred to or designated by statute in Chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, those references or designations mean a nonpublic school accredited by the State Board unless otherwise indicated in that statute.

School District Accreditation System (Section 7)

The bill amends a statute regarding the school district accreditation system to state that:

- Accreditation by the State Board is voluntary for nonpublic schools operating in Kansas;
- Nonpublic schools accredited by the State Board may also be accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency; and
- Nonpublic schools accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency, recognized by the State Board, are to be entitled to the same rights as nonpublic schools accredited by the State Board.

The bill also states that such regional or national accrediting agencies recognized by the State Board on or before March 1, 2026, cannot lose recognition without approval of the Legislature.

Kansas State High School Activities Association (Section 8)

The bill amends law regarding the Kansas State High School Activities Association to require the organization to recognize and accept accreditation of nonpublic schools that are accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency.

Foster Student School Transfers; HB 2320

HB 2320 amends law regarding best interest determinations, public school enrollment, and the creation of transportation plans for children in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families (foster student). The bill also changes requirements for the transfer of records between public schools for children in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families, Secretary of Corrections, or Commissioner of Juvenile Justice.

Public School Enrollment

Best Interest Determination

The bill requires the Secretary for Children and Families to make a best interest determination before any planned placement change or within two business days following an unplanned placement disruption for a foster student. The bill requires any determination to follow federal and state law as well as the procedure set forth in the Department for Children and Families' (DCF) manual.

Foster Student Public School Choice

The bill allows foster students to either attend any school district within the state or to remain in their school of origin, if it is determined to be in the best interests of the child.

The bill also permits foster students whose placement is changed, with the result that they cross a school boundary within the same school district, to choose to either remain at their school of origin or attend the school of the school district where they are placed.

Transportation Plan

Should a foster student's placement change, and it is determined they should remain at their school of origin, the bill requires the affected school district and the Secretary for Children and Families to coordinate the development of a transportation plan to transport the foster student to and from the school of origin.

The bill requires that any plan address the availability and cost of transportation, including whether the costs would be reimbursed by the Secretary for Children and Families, paid by the school district, or shared by both. Additionally, the bill requires that when a plan is being developed that consideration be given to:

- Age, maturity, and behavioral capacity of the child;
- Type of transportation available;
- Flexibility in the school schedule;
- The effect of extracurricular activities on transportation options;
- Traffic routes and patterns; and
- Individualized needs of the child.

Transfer of School Records

The bill requires the Secretary for Children and Families, Secretary of Corrections, and Commissioner of Juvenile Justice to notify the affected school district that a student's placement has changed. The school district is then required to transfer the student's school records within two business days following the day the school district received notification.

For the purposes of the bill, a "business day" is defined as a weekday in which the school district or school's administrative office is open and does not include any federal or state holiday, any weekday the school district or administrative office is closed, or any weekday where the school day has been canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstance.

The bill stipulates that a school which receives a foster student is not able to deny or delay enrollment of said student due to not yet having the school records.

Specialty Practice Medical Student Loan Program; HB 2374

HB 2374 creates the Specialty Practice Student Loan Program and amends provisions of the Medical Student Loan Act.

Specialty Practice Student Loan Program

The bill establishes a Specialty Practice Student Loan Program (Program) administered by the University of Kansas (KU) School of Medicine. The school is authorized to enter into

medical student loan agreements with undergraduate students who intend to pursue practice in an approved specialty and commit to satisfy obligations to engage in the full-time practice of medicine and surgery in a service commitment area. The Chancellor of KU (Chancellor) has the authority to administer the Program, including discretion to allocate which specialties are eligible for the loan based on workforce needs.

Medical Student Loan Act

The bill amends definitions applicable to the provisions of the Medical Student Loan Act (Act) to:

- Expand the definition of "approved postgraduate residency training program" to include residency or fellowship training in an approved specialty;

- Define "service commitment area" for approved specialty providers as any community within any county in Kansas, other than Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, or Wyandotte;

- Define "approved specialty" as gynecology, general psychiatry, and any specialty approved by the Chancellor; and

- Define "primary care" as general pediatrics, general internal medicine, family medicine, family practice, and emergency medicine.

The bill further amends the Act to provide Program stipends for a 12-month period rather than months the recipient is enrolled in school.

The bill removes language requiring KU to enter into agreements with up to 12 recipients, subject to appropriation, who would commit to satisfy obligations by serving as a full-time faculty member of the KU School of Medicine in general psychiatry or child psychiatry or to perform at least 100 hours per month of on-site mental health care. The bill removes the option for a participant to satisfy the obligation by serving as a full-time faculty member in general or child psychiatry.

The bill prohibits the Chancellor from expending from the Medical Loan Repayment Fund for participants in an approved specialty; however, the bill allows the Chancellor to transfer funds from the Medical Loan Repayment Fund to the Specialty Loan Repayment Fund for medical student loans for students in approved specialty programs.

The bill establishes the Specialty Medical Loan Repayment Fund. The bill allows any moneys remaining at the end of the year for specialty agreements to be used for primary care agreements. The bill abolishes the OBGYN Medical Loan Repayment Fund and the Psychiatry Medical Loan Repayment Fund and requires any remaining moneys and liabilities to be those of the Specialty Medical Loan Repayment Fund.

Federal Tax Credit Participation and Tax Credit for Low Income Scholarship Students Program; HB 2468

HB 2468 authorizes the State of Kansas to participate in a federal tax credit program for contributions of individuals to scholarship-granting organizations and increases the aggregate credit limit on the state's Tax Credit for Low Income Scholarship Students (TCLISS) Program.

Federal Tax Credit Participation

The bill states that Kansas elects to participate in the federal tax credit for contributions of individuals to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) pursuant to Section 25F of the federal Internal Revenue Code for all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026. [*Note:* This federal tax credit was created by Public Law 119-21, also known as H.R. 1 of the 119th Congress.]

The bill directs the State Treasurer to annually provide to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate, any required information, including, but not limited to, a list of the SGOs that meet the requirements described in Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code and are located in Kansas.

The bill also prohibits any state department, division, or other agency from promulgating any rules and regulations that are more stringent than the applicable federal law or rules and regulations in implementing this section.

Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship

The bill amends the TCLISS Program Act for tax years 2026 and every year thereafter, to increase the aggregate limit on credits allowed from $10 million to $15 million for any one tax year.

The bill requires the Secretary of Revenue to submit a report to the Legislature on January 15, 2027, and each January 15 thereafter, on the aggregate amount of credits claimed during the immediately preceding tax year.

The bill also makes conforming changes, which include removing outdated provisions.

Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship; HB 2487

HB 2487 amends the Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship Program Act (Act) to add a definition of the phrase "employed in Kansas as a teacher or paraprofessional."

Under the Act, an individual is eligible for a scholarship if such individual is a resident of Kansas, has been accepted for admission or is enrolled full time in an educational program at an eligible institution, has established financial need, and is a first-generation student or has a parent who is employed in Kansas as a teacher or paraprofessional for any of the grades pre-K through 12. The bill defines the phrase "employed in Kansas as a teacher or paraprofessional" to mean an individual:

- Who is an employee of a unified school district or the governing authority of any nonpublic school located in Kansas; and

- Whose primary employment duties are providing classroom instruction or instructional support to students in any of the grades pre-K through 12.

The bill requires an administrator for the school at which an individual is employed to certify to the State Board of Regents (KBOR), in the form and manner prescribed by KBOR, that such individual satisfies these requirements.

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS

Residency Requirements of State and Certain Local Elected Officials; HB 2733

HB 2733 requires certain elected officials to be, and remain, qualified electors and residents of Kansas and such official's respective district.

The bill requires a person who is a candidate for nomination or election to these offices to be and remain a qualified elector within a district or the state, as indicated:

- Office of District Attorney, in the district (Section 1);
- Offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Insurance, in the state (Section 2);
- Office of State Board of Education, in the district (Section 3);
- Office of school board member, in the member or at-large district (Section 4);
- Office of Commissioner of Insurance, in the state (Section 5);
- office of community college trustee, in the member or at-large district (Section 6); and
- Offices of trustee, clerk, or treasurer of any township, or road overseer of any road district, in the township or road district (Section 7).

A failure to remain a qualified elector residing in the appropriate district constitutes an immediate vacancy in the candidacy or office.

Article V Convention of States; SCR 1604

SCR 1604 serves as Kansas' application to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the *U.S. Constitution*, for the purpose of calling a convention of the states. The convention would be limited to proposing amendments to the *U.S. Constitution* that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for members of Congress and federal officials.

The resolution is a continuing application to Congress for a convention of the states until two-thirds of the state legislatures have applied to Congress on the same subject.

The resolution contains whereas clauses setting out legislative findings regarding the roles of the states and the federal government, particularly regarding amending the *U.S. Constitution* through a convention of the states under Article V and the authority under Article V allowing states to call for such convention. The resolution also contains a whereas clause citing the *Kansas Constitution* requirement for a two-thirds vote of each legislative chamber to make an application to Congress to call such a convention.

The resolution requires the Secretary of State to send an enrolled copy of the resolution to the President and Secretary of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Kansas members of the U.S. House and Senate, and the presiding officers of each legislative chamber in each state.

Approving the Gaming Compact Between the Wyandotte Nation and the State of Kansas; SR 1728 and HR 6033

SR 1728 and **HR 6033** approve the Class III gaming compact between the Wyandotte Nation and the State of Kansas.

The major provisions of the gaming compact are substantially similar to those of the 1995 gaming compacts with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. The major provisions of the gaming compact include authorized Class III games, prohibited games, age limits, location, Tribal regulation and enforcement, state responsibilities under the compact, the Tribal-State relationship and joint enforcement and regulation, Tribal authority in the event that the State declines to exercise jurisdiction, the Tribal relationship with local units of government, state assessment for costs of oversight, public health and safety, taxation, and amendment or modification of the compact. The gaming compact also incorporates recently adopted sports wagering amendments.

The gaming compact between the Wyandotte Nation and the State also makes various amendments to ensure compliance with federal regulations and case law regarding the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and in accordance with technical assistance provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The amendments apply to provisions concerning the scope of the compact, application of the Kansas Tort Claims Act, definitions of terms, Tribal gaming regulations, state enforcement of the compact, crimes and enforcement, licensing of gaming employees, licensing of primary management officials and manufacturers and distributors, accounting and audit procedures, state assessment for costs of oversight, public health and safety, contribution to local government, dispute resolution, and reservation of rights under the IGRA.

Optometry Scope of Practice; HB 2223

HB 2223 amends the optometry law regarding scope of practice. The bill also makes technical and conforming amendments.

Scope of Practice for Optometry

The bill amends the scope of practice for optometrists to:

- Allow the use of medical devices for the relief of any insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the human eye and associated anatomical parts;

- Allow the use of medical devices and the administering, prescribing, or dispensing of pharmaceutical drugs through all routes of administration, except for those administered within the eye (intraocular injections), for the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions affecting the eyes or vision;

- Allow the following specified procedures and treatments:

    - The removal of non-perforating foreign bodies from the clear, dome-shaped outer layer of the eye that covers the iris and pupil (cornea), the mucous membrane that covers the front of the eye and lines the inside of the eyelids (conjunctiva), or eyelids;
    - The removal of eyelashes;
    - The scraping of the cornea for diagnostic tests, smears, or cultures;
    - The dilation, probing, irrigation, or closing of the tear drainage structure of the eye;
    - The expression of small, dome-shaped lesions that appear on the inner surface of the eyelid (conjunctival follicles) or small, fluid-filled sacs that form on the clear membrane covering the white of the eye (conjunctival cysts);
    - The removal of dead, damaged, or infected tissue (debridement) from the thin, transparent layer of cells that covers the outer surface of the cornea (corneal epithelium);
    - The making of a small incision in the eyelid to drain swelling of the meibomian gland, which is located under the eyelid, resulting in a cyst-like lump (chalazion), and removal of the contents (incision and curettage of a chalazion);
    - The removal and biopsy of skin lesions without known cancer growth or tumor (malignancy);
    - The performance of laser procedures after cataract surgery to create a small opening in the cloudy capsule to restore clear vision (laser capsulotomy); and

  - The performance of laser treatment for certain glaucomas to improve fluid drainage in the eye to lower intraocular pressure (laser trabeculoplasty); and

- Permit the performance of additional procedures that are not specifically prohibited by the bill that are within the scope of a licensee's education and training for the treatment of any insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the human eye and its attachments or appendages (adnexa) as authorized by rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Examiners in Optometry (Board).

Specific Exclusions from the Scope of Practice of Optometry

The bill specifies the scope of practice of optometry could include pre- and post-operative care for any of the following procedures, but will not include the performance of the following specified procedures:

- Surgery to repair or prevent damage to the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye (retinal surgery);

- Replacement of the entire damaged or diseased cornea with a healthy donor cornea (penetrating keratoplasty or corneal transplant);

- Administration of or surgery performed under general anesthesia;

- Surgery related to the removal of the eye from a living human being;

- Surgical extraction of the flexible clear membrane that sits between the pupil and retina (crystalline lens);

- Surgical intraocular implants;

- Removal of tissue from the muscles that control the movements of the eye (incisional or excisional surgery of extraocular muscles);

- Surgery of the skeletal cavity in the skull that houses the eyeball and its associated structures (bony orbit);

- Laser vision correction surgeries that reshape the cornea to improve vision (laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis [LASIK] or photorefractive keratectomy [PRK]);

- Laser procedures to treat small, opaque spots that appear in the field of vision (YAG laser vitreolysis); and

- Surgery of the eyelid for cosmetic or mechanical repair of eyelid conditions, including procedures to address recurrent swelling (blepharochalasis) or drooping eyelid (ptosis) and procedures to partially close the eyelids (tarsorrhaphy).

The bill requires any licensee who performs the incision and curettage of a chalazion, removal and biopsy of skin lesions, laser capsulotomy, and laser trabeculoplasty to be held to the same standard of care in the diagnosis and treatment as that of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery.

Credentialing

The bill requires any licensee applying for credentialing to complete and swear to an application form supplied by the Board as well as pay any additional fees as set by the Board in rules and regulations.

The bill requires licensees who seek to administer or perform the newly added procedures set forth in the bill or procedures recommended in the future to receive credentialing from the Board as follows:

- Licensees who graduated from an accredited college of optometry on or after July 1, 2020, will be granted a credential by submitting a request to be credentialed to the Board; and

- Licensees who graduated from an accredited college of optometry prior to July 1, 2020, will be granted a credential by providing proof of successful completion of a 32-hour certification program that includes lecture (didactic), clinical, or laboratory experiences, and testing components approved by the Board and the program is presented by an approved school or college of optometry or school of medicine.

The bill also requires the Board to maintain and make available a public directory including the names and addresses of all optometrists licensed by the Board.

Interprofessional Advisory Committee

The bill allows the Interprofessional Advisory Committee (Committee) to review new technologies to make recommendations to be considered by the Board. The bill also allows the Board to request the Committee to meet to review a procedure and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether or not a procedure is appropriate for an optometrist to perform.

The bill also requires the nominations for Committee membership of ophthalmologists to be made by the Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

Health Care Stabilization Fund

The bill requires optometrists who are credentialed to perform certain procedures to carry professional liability insurance of no less than $500,000 and to be included in the Health Care Stabilization Fund for the additional $500,000 of professional liability coverage. The credentialed optometrist will not be required to participate if the initial surcharge to participate in the Health Care Stabilization Fund exceeds 15 percent. The requirement to participate will take effect January 1, 2028, for credentialed optometrists.

The bill also amends the membership of the Health Care Stabilization Fund Board of Governors to add an optometrist.

Reporting Requirements

The bill requires credentialed optometrists to submit a quarterly report to the Board that is to include the name of the optometrist, the total number of procedures performed during the quarter, the location where each procedure was performed, and the outcome of each procedure on the patient. The reporting optometrist is to certify the accuracy of each report.

The bill also requires the Board, beginning July 1, 2027, to compile the quarterly reports from credentialed optometrists and make the annual report available to the public. The Board will be required to redact any personally identifiable information prior to making the reports public.

The reporting requirements will sunset on July 1, 2031.

Nursing Licensure Fingerprinting; HB 2478

HB 2478 requires an applicant for an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse anesthetist license to be fingerprinted for state and national criminal history record checks.

Maximum Number of Residents in Home Plus Facilities; HB 2520

HB 2520 amends the Adult Care Home Licensure Act to allow a maximum of 16 individual residents, increased from 12, in Home Plus facilities.

The bill requires Home Plus facilities that provide care for more than 12 individuals after July 1, 2026, to develop and maintain written plans demonstrating the ability of the facility to meet residents' needs, respond to emergencies, and maintain resident health and safety at the increased capacity. The plans must be available for review during survey or inspection to ensure the Home Plus has the capacity to safely serve additional residents without diminishing the quality of care.

Pregnancy Center Autonomy and Rights of Expression Act; HB 2635

HB 2635 creates the Pregnancy Center Autonomy and Rights of Expression Act (Act). The Act makes several findings related to pregnancy centers and the services provided at such centers, and it prohibits regulations, policies, procedures, or other measures that prohibit a pregnancy center from taking certain actions, or require that a pregnancy center take specific actions. The bill also defines certain terms.

Prohibited Policies

The bill prohibits a state agency, department, division, bureau, institution or subdivision, or any county, city, or other political subdivision from enacting or adopting any law, ordinance, resolution, rule and regulation, policy, procedure, or any other similar measure that requires a pregnancy center or medical pregnancy center to:

- Offer or perform abortions;

- Offer, provide, or distribute abortion-inducing drugs;

- Make a referral for an abortion or an abortion-inducing drug;

- Counsel in favor or abortion or abortion-inducing drugs; and

- Post any advertisement, sign, flyer, or similar material that promotes abortion or abortion-inducing drugs or provides any information about obtaining an abortion or abortion-inducing drugs.

The Act also prohibits policies that apply to the pregnancy center or medical pregnancy center because it does not perform, refer, or counsel in favor of abortion or abortion-inducing drugs. Specifically, the Act prohibits policies that prohibit a pregnancy center or medical pregnancy center from providing:

- Information, care, counseling, classes, or other services related to pregnancy, childbirth, or parenting because the pregnancy center or medical pregnancy center does not perform, refer, or counsel in favor of abortion or abortion-inducing drugs;

- Prenatal and postnatal resources, including diapers, baby clothes, baby furniture, formula, and similar items because the pregnancy center or medical pregnancy center does not perform, refer, or counsel in favor of abortion or abortion-inducing drugs; and

- Medical testing, medical counseling, and medical care or treatment related to pregnancy or childbirth.

The Act also prohibits policies that:

- Prohibit a medical pregnancy center from counseling a woman on any pregnancy-related care or treatment; or

- Interfere with staffing or hiring decisions of a pregnancy center or medical pregnancy center by requiring such center to interview, hire, or continue to employ any person who does not affirm the center's mission statement or agree to comply with the center's pro-life ethic and operating procedures.

Civil Cause of Action—Damages

A pregnancy center, medical pregnancy center, or any party aggrieved by a violation of the Act may bring a civil action for damages, declaratory relief, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief. The bill allows a court to award costs, including attorney fees, to the prevailing party.

Intervention by the Legislature

The Act allows the Legislature to pass a concurrent resolution that appoints one or more members of the Legislature to intervene as a matter of right in any legal proceeding in which the constitutionality or enforceability of the Act's provisions are challenged. The appointment shall remain effective in the event the appointee ceases to no longer be a member of the Legislature.

Severability

The Act's provisions are declared severable, and the application to any person or circumstance that is held to be unconstitutional or invalid will not affect the validity of the remainder of the Act's provisions.

Physician Assistant Licensing Act; HB 2702

HB 2702 amends the Kansas Healing Arts Act regarding practice protocols to provide for collaboration between a physician assistant or associate (PA) and a physician and to amend the Physician Assistant Licensure Act (Act).

The bill also authorizes the use of a criminal history record check and the collection of fingerprints for an applicant for PA licensure by the State Board of Healing Arts (Board).

The bill will be in effect on and after January 1, 2027.

[*Note*: The bill defines "physician assistant" and "physician associate" as the same type of health care provider. "PA" may refer to either title.]

Physician Assistant and Physician Associate Licensure Act

The bill amends the Act to add the term "physician associate" to the title of the Act.

Definitions

The bill amends multiple terms used in the Act as follows:

- "Collaboration" means consultation or referral to the appropriate member of the health care team, as indicated by the patient's condition; the education, experience, and competencies of the PA; and the standard of care. Collaboration would not require the personal presence of a physician at the time or place the PA provides care;

- "Collaborating physician" means a physician who is engaged in a practice agreement in which the physician and PA collaborate to use their complementary training, skill, knowledge, and experience to provide patient care;

- "Licensee" means all persons issued a license or temporary license pursuant to the Act;

- "License" means any license or temporary license issued pursuant to the Act;

- "Healthcare services" means services provided by a PA licensed pursuant to the Act;

- "Practice agreement" means a written or electronic document that describes the manner in which a PA will provide health care services in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

- "Physician" means any person licensed by the Board to practice medicine and surgery;

- "Physician assistant" or "physician associate" means a person who is licensed to provide health care services in accordance with the Act;

- "Supervision" means overseeing the activities and health care services rendered by a PA. The constant physical presence of the physician is not required if the physician and PA can easily communicate through telecommunication; and

- "Supervising physician" means a physician who has accepted responsibility for the health care services rendered by and actions of the PA while performing under the direction and supervision of such supervising physician.

Practice Protocols

The bill amends law regarding licensees who provide supervision or enter into practice protocols in the healing arts by adding "collaboration," as defined in the bill, to the types of agreements individuals practicing the healing arts may establish in practice. The bill also allows any agreement to be electronic in format.

The bill states that the Act will govern the supervision of and collaboration with PAs by physicians. The Board will also be permitted to adopt rules and regulations on the collaboration of services constituting the practice of medicine.

Licensure

The bill amends the provisions regarding requirements for applicants who could be granted a PA license by the Board to include:

- Submitting an application on forms approved by the Board;

- Paying the appropriate fees as determined by the Board;

- Successfully completing an educational program for PAs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the PA or, prior to 2001, either by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;

- Passing the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA);

- Having no license as a PA that is currently under discipline, revocation, suspension, or probation for cause resulting from the applicant's practice as a PA, unless the Board considers such condition and agrees to licensure; and

- Submitting to the Board any other necessary information to evaluate the applicant's qualifications.

The bill also permits the Board to grant a license to an applicant who:

- Does not meet the educational requirement but who, prior to 1986, passed the PANCE administered by the NCCPA; and

- Presents to the Board proof that the applicant has acquired experience while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces which is equivalent to the minimum experience requirements established by the Board.

Disciplinary Action by the Board

The bill amends the provisions permitting revocation, suspension, or limitation of a license or denial of an original application or reinstatement of a canceled license to include the following:

- When an applicant or licensee has a conviction, on or after July 1, 2000, in Kansas or another jurisdiction for a felony, class A misdemeanor, or substantially similar offense or special or general court-martial, whether or not such conviction is related to the practice of healing arts, unless a two-thirds majority of the Board present and voting determine by clear and convincing evidence that the licensee will not pose a threat to the public and has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust;

- When a licensee has violated any other laws governing licensed health care professionals or any stipulation or agreement of the Board;

- When a licensee has violated other regulations governing licensed health care professionals or any stipulation or agreement of the Board; or

- When a licensee has exceeded or acted outside the practice agreement.

Permitted Use of the Title

The bill allows a person who meets the qualifications for licensure under the Act but does not possess a current license to use the title "PA," "physician assistant," or "physician associate," but does not allow the practice as a PA unless licensed in accordance with the Act.

Act Exclusions

The bill clarifies the list of to whom the provisions of the Act do not apply as follows:

- PA students enrolled in a PA program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or its successor agency while performing health care services under the supervision of an approved instructor; or

- PAs employed in the service of the federal government while performing duties pursuant to that employment.

The bill also clarifies that violations of this section would be a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Scope of Practice of Physician Assistants

The bill clarifies that a PA could provide health care services within the education, training, experience, and competence of the PA. A PA will be responsible for the health care services that such PA provides. Health care services provided by a PA could include, but are not limited to:

- Obtaining and performing a comprehensive health history and physical examination;

- Evaluating, diagnosing, managing, and providing medical treatment, including prescribing drugs;

- Ordering and evaluating a diagnostic study and therapeutic procedure;

- Educating a patient on health promotion and disease prevention;

- Providing patient consultation or referral;

- Writing medical orders;

- Obtaining informed consent;

- Authenticating any document with the PA's signature, certificate stamp, or endorsement if such document could be authenticated in the same manner by a physician;

- Pronounce death; and

- Supervise, delegate, and assign therapeutic measures to licensed or unlicensed personnel.

The bill also permits a PA to certify the health or disability of a patient as required by a local, state, or federal program. A PA will also be authorized to provide services in health care facilities or programs, including, but not limited to, clinics, hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, patient homes, adult care homes, hospices, and other medical institutions.

Prescribing Authority

The bill permits a PA to prescribe durable medical devices and medical equipment and prescribe, procure, or administer any drug. PAs could plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen that includes ordering and prescribing non-pharmacological interventions, including, but not limited to:

- Durable medical equipment and diagnostic support services; and

- Drugs, including prescribing, procuring, and administering drugs in schedules II through V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and all legend drugs.

Any controlled substance will be prescribed, procured, or administered in accordance with the CSA and registration with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

A PA will be authorized to request, receive, and sign for professional samples and could distribute professional samples to patients.

Dispensing Activities

The bill requires dispensing activities of a PA to:

- Comply with appropriate state and federal regulations;

- Occur when pharmacy services are not reasonably available, when it is in the best interest of the patient, or during an emergency; and

- Include any medication that may be dispensed by a physician.

Prohibited Health Care Services

The bill does not allow a PA to perform any act or procedure performed in the practice of optometry, except as may be legally delegated. The bill does not permit a PA to perform any health care service, act, or procedure that is not authorized by applicable law.

Collaboration with Physician

The bill requires a PA with less than 4,000 hours of postgraduate clinical experience to practice with physician supervision under the terms of a written practice agreement.

The bill allows a PA who attests to having 4,000 hours or more of postgraduate clinical experience and has not had a disciplinary action against their license to practice in collaboration with a physician or physician group.

The collaboration is required to be set out in a practice agreement available on file at the practice site and available to the Board on request.

Collaboration means that a PA will collaborate with, consult with, or refer to the appropriate member of the health care team as indicated by the patient's condition; the education, experience, and competencies of the physician assistant; and the standard of care. The terms, conditions, and limitations of collaboration will be determined by the collaborating physician or collaborating physician group and the PA. If the collaboration will take place in a licensed health care facility, then the terms, conditions, and limitations of collaboration will be determined by the collaborating physician, collaborating physician group, PA, and the credentialing and privileging systems of the licensed health care facility.

Loss of Practice Agreement

After the loss or absence of a collaborative practice agreement, the bill allows a PA to continue to practice for 180 days if:

- The PA has not had a disciplinary action taken against their license; and
- The PA seeks any necessary collaboration for patients who require health care services beyond the training and experience of the PA through referral patterns established with a physician or other health care providers as indicated by the patient's condition.

The bill permits a PA to be able to request, and the Board to approve, one additional extension to practice for 180 days.

Criminal History Check

The bill allows the Board to require an applicant for original licensure, reinstatement, or in connection with any investigation of a licensee to be fingerprinted and submit to a state and national criminal history check. The Board is allowed to charge a fee for the cost of the background check.

The bill also adds the Board to the list of authorized agencies to which the Kansas Bureau of Investigation may release the results of a background check.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act; HB 2761

HB 2761 establishes the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act (Act) and establishes the powers, duties, and functions of the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary) in carrying out the Act. The bill provides for speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) licensure, defines the scope of practice, specifies required qualifications, and requires SLPAs to practice under a supervising speech-language pathologist (SLP).

The bill requires the Secretary to issue a SLPA license to an individual who meets the educational and training requirements of the Act and any other reasonable qualifications that may be adopted by the Secretary in rules and regulations. Such license expires after two years.

Citation of the Act and Definitions

The bill establishes the title of the Act and provides definitions for terms including, but not limited to, "certified speech-language pathology assistant," "direct supervision," "licensed speech-language pathology assistant," "speech para," and "supervising speech-language pathologist."

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Requirements

Educational and Training Requirements

The Act requires an individual seeking a SLPA license to have:

- Completed a certificate, technical, associate, or baccalaureate program including:
    - A bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution;
    - A bachelor's degree in another field and 24 hours of core coursework in communication sciences and disorders; or
    - A SLPA program from a regionally accredited institution that offers an associate's degree, technical training program, or a certificate program; and
- Completed a supervised clinical experience that consists of 100 clock hours of supervised clinical fieldwork with direct client or patient contact or clinical practicum. [*Note:* Supervision may occur as either an academic practicum or on the job under a supervising SLP.]

Continuing Education Requirements

The Act requires that individuals seeking to renew a SLPA license need to show proof of having completed the required 12 hours of approved continuing education or 1.2 continuing education units during each two-year licensing period.

The bill requires a licensee's continuing education to be reported on forms, in the time, and in a manner specified by the Secretary; be retained by the licensee for a four-year period; and be provided to the Secretary upon request.

Scope of Practice

The Act establishes the scope of practice for a SLPA to be the following activities as designated and directed by a supervising SLP:

- Conduct speech-language or hearing screenings without interpretation following specified screening protocols developed by the supervising SLP;

- Provide direct treatment to patients or clients who are identified by the supervising SLP;

- Follow documented treatment plans or protocols developed by the supervising SLP;

- Document patient or client progress toward meeting established objectives as stated in the treatment plan, assist with data collection for patient or client responses, and prepare therapy materials and activities;

- Assist the supervising SLP during assessment of patients or clients;

- Prepare charts, records, and graphs and assist with other clerical tasks as directed by the supervising SLP;

- Perform checks and maintenance of equipment on a regular basis and verify calibration on audiometric equipment at least annually;

- Assist the supervising SLP in research projects, in-service training, and public relations programs;

- Share documentation and treatment notes with the supervising SLP, who would be required to review and co-sign such documentation and treatment notes;

- Provide caregiver coaching as directed by the supervising SLP;

- Provide teletherapy services as directed by the supervising SLP;

- Program augmentative and alternative communication devices;

- Provide training and technical assistance to students, patients, clients, and families in the use of augmentative and alternative communication devices;

- Develop low-tech augmentative and alternative communication materials for students, patients, and clients;

- Collaborate with team members under the guidance of the supervising SLP and all applicable guidelines of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act;

- Clearly identify oneself as an SLPA to students, clients, families, and others; and

- Adjust communication practices and expectations as necessary to effectively serve clients, patients, and students.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Prohibited Activities

The Act prohibits a SLPA from:

- Performing diagnostic tests of any kind, including formal or informal evaluations, or interpret test results;

- Acting as a decision-maker in individualized education program meetings, special education eligibility meetings, or any interdisciplinary team meetings in which diagnostic information is interpreted or treatment plans are developed without the presence of a supervising SLP or a SLP qualified to provide supervision;

- Independently providing diagnostic or assessment results to patients, clients, or their parents or guardians;

- Writing, developing, or modifying a patient's or client's treatment plan;

- Providing services outside of a documented treatment plan prepared by the supervising SLP;

- Providing services for which the SLPA has not received appropriate or adequate training;

- Signing any formal documents without the signature of the supervising SLP;

- Identifying, recommending, or discharging patients or clients for services;

- Making referrals for additional services without consultation with the supervising SLP;

- Providing any interpretative information that is contained in reports written by any licensed SLP;

- Representing oneself as an SLP;

- Making advertisements or public announcements of professional services independent of the supervising SLP;

- Assisting in feeding or swallowing therapy without direct supervision from the supervising SLP; or

- Treating a person who is medically fragile as determined by the supervising SLP.

Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist

The Act requires a supervising SLP to accept full and complete responsibility for all services and tasks performed or omitted by a SLPA under their supervision.

Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist Qualifications

The Act requires an SLP wishing to supervise a SLPA or multiple SLPAs to:

- Hold a current Kansas SLP license or a privilege to practice in the state;
- Have two years of full-time experience as a SLP following the successful completion of the post-graduate profession experience;
- Have earned at least two hours of professional development in the area of supervision or clinical instruction following licensure; and
- Earn at least one hour of professional development in the area of ethics every three years.

The Act restricts a supervising SLP to supervising either two full-time SLPAs or three part-time SLPAs. If a SLP is supervising three part-time SLPAs, the aggregate hours worked by the SLPAs cannot exceed those worked by two full-time SLPAs.

The Act also requires supervising SLPs to:

- Institute a training program for each SLPA that encompasses all of the procedures to be performed and retain documentation in the SLPA's file in a form acceptable to the Secretary;
- Inform the client or patient about the use of a SLPA;
- Provide and document appropriate supervision of the SLPA to the Secretary as outlined in rules and regulations;
- Assume the legal and ethical responsibilities of the SPLA's day-to-day conduct;
- Maintain original documentation for three years; and
- Have no pending or previous disciplinary action or allegations or possess only a provisional or temporary license.

Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

The Act requires that a SLP supervising one or more SLPAs:

- Document direct supervision provided by the SLP for each student, patient, or client at least every 60 days;

- Provide direct supervision of at least 10.0 percent of a SLPA's total client contact time, which may be performed either in person or through live video conferencing; and

- Provide any additional amount of supervision determined at the discretion of the supervising SLP consistent with the:

    - SLPA's skills and experience;
    - Needs of the students, patients, and clients;
    - Service setting;
    - Tasks assigned; and
    - Laws and rules and regulations that govern SLPAs.

The Act requires a SLPA to notify the Secretary within seven business days following any change in a SLPA's supervising SLP.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License

Issuance and Renewal Applications

The Act requires applicants seeking issuance or renewal of a SLPA license to submit an application to the Secretary, in the manner, and in the form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary, and pay all required fees. The Act also authorizes the Secretary to issue licenses for periods of less than two years for purposes of administratively adjusting renewals and, in such case, a licensee will be charged a prorated renewal fee.

Licensees who fail to renew their licenses can seek reinstatement of the license by:

- Paying the renewal fee;
- Paying the reinstatement fee; and
- Submitting evidence of satisfactory completion of any applicable continuing education requirements, as established by the Secretary.

Notification of License Expiration

The Act requires the Secretary to electronically notify the licensee of their license expiration date at least 30 days before the expiration date through the email address on file with the Secretary. If the licensee does not submit a renewal application and pay the appropriate fee prior to the expiration of their license, the Act requires the Secretary to provide a second notice stating that the license has expired and that it may be renewed only if the renewal application, renewal fee, and late renewal fee are received within 30 days of the license expiring.

Denial, Revocation, Suspension, or Limitation on License

The Act requires the Secretary to deny, revoke, suspend, or limit a licensee's license if the licensee:

- Makes a false statement on an application for a license or any other document required by the Secretary;
- Engages, attempts to engage, or represents oneself as being allowed to perform procedures not authorized by the license;
- Demonstrates incompetence or makes consistent negligent errors in tests or procedures;
- Engages in dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct, as defined in rules and regulations;
- Provides professional services while:
    - Mentally incompetent; or
    - Under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or controlled substances that are in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indications;
- Violates any provisions of the Act or any rules and regulations adopted under the Act;
- Aids and abets the violation of any provisions of the Act or any rules and regulations adopted under the Act; or
- Has been convicted of a crime found by the Secretary to have a direct bearing on whether one should be entrusted to serve the public in the capacity of an SLPA.

Reciprocity Requirements

The Act permits the Secretary to grant a SLPA license to an applicant who is licensed to practice in another state if:

- The Secretary receives documentation from the issuing state or states that the licensee is currently in good standing without violations or sanctions, pending or in effect;
- The applicant meets the current educational and clinical experience requirements established in the Act or holds a current, unrestricted license to practice as a SLPA in another jurisdiction in the United States;
- The applicant meets other qualifications as determined in rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary; and

- The applicant pays an endorsement and application fee.

Temporary License

The Act authorizes the Secretary to issue a temporary SLPA license for a period of 12 months as established in rules and regulations by the Secretary.

The bill allows such temporary license to be renewed for 1 consecutive 12-month period upon payment of the fee and documentation of the applicant's failure to complete the requirements for which the temporary license was originally issued.

Licensure Fees

The Act requires the Secretary, if necessary, to set fees for licensure, temporary licensure, renewal, late renewal, reinstatement, and examination fees in an amount to cover the costs of administering the Act. The bill would prohibit any such fee from being more than $200. All fees will be remitted to the State Treasury to be credited to the Health Occupations Credentialing Fee Fund.

Violations of the Act

The Act, on and after January 1, 2027, makes it unlawful for any person to represent oneself in any manner as a SLPA if the person is not licensed under the Act or has a license that has been suspended or revoked, unless such person is exempt from the provisions of the Act.

The Act also states that any violation of its provisions will be a class C nonperson misdemeanor with each day an individual is in violation of the Act being considered a separate offense.

Rules and Regulations

The Act requires the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to:

- Establish appropriate continuing education requirements for licensees seeking reinstatement of a lapsed license;

- Define dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct for purposes of denial, revocation, suspension, or limitation of a SLPA license;

- Establish documentation requirements for appropriate supervision of a SLPA by a supervising SLP; and

- Fix licensure, temporary licensure, renewal, late renewal, reinstatement, and examination fees as deemed necessary by the Secretary.

The Act also authorizes the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations regarding:

- Other reasonable qualifications of an applicant to receive a SLPA license; and

- The creation of a 12-month Temporary Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License.

Prohibiting Solicitation or Acceptance of Assignment of Post-loss Insurance Benefits; SB 55

SB 55 prohibits solicitation or acceptance of an assignment, in whole or in part, of any post-loss insurance benefit under a residential property insurance policy. The bill adds these solicitations or acceptances to the list of unfair claim settlement practices in the business of insurance and states they are considered to be against public policy, null and void, an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice.

The bill exempts an assignment, transfer, pledge, or conveyance granted to a federally insured financial institution, mortgagee, or subsequent purchaser of the property or liability coverage under a residential property insurance policy from this prohibition.

The bill defines two terms:

- "Assignment agreement" means any instrument by which post-loss benefits under a residential property insurance policy are assigned, transferred, or acquired in any other manner, in whole or in part, to or from a person providing services, including, but not limited to, inspecting, protecting, repairing, restoring, or replacing the property or mitigating against further damage to the property; and

- "Person" means any individual, corporation, association, partnership, reciprocal exchange, inter-insurer, Lloyd's insurer, fraternal benefit society, and any other legal entity engaged in the business of insurance, including agents, brokers, and adjusters. "Person" also means any nonprofit medical and hospital service corporations, administrators, and health maintenance organizations.

Deferred Annuities; HB 2540

HB 2540 exempts contingent deferred annuities from the standard nonforfeiture law for individual deferred annuities.

The bill also gives authority to the Commissioner of Insurance to adopt the necessary rules and regulations regarding nonforfeiture benefits for contingent deferred annuities.

Removal of Squatters Act; HB 2378

HB 2378 enacts the Removal of Squatters Act (Act) that creates a procedure for property owners to request law enforcement remove unauthorized persons from a dwelling unit through submission of an affidavit.

Legislative Findings and Intent

The bill makes the following findings:

- The fundamental rights of owning property include the right of the owner to exclude others from entering or remaining unlawfully on the property; and
- Squatting, or the unauthorized entry into or remaining in a dwelling, is a violation of the rights of the property owners, and is against public interest.

The bill states the intent of the Act is to protect the rights of the property owners and to provide a timely and effective mechanism for removing squatters while protecting the rights of legitimate occupants.

Unauthorized Occupant Affidavit

The bill authorizes the owner of a dwelling unit or their agent to request the removal of an unauthorized person from the unit by submitting a notarized affidavit to a law enforcement agency in the county where the unit is located. The bill requires the affidavit to contain certain statements that are to be attested by the signer (affiant), including:

- The affiant is the owner of the dwelling unit or their agent;
- A person has entered and is remaining unlawfully in the dwelling unit;
- The person was not authorized to enter the dwelling unit;
- The person is not a tenant or a holdover tenant;
- The affiant has requested the unauthorized person vacate the dwelling unit and the person has not done so; and
- The unauthorized person is not an immediate family member of the property owner.

Property Owner Notice to Vacate

In addition to completing the affidavit, the bill requires the affiant to provide notice at the dwelling unit to the unauthorized person that such person has no right to occupancy and must vacate the unit immediately. The bill also requires the notice to include the street address of the law enforcement agency where the affidavit will be delivered. The bill requires a copy of the notice to vacate with the date and time of delivery to be attached to the affidavit when it is submitted.

False Affidavit

If an affiant knowingly submits a false affidavit to a law enforcement agency in conjunction with the Act, the person may be charged with a class A nonperson misdemeanor.

Law Enforcement Procedures

The bill establishes procedures to be followed by law enforcement to verify an unauthorized occupant affidavit and, if an affidavit is verified, serve the unauthorized occupant with a notice to vacate.

Affidavit Verification

The bill requires the applicable law enforcement agency, upon receipt of a notarized affidavit, to verify that the affiant is the record owner of the dwelling unit or their agent, and appears otherwise entitled to relief. Upon verification and after 24 hours of the receipt of the affidavit, a law enforcement officer is required to serve a notice to the unauthorized person to immediately vacate the dwelling unit.

Law Enforcement Notice to Vacate

The bill authorizes a law enforcement officer to hand-deliver a notice to vacate to any unauthorized person occupying the dwelling, or post the notice on the front door or entrance of the dwelling unit.

The bill also requires the law enforcement agency to attempt to verify the identities of all persons occupying the dwelling and note the identities on the return of service.

Affidavit Processing Fee

The bill authorizes the law enforcement officer to charge a fee of not more than $50 to process an affidavit filed pursuant with the Act.

Law Enforcement Liability

The bill exempts a political subdivision of Kansas and a law enforcement agency or such agency's deputies or employees from liability for any action or omission made in good faith. Additionally, the bill exempts a law enforcement officer from liability for loss, destruction, or

damage of property experienced by an unauthorized person, or other individuals, while such officer is carrying out the provisions of the Act.

Wrongful Removal

The bill allows a person who believes they have been harmed by a wrongful removal to bring a civil cause of action against the affiant owner of the dwelling unit or their agent.

If a court finds that a person was harmed by a wrongful removal, the Act allows such person to have the possession of the dwelling unit restored and to recover:

- Actual costs and damages;
- Punitive damages of triple the fair market rent of the dwelling;
- Court costs; and
- Reasonable attorney fees.

Definitions

The bill defines the following terms:

- "Squatter" means a person occupying a dwelling who is not entitled to occupy the dwelling under a lease or rental agreement nor authorized by a tenant to occupy the dwelling. The bill would clarify "squatter" does not include a tenant who holds over in periodic tenancy;

- "Dwelling unit" has the same meaning as in the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (RLTA), except that "dwelling unit" includes commercial property and mobile homes;

- "Immediate family member" means spouse, child, grandchild of any degree, parent, mother-in law, father-in-law, grandparent of any degree, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece, whether biological, step, or adoptive;

- "Law enforcement agency" and "law enforcement officer" means the same as in the Kansas Code of Criminal Procedure; and

- "Tenant" has the same meaning as in the RLTA.

Exclusion from Residential Landlord Tenant Act

The bill states occupancy by a squatter is excluded from the RLTA and the removal of a squatter shall not require the use of an eviction under such act.

Cognitive Impairment Training; HB 2536

HB 2536 prohibits a court from appointing a person as a guardian for an adult diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a similar neurological condition until the person to be appointed files an affidavit with the court verifying completion of an approved training program. The bill authorizes the court to waive the training if it is in the best interest of the adult diagnosed with the condition, and any such waiver will be entered into the record of proceedings.

Training Program

The Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary) is required to approve training programs for proposed guardians of adults who have cognitive impairment or are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a similar neurological condition.

The training provides specific guidance for proposed guardians, including:

- Common aspects of normal aging;
- Warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia;
- Effective strategies for communicating with such adults; and
- Effective strategies and resources available for supporting such adults in exercising their rights.

Program approval applications are filed with the Secretary in a manner the Secretary directs. The bill authorizes the Secretary to suspend or revoke approval if the Secretary finds a program is not in compliance with the established criteria pursuant to the bill or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the bill.

The Secretary is required to adopt rules and regulations to administer the provisions of the bill. The bill is part of and supplemental to the Kansas Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship and Other Protective Arrangements Act.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Funeral Assistance for Fallen Law Enforcement Officers; SB 445

SB 445 requires, at the request of a Kansas law enforcement agency to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Advisory Committee, the Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to make temporary personnel and other assistance available to such agency to support funeral services in honor of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Review of Appointments Subject to Senate Confirmation; SB 427

SB 427 authorizes the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Senate Committee on Confirmation Oversight (Committee) to review information from background checks conducted by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) on persons appointed to state offices subject to Senate confirmation. [*Note:* Under continuing law, the KBI is required to conduct background investigations of appointees to positions that are subject to Senate confirmation and to require such people to be fingerprinted.]

The bill provides that, for such appointments, background information received by the appointing authority can be disclosed to the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Committee or the appointee in the office of the appointing authority upon written request. Any information received from the KBI or Kansas Department of Revenue pursuant to the appointment must be kept on file in the office of the appointing authority or another secure location under the appointing authority's control. Such information, other than conviction data, is confidential and cannot be disclosed to any other person except as otherwise allowed by the *Kansas Constitution* and the provisions of the bill.

The bill removes a requirement in prior law that the Kansas Legislative Research Department request such background investigations be conducted and that the Director of Legislative Research provide for the review of non-confidential information received pursuant to such investigations by the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Committee.

The bill also clarifies the process for submission of information required to accompany the nomination of an appointee to a position requiring Senate confirmation and makes other conforming changes.

Charlie Kirk Free Speech Day; SCR 1615

SCR 1615 states the Legislature condemns the assassination of Charlie Kirk and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, and to honor his legacy, the Legislature recognizes October 14, 2026, and every October 14 thereafter, as Charlie Kirk Free Speech Day in Kansas. The resolution states that because October 14 is Mr. Kirk's birthday, it is a particularly special day to recognize his legacy.

The resolution encourages the Governor to join the Legislature in recognizing October 14, 2026, and every October 14 thereafter, as Charlie Kirk Free Speech Day in Kansas to honor the life of Mr. Kirk and to provide an opportunity for all Kansans to reaffirm the importance of free speech and civil discourse.

The resolution also encourages Kansans to celebrate each Charlie Kirk Free Speech Day by exercising their freedom of speech and engaging in civil discourse to honor the memory of Mr. Kirk.

The resolution directs the Secretary of State to send enrolled copies of the resolution to Senator Shallenburger and the Governor.

Legislative Chamber Seals; HB 2332

HB 2332 establishes a seal for the House of Representatives and a seal for the Senate, specifies when the seals may be used, allows the Speaker of the House and Senate President to approve other uses of their respective seals, and revises a term in law describing the Great Seal of the State of Kansas.

Rural Health Transformation Program Grant Reporting; HB 2555

HB 2555 requires certain information regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program (Program) to be submitted to the State Finance Council and provided to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and the Legislative Budget Committee.

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register.*

[*Note:* The Program was created under Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21 to support improvements in rural health care delivery across Kansas. The program provides federal funding to assist the state in expanding access to care, supporting rural health providers, and modernizing health systems. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) administers the program in coordination with other stakeholders.]

Information Provided to the State Finance Council

The bill requires all grant applications from partners, stakeholders, or subawardees requesting funds from the Program to be first reviewed by the Kansas Rural Health Innovation Alliance, followed by presentation to the State Finance Council.

The bill requires the application information presented to the State Finance Council to include the following:

- Partner, stakeholder, or subawardee receiving the grant;
- Purpose of the grant, including planned expenditures;
- Physical location and, if applicable, the local impacted community where the intended expenditures are made; and
- Outcomes achieved by each grant.

The bill requires that as soon as practicable following expenditure, expenditure records and any other reports required under federal law, including requirements of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, are presented and provided to the State Finance Council.

The bill requires each grant recipient to provide to the State Finance Council quarterly reports of the metrics used to measure success of the intended outcomes and key performance indicators achieved through the awarded grant.

Information Presented to Legislative Committees

The bill also requires the grant applications, expenditure data, and reports to be provided to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means during the legislative session, and to the Legislative Budget Committee when the Legislature is not in session.

The Governor will designate the person responsible for presenting and providing the required information.

K-12 Education Reports to the Legislature; HB 2618

HB 2618 requires the Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) to biannually report to the Legislature on federal financial assistance for education purposes. The bill also establishes sunsets and repeals various reports by the State Board and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to the Legislature or select committees of the Legislature.

Federal Financial Assistance Report

The bill requires the State Board, on or before July 1 and January 1 each state fiscal year, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature on federal financial assistance for education purposes that was, or is anticipated to be, accepted, distributed, or expended in the preceding and current fiscal years. The report is required to include:

- The purpose of each federal financial assistance program;
- How the federal financial assistance was or will be used;
- The individual, office, or division of the State Board that accepts, distributes, or expends such federal financial assistance;
- The federal agency, office, or division that administers such federal financial assistance on behalf of the federal government;
- The total amount of federal financial assistance the State Board accepted, distributed, or expended in the preceding fiscal year and current fiscal year as well as any anticipated financial assistance for the current fiscal year for each federal financial assistance program;
- The anticipated time the federal financial assistance program will be made available; and
- A description outlining whether or how the educational initiatives would continue using state or local resources when the federal financial assistance program ends.

The bill establishes a sunset for the report on July 1, 2034.

Educational Report Sunsets

The bill also establishes the following sunsets for reports made by the State Board and KSDE to the Legislature or its committees on the following topics:

- January 15, 2031:
  - School district accreditation;
- July 1, 2031:
  - Expedited military licensure; and [*Note:* The bill only sunsets the State Board's requirement to provide information to the Director of Legislative Research for the report.]
  - Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship program;
- July 1, 2032:
  - ACT exam and assessment data;
  - Every Child Can Read Act;
  - Foster Care Annual Academic Report Card; and
  - Performance accountability and longitudinal achievement;
- July 1, 2033:
  - At-risk student accountability plans; and
  - School district open enrollment; and
- July 1, 2034:
  - Kansas Educator Registered Apprenticeship Grant Program.

Removal of Education Reports

The bill removes reporting requirements for the State Board and KSDE on the following topics:

- Early retirement incentive program;
- School district bond elections and issuance of general obligation bonds;
- School district-level special education excess costs; and
- Student data collection beyond that established in statute and any changes to said collection.

Reorganization of Clearwater Cemetery District; SB 396

SB 396 authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Clearwater Cemetery District (Board) located in Sedgwick County to reorganize by adoption of a resolution. The bill also provides for procedures to facilitate the reorganization.

Reorganization Resolution

The bill authorizes the Board to adopt a resolution by majority vote to remove Ohio Township from the district. The bill requires the resolution to provide for the election of the at-large member of the Board by the Board itself at its next meeting following the adoption of the resolution.

The bill requires a copy of the reorganization resolution to be mailed to the Sedgwick County Clerk, and deems the reorganization effective on January 1, 2026.

Board Membership

The bill provides the membership of the reorganized board to be the following three members:

- The Mayor of the City of Clearwater;
- The Township Trustee of Ninnescah Township; and
- One member elected at-large.

The bill provides for the first election of the at-large Board member at the 2026 general election, and every four years thereafter. The bill requires the election to be nonpartisan.

The bill is in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Water Appropriation; HB 2433

HB 2433 adds an exception to county home rule regarding regulation of the transfer or appropriation of water.

The bill prohibits a county from enacting or enforcing any resolution or other action regulating the transfer or appropriation of water that conflicts with, interferes with, is more stringent than, or would duplicate the control, regulation, enforcement, or oversight of the Chief Engineer or the Water Transfer Hearing Panel regarding the transfer or appropriation of water per continuing law.

The bill prohibits a county from:

- Requiring any license, permit, or conditional use permit to transfer or appropriate water; or

- Imposing any condition, restriction, limitation, requirement, fee, or charge related to transfer or appropriation of water.

The bill retroactively and prospectively applies to all existing and future county resolutions that affect past, present, or future transfer or appropriations of water.

The bill does not prohibit a county from utilizing zoning or sanitary code requirements to regulate the location or use of domestic water wells.

The bill will be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Neighborhood Revitalization Act Application; HB 2470

HB 2470 clarifies that nothing in the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act prohibits a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 people from designating the entire municipality as being within a neighborhood revitalization area.

Prohibition on Battery-charged Fence Regulations; HB 2603

HB 2603 prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, code, standard or regulation, or portion thereof that:

- Requires a permit or fee for the installation or use of a battery-charged security fence that is in addition to any permit or fee required by the municipality for an alarm system;

- Imposes installation or operational requirements for a battery-charged security fence that are inconsistent or conflict with or that are additional to the requirements of the bill; or

- Prohibits or imposes conditions upon the installation, operation, placement, servicing, or maintenance of a battery-charged security fence.

The bill specifies that it is not to be construed to prohibit municipal regulation of any security alarm system that does not meet the definition of a battery-charged security fence.

Definitions

The bill defines the following terms:

- "Battery-charged security fence" to mean an assembly of integrated battery-powered equipment and ancillary security features, including, but not limited to, a monitored alarm device and energizer that periodically delivers pulses to the integrated security fence and a battery-charging device used exclusively to charge the security systems battery and that:

    - Integrates with a monitored alarm device in a manner that enables the security system to transmit a signal in response to an intrusion or burglary

that alerts any business protected by the security system and a monitoring station operator with the capability of immediately alerting local law enforcement with jurisdiction over the location of the security system;

- Is located on property that is not designated by a municipality exclusively for residential use;
- Is energized by an energizer that is powered by a commercial storage battery that does not exceed 12 volts of direct current and meets the standards set forth by the International Electrotechnical Commission standard 60335-2-76 as in effect on July 1, 2026;
- Is installed behind a nonelectric perimeter fence, wall, or other barrier that is at least 5 feet in height;
- Is 10 feet in height or 2 feet higher than the nonelectric perimeter fence, wall or other barrier, whichever is greater; and
- Is marked with conspicuous warning signs that are located at not less than 30-foot intervals that read: “Warning-Electric Fence”; and

- “Municipality” to mean any county, township, city, district of whatever name or nature, or any other political subdivision of this state, including any board, bureau, commission, committee, or other agency, having power to regulate the use of private property or the installation or operation of electric or nonelectric security fencing or alarm systems on private property. “Municipality” does not include a homeowners or similar private, nongovernmental association.

Protest Petitions for Municipality Lease-Purchase Agreements; HB 2622

HB 2622 amends the requirements for filing a protest petition to require an election on the question of whether a municipality shall enter into a lease-purchase agreement.

Municipality other than County, School District, or Community College

Under prior law, if a proposed lease-purchase agreement involves the acquisition of land or buildings by a municipality other than a county, school district, or community college, is for a term of 3 or more years, and provides for payments in any year in excess of 3 percent of the total amount budgeted by the municipality for expenditure during the current year, excluding debt service, a notice specifying the purpose and the total of all payments must be published once per week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality. If at least 5 percent of qualified voters of the municipality sign a protest petition, then the agreement would not take effect unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the municipality.

The bill amends the protest petition requirement by changing the required percentage from 5 percent of the qualified voters of the municipality to 3 percent of the qualified voters of the municipality.

Municipality that is a County, School District, or Community College

Under prior law, if a county, school district, or community college proposes to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for the acquisition of real property that is to run for more than one fiscal year or will have annual payments that exceed $100,000, the municipality is required to adopt and publish a resolution on the agreement. If at least 5 percent of the voters of the municipality who voted for Secretary of State in the last general election sign a protest petition, then the question about whether the municipality shall enter into the agreement will be put on the ballot.

The bill amends the protest petition requirement by changing the required percentage from 5 percent of the voters of the municipality who voted for Secretary of State at the last general election to 3 percent of the qualified voters of the municipality.

Disorganization of a Fire District; HB 2624

HB 2624 authorizes a board of county commissioners to disorganize a fire district at any time, upon motion of the board, when the fire district contains no territory as a result of the exclusion of lands.

Procedures for the Dissolution of Cities of the Third Class; HB 2711

HB 2711 modifies the election and petition procedures for the dissolution of cities of the third class, including the timing and certification process.

The bill requires, on petition of a majority of the qualified electors of any city of the third class, the city council to order an election be placed on the next primary or general election ballot to approve or disapprove the proposal of city dissolution. The election must be at least 60 days after the submission of the petition.

If a two-thirds majority of the qualified electors vote to approve the dissolution of the city, the city thereafter ceases to exist as a corporate body and the territory becomes a part of the township in which the city was located.

Taxpayer Agreement Act as Alternative to Tax Increment Financing; HB 2737

HB 2737 enacts the Taxpayer Agreement Act (Act) concerning economic development projects of a city eligible for tax increment financing (TIF) and taxpayer agreements, which are defined as agreements between a city and a project developer that meet the requirements of, and will be subject to, the Act.

Entering Into a Taxpayer Agreement

The bill authorizes a city to issue bonds pursuant to a taxpayer agreement in accordance with the Act as an alternative to financing a redevelopment project, as provided in TIF law, using tax increments and tax increment bonds.

The bill allows a city authorized to undertake a TIF project to enter into a taxpayer agreement with the owner or developer of real property located within a tax increment or redevelopment district after obtaining a written statement of consent from each holder of an existing mortgage or deed of trust on the real property. The bill requires the written statement of consent to indicate the agreement does not constitute an event of default under the existing mortgage or deed of trust.

The bill authorizes use of a taxpayer agreement to:

- Limit such owner's or developer's rights to challenge the owner's or developer's assessment or property taxes or enforcement of a tax lien established pursuant to the Act;

- Guarantee, enhance, or otherwise secure the repayment of bonds, notes, or other obligations issued to finance project costs by the city;

- Provide for payments in lieu of, or in addition to, tax increment revenues; or

- Provide for any payment obligation designed to support the financing or refinancing of project costs.

The bill specifies a taxpayer agreement will constitute a voluntary and binding payment obligation of the owner or developer and will not constitute a pledge of the credit or taxing power of the state or any city.

Payments and Real Property Liens

The bill specifies, in the absence of a written statement of consent, that any lien created by the taxpayer agreement will be subordinate to the existing mortgage or deed of trust.

If a taxpayer agreement provides that payments due under the agreement are secured by a real property lien, such lien:

- Will be in full force and effect automatically upon the execution and recording of the agreement;

- Will constitute and be treated in the same manner as a municipal claim and real estate tax lien pursuant to law, except for limitations on the owner's or developer's rights to challenge the lien, assessment, or property taxes pursuant to provisions described above;

- Will have parity with real estate tax liens, taking priority over any existing or subsequent mortgage, judgment, lien, or encumbrance, except for previously filed real estate tax liens; and

- Can be enforced, collected, and foreclosed in the same manner as real estate taxes, except for limitations on the owner's or developer's rights to challenge the

lien, assessment, or property taxes pursuant to the provisions described above, including tax claim bureau sale, sheriff's sale, or judicial foreclosure.

The bill requires a taxpayer agreement containing a lien to be recorded with the Register of Deeds in the county where the property is located. Such recording makes the lien publicly known and legally effective.

Payments due under the agreement will be deemed delinquent if unpaid on the required date as provided by the taxpayer agreement. The bill allows a delinquency to be certified and enforced in any manner pursuant to the taxpayer agreement and as delinquent real estate taxes pursuant to law. All interest, penalties, fees, and collection costs applicable to delinquent real estate taxes will apply to delinquent taxpayer agreement payments.

The bill authorizes a taxpayer agreement and any lien securing the agreement to be assigned to a trustee or purchaser of bonds issued to finance project costs secured by the taxpayer agreement. The assignee will possess all enforcement rights held by the city.

Upon full payment of all obligations under the taxpayer agreement, a city will be required to execute and record a release of lien to extinguish the lien upon recording.

Bond Issuance

The bill authorizes a city to issue bonds as a conduit issuer to finance project costs within a tax increment or redevelopment district. Bonds issued under the Act could be secured by:

- A pledge or assignment of:
    - Payments due under a taxpayer agreement;
    - Any lien created by a taxpayer agreement; or
    - Reserves, guaranties, or private security; or
- A pledge of incremental tax revenues.

These payments, liens, revenues, or other securities could be pledged, assigned, or granted a security interest by the city to a trustee or purchaser of the bonds.

Bonds issued will:

- Be payable solely from the revenues and security pledged;
- Not constitute a general obligation of the city or state;
- Not constitute municipal debt for purposes of any statutory or constitutional debt limitation; and
- Not impose a financial obligation on a city beyond receipt and remittance of pledged payments.

A city issuing bonds under the Act will act solely as a conduit issuer, and repayment will be limited to:

- Taxpayer agreement payments;
- Pledged incremental tax revenues; or
- Any additional private security.

A city also will be authorized to enter into agreements with any trustee, servicer, or bondholder to implement any taxpayer agreement or any provisions of the Act. A city will be permitted to assign to a trustee or bondholders the city's right to receive taxpayer agreement payments, any lien securing such payment, and any enforcement rights under the Act. An assignee will have all enforcement powers held by the city.

The bill prohibits its provisions from being construed to:

- Limit the power of a city under TIF law;
- Require any city to enter into a taxpayer agreement;
- Impose any financial obligation on a city; or
- Constitute a guarantee by a city or the State of any bond issued under the Act.

Residency of Municipal Governing Body Appointed Voting Members; HB 2769

HB 2769 requires any municipality that creates a subordinate service taxing area (such as a county service taxing district) and appoints its governing body to require all appointed voting members to be residents of the taxing area under certain circumstances. The bill does not apply to elected members of a governing body.

The bill requires all voting members of such appointed governing body to be residents of the taxing area if the municipality either:

- Imposes or authorizes a property tax on area residents or authorizes the governing body to impose a property tax; or

- Authorizes the governing body to set a budget and spend funds for public services in the area.

Any member who is not a resident of such area will serve as a nonvoting member.

The bill defines "municipality" for this purpose to mean a city, county, or unified city and county government.

OPEN RECORDS

Supreme Court Nominating Commission—Open Records; SB 299

SB 299 restricts the Kansas Supreme Court and Supreme Court Nominating Commission (Commission) from adopting a rule that prohibits disclosure of the Commission's records. The bill makes records of the Commission, including the names and cities of residence of people nominated to serve on the Commission, open and subject to disclosure. The bill allows background checks and sensitive financial information of applicants or nominees for judicial office to be closed from public disclosure by the Commission.

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Kansas Open Records Act Exceptions Continued; HB 2519

HB 2519 continues in existence certain exceptions to the Kansas Open Records Act:

- KSA 8-2,158 concerning the name, address, and telephone number of an emergency contact authorized by a holder of a driver's license, instruction permit, or non-driver's identification card;

- KSA 22a-243 concerning records disclosed to a city or county entity that provides a local review of child deaths when such death occurred in the city or county or the child was a resident of the city or county;

- KSA 40-221b concerning information filed for an initial application for certification of reinsurance;

- KSA 41-353 concerning names and addresses of a consignee in a report by a fulfillment house licensee; and

- KSA 75-782 concerning all documents, materials, or other information obtained by or discussed by Kansas Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse multidisciplinary teams.

Extraordinary Event Proclamation by the Governor; Senate Sub. for HB 2212

Senate Sub. for HB 2212 authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation declaring the need for enhanced public safety and security for an extraordinary event (proclamation). The bill provides certain powers to the Governor during the period of the proclamation.

An "extraordinary event" for purposes of the bill, includes, but is not limited to, the following events hosted in Kansas, or in any county bordering Kansas, that would cause a significant impact in Kansas:

- The World Cup, hosted by the International Federation of Association Football;
- The Olympics;
- The Super Bowl, hosted by the National Football League;
- A national political convention; or
- An event that is similar in scope and size with respect to expected attendance and security requirements.

The bill requires the Governor, before issuing such proclamation, to find that such an event would attract a significant number of visitors to the state that would burden the ability of local agencies and law enforcement to maintain public safety, transportation services, security, or other essential infrastructure, without additional resources and coordination.

The proclamation would be valid for a maximum of 15 days but could be extended by the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) for up to 90 days. The bill authorizes the LCC to terminate such proclamation at any time within such period. The bill requires the LCC to meet to discuss such proclamation extensions regardless of whether the Legislature is in session.

The bill provides that the proclamation would activate the disaster response and recovery aspects of the State Disaster Emergency Plan and any local and interjurisdictional disaster plans applicable to the areas of the state and any political subdivisions thereof that are affected by the proclamation. The proclamation would authorize:

- Deployment and use of any forces to which the plan or plans apply; and
- The use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, materials, or facilities assembled, stockpiled, or arranged to be made available for such event.

The proclamation would authorize the Governor to:

- Utilize all available resources of the state government and each political subdivision as reasonably necessary to cope with such event;

- Transfer the supervision, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating security activities;

- Require and direct the cooperation and assistance of state and local governmental agencies and officials;

- Make requests for funding or other aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

- Make requests to the State Finance Council for funding from the State Emergency Fund.

The bill limits the powers of the proclamation to those provided in the bill. If the Governor finds additional emergency powers are necessary, the bill requires the Governor to issue a state of disaster emergency proclamation pursuant to continuing law.

The provisions of the bill are part of and supplemental to the Kansas Emergency Management Act, and expire on July 1, 2027.

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

REAL ESTATE

Conveyance of Real Estate to the City of Osawatomie; SB 146

SB 146 directs the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary), on or before July 1, 2026, to execute and record an amendment to the original deed for a conveyance located in Miami County, Kansas, from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to the City of Osawatomie.

The bill directs the amendment to provide for the right, title, and interest for any portion of the real estate not used for economic development to return to the State on July 1, 2046.

If the Secretary finds the legal description of the property to be incorrect, the Secretary will execute and record a corrective amendment to the deed, subject to approval by the Attorney General.

Conveyance of Land from Audubon of Kansas; SB 473

SB 473 allows Audubon of Kansas to convey real estate in Wabaunsee County and requires the Kansas State Historical Society to review and approve the deeds and conveyances before the conveyance occurs. The bill also removes language that prohibits Audubon of Kansas from conveying any real estate.

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Junior Officers' Quarters Transfer to the State Historical Society; HB 2781

HB 2781 authorizes the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) to acquire from the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVS) the Junior Officers' Quarters on Fort Dodge, and designates the Junior Officers' Quarters as a historical landmark.

Acquisition of the Junior Officers' Quarters

The bill authorizes the KSHS to acquire by purchase, gift, grant, or donation from the KOVS the Junior Officers' Quarters located on Fort Dodge in Ford County. Prior to the KSHS accepting the property, the Attorney General is required to approve the deed for the property and to determine that the land transfer conveys a fee simple interest in the property to the State, as the property will be acquired in the name of the State of Kansas.

State Historical Landmark

The bill declares that the Junior Officers' Quarters possesses a historical interest to the State. Upon acquisition of the property, the KSHS is required to establish and maintain the building and land as a historical landmark. The KSHS is authorized to adopt rules and regulations relating to the use, preservation, improvement, control, and maintenance of the Junior Officers' Quarters.

Judicial Branch Surcharge Extension; HB 2393

HB 2393 extends the Judicial Branch surcharge on various docket fees through June 30, 2030. [*Note*: Pursuant to 2022 HB 2541, the surcharges on docket fees received are deposited into the State General Fund following deduction of amounts otherwise designated.]

Designation of Multiple-occupancy Private Spaces in Public Buildings For Use By Only One Sex; Invalidation and Correction of Certain Driver's Licenses and Birth Certificates; House Sub. for SB 244

House Sub. for SB 244 creates law requiring the designation of multiple-occupancy private spaces in public buildings for use by only one sex and creates enforcement mechanisms; amends the Help Not Harm Act, Motor Vehicle Drivers' License Act, Women's Bill of Rights, and Uniform Vital Statistics Act to define the term "gender"; declares certain birth certificates and driver's licenses to be invalid; and requires correction of gender identification markers on licenses and birth certificates where necessary. The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Multiple-occupancy Private Spaces

Definitions

"Multiple-occupancy private space" means a facility designed or designated for simultaneous use by more than one individual and in which an individual may be in a state of undress in the presence of another individual, regardless of whether the facility provides curtains or partial walls for privacy. The term includes, but is not limited to, a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room.

"Public building" means a building owned or leased by a governmental entity, but does not include a building that is owned by a governmental entity that is leased to a private entity, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, if the lease agreement for such building was in force and effect on the effective date of the bill.

"Single-occupancy private space" means a facility designed or designated for use by only one individual at a time and in which the individual may be in a state of undress, and includes, but is not limited to, a single toilet restroom with a locking door that is designed or designated as unisex or a family restroom or changing room.

The bill also defines the terms "female," "male," and "sex" to have the same meaning as in KSA 2025 Supp. 77-207 and "governmental entity" to have the same meaning as in the Kansas Tort Claims Act.

Requirements of Governing Bodies or Chief Administrative Officers

The bill requires the governing body or chief administrative officer of each public building in the state to designate each multiple-occupancy private space in such building for use only by individuals of one sex. The bill also requires such governing body or chief administrative officer to take every reasonable step to ensure an individual does not enter a multi-occupancy private space that is designated for use only by individuals of the opposite sex.

The bill specifies the above requirements may not be construed to prohibit a governing body or chief administrative officer from adopting a policy in accordance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act for individuals who require assistance when using a multiple-occupancy space or establishing a single-occupancy private space.

Exceptions

The bill provides that an individual may enter a multiple-occupancy private space designated for individuals of the opposite sex for the following reasons:

- For custodial reasons;
- For maintenance or inspection purposes;
- To render medical or other emergency assistance;
- To accompany and provide assistance to an individual who needs assistance using the facility;
- For law enforcement purposes;
- To render assistance necessary in preventing a serious threat to proper order or safety; or
- To provide coaching or athletic training during athletic events, provided such individual is a member of the coaching or athletic training staff and such individual ensures that no individual of the opposite sex is in a state of undress prior to entering such multiple-occupancy private space.

The bill also provides an exception for a child who is under 9 years of age if accompanied by an individual caring for such child.

Governmental Entity Violations

Complaint. The bill authorizes a person to file a complaint with the Attorney General against a governmental entity (entity) for a multiple-occupancy violation if:

- Such person provides the entity with written notice describing the violation; and
- The governing body or chief administrative officer does not cure the violation by the end of the third business day after the date of receipt of the notice.

The bill requires each complaint to include a copy of the written notice provided to the entity and the complainant's affidavit alleging the violation.

Penalty. An entity that violates the multiple-occupancy provisions of the bill is liable for a civil penalty of $25,000 for the first violation and a penalty of $125,000 for each subsequent violation, with each day of a continuing violation constituting a separate violation.

Entity investigation. Before bringing an action against an entity for a multiple-occupancy violation, the Attorney General is required to investigate the filed complaint to determine whether legal action is warranted.

The entity subject to the complaint is required to provide the Attorney General any requested information in connection with the investigation of the complaint, including, but not limited to:

- Supporting documents related to the complaint; and
- A statement on whether the entity has complied or intends to comply with the multiple-occupancy provisions of the bill.

Entity legal action. If the Attorney General determines that legal action is warranted, the Attorney General is required to provide written notice to the entity that:

- Describes the violation and location of the multiple-occupancy private space found to be in violation;
- The amount of the proposed penalty for the violation; and
- The penalty may be avoided by curing the violation on or before the 15th day after receipt of the Attorney General's notice.

If a violation is not cured by the deadline, the Attorney General is authorized to bring an action to assess the civil penalty provided by the bill.

Individual Violations

The bill makes it a violation for an individual to enter a multiple-occupancy private space designated for use only by individuals of the opposite sex, except as otherwise permitted by the bill.

Individual violation investigation and notice. Upon receipt of the complaint that an individual violated the provisions of the bill, the entity's governing body or chief administrative officer is required to investigate the allegations and, upon finding that the violation occurred, the bill requires written notice of such violation be provided to that individual.

The bill requires the notice to include:

- The date and location of the multiple-occupancy private space where the violation occurred;
- A statement that repeated violations may result in fines or criminal charges; and
- The procedure to administratively appeal the violation finding.

Individual violation penalty. Any person who is found to have committed a second violation after having been found to have violated the multiple-occupation provisions previously is liable for a civil penalty of $1,000. A third or subsequent violation is penalized as a Class B misdemeanor. For a violation occurring in a state building, the Attorney General is authorized to bring an action to assess the penalty. For a violation occurring in a municipal building, the county or district attorney for the county where the violation occurred is authorized to bring an action to assess the penalty.

Civil Cause of Action

The bill allows persons to bring a civil cause of action if they are aggrieved by the invasion of their own personal privacy or are otherwise harmed by an individual's violation of the bill's multiple-occupancy provisions. The plaintiff is authorized to seek either actual damages or liquidated damages in the amount of $1,000, as well as declaratory and injunctive relief.

Affirmative defense. The bill authorizes an affirmative defense by defendants who did not know that the multiple-occupancy private space was designated for use only by persons of the opposite sex to that of the defendant.

Time limitations. The bill requires all civil actions brought under its provisions to be commenced within two years of the occurrence of the violation.

Costs. The bill states the prevailing party shall recover reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Deposit of Civil Penalties

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to deposit any civil penalty collected to the credit of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

A county or district attorney who has collected a civil penalty under the bill's provisions is required to deposit the funds in the general fund of the county where the action was brought.

Gender Definitions and Identification Documents

Under prior law, the Women's Bill of Rights (codified at KSA 77-207) provided, in part, with respect to the application of an individual's biological sex pursuant to any state law or rules and regulations, an individual's "sex" means such individual's biological sex, either male or female, at birth. The bill amends this definition to define "gender" as also meaning biological sex at birth.

The Women's Bill of Rights is also amended to specify that any public entity that collects vital statistics for the the purpose of complying with anti-discrimination laws or for the purpose of gathering accurate data shall only identify each individual who is part of the collected data set as either male or female at birth.

The bill also adds a definition of "gender" within the Motor Vehicle Drivers' License Act to mean the same as defined by the bill.

The bill also removes the definition of "gender" and amends the definition of "sex" in the Help Not Harm Act to conform with the bill's definition in the Women's Bill of Rights.

Birth Certificates

The bill amends the Uniform Vital Statistics Act to invalidate any birth certificate issued before July 1, 2026, that identifies the sex of the individual on the certificate contrary to the definition of such term as defined by the bill.

The bill also requires the State Registrar to correct any birth certificate records identifying the individual's sex contrary to the definition. These provisions are part of and supplemental to the Uniform Vital Statistics Act.

Driver's Licenses

The bill renders any driver's license issued prior to July 1, 2026, that identifies the gender of the individual on the license in a manner contrary to the bill's definition of gender as invalid.

The bill also requires the Director of Vehicles (Director) to correct any driver's license records in which the gender is identified contrary to the bill's definition. Such correction requires the Director to send written notice to each affected individual notifying the individual that the license is invalid and must be surrendered to the Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue. Upon surrender, the Director is required to issue a new license to the individual with the correct gender identification.

Severability

The bill declares its provisions severable, meaning that any provision of the bill or application to any person or circumstance that is held to be unconstitutional or invalid does not affect the validity of any remaining provisions or the applicability of such provisions to any person or circumstance.

Judicial Deference to Executive Agency Interpretation Prohibition; HB 2183

HB 2183 prohibits a state court or an administrative hearing officer hearing an administrative action from deferring to an Executive Branch agency's interpretation of certain statutes, rules and regulations, and documents that have the force and effect of law.

The bill allows for the court or officer to consider the agency's interpretation but the court or officer would be required to interpret the meaning and effect of such statute, rule and regulation, or document *de novo*.

[*Note: De novo* is a legal term that generally means a matter must be considered "anew" or "afresh," without relying upon a previous interpretation or ruling.]

The bill requires courts to exercise any remaining doubt regarding matters defined above in a way that is consistent with an individual's fundamental constitutional rights.

Retention Bonuses; HB 2237

HB 2237 amends the Employee Award and Recognition Program (KSA 75-37,105), which authorizes hiring, recruitment, and retention bonuses to state employees for "distinguished accomplishment, meritorious service, innovations, Kansas quality management, volunteerism or length of service."

Monetary Cap

The bill increases the maximum total gross value of awards that an employee can receive in a single fiscal year from the current limit of $3,500 to $10,000. Any monetary award in excess of $3,500 for Executive Branch employees, except employees of elected officials, the State Board of Regents, and the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System, requires the Governor's approval.

Administrative Oversight

The bill requires the Secretary of Administration provide oversight and administrative review of employee award and recognition programs in Executive Branch agencies and appointed state councils and commissions.

Reporting Requirement

The bill requires each state agency that has provided a monetary award to submit an annual report to the Secretary of Administration by August 1 detailing the number of awards paid in each category and the total dollar amount of each award or bonus for the previous fiscal year. The bill also requires the Secretary of Administration to compile and report this information to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the beginning of each regular legislative session.

State Cybersecurity; HB 2574

HB 2574 creates law and amends provisions concerning the administration and organization of information technology (IT) and cybersecurity services within each branch of state government and certain elected offices. The bill also removes delayed versions of statutes to eliminate certain sunset provisions enacted in 2024 SB 291.

Information Technology Councils (New Sections 1 and 2, Sections 8 and 9)

Legislative and Judicial Branch Technology Oversight Councils (New Sections 1 and 2)

The bill establishes Branch Technology Oversight councils for the Legislative and Judicial branches. Membership for the councils is to be determined by the Legislative Coordinating Council and the Chief Justice, respectively. Duties of each Council include:

- Setting IT standards;

- Establishing IT policies;
- Approving strategic IT plans;
- Overseeing IT projects to ensure alignment with branch goals;
- Evaluating IT and cybersecurity programs; and
- Supporting the respective Chief Information Technology Officers (CITO) and the respective Chief Information Security Officers (CISO).

Information Technology Executive Council Membership (Section 8)

The bill modifies the membership and structure of the Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC). The number of voting members increases from 13 to 17 by adding the executive CISO, removing the Network Manager for the Information Network of Kansas as a member, and converting the four legislative positions from non-voting members to voting members.

Information Technology Executive Council Duties (Section 9)

The bill removes the ITEC's duty to develop a plan to integrate all IT services for the Executive Branch into the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) and all cybersecurity services for state educational institutions into OITS and the Kansas Information Security Office (KISO). The related January 15, 2026, reporting requirement to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Legislative Modernization is also removed.

Cybersecurity Programs and Standards (Sections 3-7, 10-11, and 13)

The bill requires cybersecurity programs developed by CISOs for the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, Judicial Branch, Attorney General, Commissioner of Insurance, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to be based on, rather than comply with, a nationally recognized standard for governmental entities. The requirement for the programs to achieve a specific National Institute for Standards and Technology Cyber Security Framework (NIST CSF) tier is removed. Instead, beginning in 2027 and every two years thereafter, the appropriate CISO is required to report to the Joint Committee on Information Technology (JCIT), the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on the maturity level of the program.

Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (Section 5 and 15)

The bill clarifies that all cybersecurity services for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) is the responsibility of the Office of the State Treasurer's CISO. The bill requires all KPERS cybersecurity-focused employees to work at the direction of the respective CISO and that all staff within the Office of the State Treasurer and KPERS complete annual cybersecurity awareness training or lose access to their state-issued system-related hardware.

Cybersecurity Audits and Vulnerability Assessments (Sections 3-7, 10-11, and 14)

The bill changes the previous requirements for CISOs to coordinate with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to perform annual audits to require coordination of periodic audits of departmental compliance with the respective cybersecurity program. Results of these audits would remain exempt from the Kansas Open Records Act until July 1, 2030, unless reviewed and extended by the Legislature before that date.

The bill removes provisions requiring the branch CISOs to report CISA audit failures to legislative leadership within 30 days and coordinate additional audits.

Executive Branch Chief Information Security Officer (Section 13)

In addition to the cybersecurity and program assessment duties required of all CISOs, the bill modifies the duties of the Executive Branch CISO. The bill amends provisions regarding a duty to review all contracts to require the Executive Branch CISO to ensure that all contracts related to IT contain provisions to reduce the risk of security vulnerabilities within the supply chain or product.

The bill adds a duty to require the CISO to adopt statewide cybersecurity standards, controls, directives, and maturity and tier expectations for the Executive Branch and continually evaluate standards and expectations to address evolving threats, federal requirements, technological changes, and statewide risk conditions.

Kansas Information Security Office Duties (Section 14)

The bill requires the KISO to conduct periodic cybersecurity assessments of each Executive Branch agency. This could include a review of controls, processes, technologies, governance, incident preparedness, operational security, and compliance with statewide policies and standards. To accomplish the assessments, the Executive Branch CISO is authorized to utilize KISO personnel, qualified third-party assessors, or a combination thereof.

The bill also authorizes the CISO to establish an assessment cycle that includes an initial baseline assessment for each agency and periodic assessments thereafter. After conducting an assessment, the Executive Branch CISO is required to issue written findings, recommendations, and a timeline for any corrective action needed based on the results. Agencies are required to develop and maintain written plans of action and milestones that detail efforts to remediate any findings.

The bill also removes the requirement for the Executive Branch CISO to report audit failures to certain legislative leadership officials within 30 days and coordinate additional audits.

Executive Branch Agency Head Responsibilities (Section 15)

The bill requires Executive Branch agency heads to:

- Continuously work toward improving cybersecurity maturity consistent with statewide standards and expectations adopted by the Executive Branch CISO; and

- Prior to acquiring any cybersecurity-related product, service, or platform that may materially affect state systems, data, or cybersecurity risks, work with the Executive Branch CISO and obtain a written certificate stating such acquisition does not create a cybersecurity risk.

Judicial Branch Chief Information Security Officer (Section 10)

The bill requires the Judicial Branch CISO to perform their duties in coordination with the Judicial Technology Oversight Council. Further, the Judicial Branch CISO duty to review all contracts related to IT was changed to a requirement to ensure that all contracts contain provisions to reduce the risk of security vulnerabilities within the supply chain or product.

Legislative Branch Chief Information Security Officer (Section 11)

The bill restructures the position and duties of the Legislative CISO, and makes the position an appointment of the Legislative CITO rather than the Legislative Coordinating Council. The bill also removes a list of specific duties of the Legislative CISO from statute. Further, the bill requires the Legislative CISO to ensure all employees of each legislative agency and all legislators complete annual cybersecurity awareness training. The CISO is also responsible for developing a cybersecurity program and coordinating periodic audits of such a program.

Cybersecurity Compliance and Budget Process (Section 17)

The bill requires, beginning October 1, 2028, the Executive Branch CISO, in consultation with the Director of the Budget, to report to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, House Committee on Appropriations, and JCIT any Executive Branch agency that is not making progress on a written plan of action and milestones based on the cybersecurity assessment of such agency. Each such agency is required to present to the aforementioned committees the agency ’s plan to make progress on the written plan of action and milestones.

The Executive Branch CISO is also required to submit a detailed written report to the aforementioned committees on or before the first day of the regular legislative session concerning each agency that continues to fail to make progress on a written plan of action and milestones.

The bill requires, during the regular legislative session, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Appropriations to consider whether to lapse amounts appropriated and reappropriated and decrease the expenditure limitations for IT and cybersecurity expenditures for such state agencies by 10 percent during the budget process.

The bill removes the sunset of July 1, 2026, for this section of the bill.

Definitions—Kansas Cybersecurity Act (Section 12)

The bill modifies the definition of “executive branch agency” to add KPERS to the currently excluded entities (elected office agencies, Adjutant General’s Department, State Board of Regents institutions, and the State Board of Regents).

Technical Changes and Sunset Removal (Section 16 and 18)

The bill removes a January 1, 2026, requirement for the Executive and Judicial branches to develop IT consolidation plans. [*Note:* These plans were delivered to the Legislature in January 2026.]

Further, the bill removes a February 1, 2025, deadline from a requirement that all branch or agency websites be hosted on a ".gov" domain.

The bill also removes the July 1, 2026, sunset for the requirement that appropriations for IT and cybersecurity expenditures be separate line items, and that all branch or agency websites be hosted on a ".gov" domain.

The bill repeals versions of statutes that would have taken effect on July 1, 2026, effectively sunsetting provisions enacted by 2024 SB 291 to recodify law as it existed on June 30, 2024. These provisions addressed topics that include, but are not limited to:

- IT project definitions;
- ITEC membership, powers, and duties;
- Branch CITO establishment and responsibilities;
- Branch and elected official CISO establishment and responsibilities;
- Agency head cybersecurity responsibilities; and
- KISO responsibilities.

Health Care Sharing Ministries Tax Deduction Act; SB 368

SB 368 enacts the Health Care Sharing Ministries Tax Deduction Act, providing a subtraction modification for taxpayers for qualified health care sharing expenses and amounts of qualified health care share received by taxpayers.

The subtraction modification for health care sharing expenses may not exceed $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for a married couple filing a joint return.

"Qualifying health care sharing expenses" are those amounts paid for the taxpayer and their spouse or dependent for contributions for medical expenses and administrative fees of the health care sharing ministry.

"Qualifying health care share received" is the amount received as a member of a health care sharing ministry to assist with a medical expense.

In order to qualify for the deductions, the bill requires the health care sharing ministry to:

- Be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization limiting its membership to members sharing a common set of ethical or religious beliefs;

- Act as a facilitator among members who have qualifying medical needs under criteria established by the organization and members with the present ability to assist with financial and medical needs;

- Provide for the financial or medical needs of members through the contributions of other members and provide contribution amounts of members with no assumption of risk or promise to pay, either among members or by the organization;

- Provide written statements to members, on at least a quarterly basis, specifying the total dollar amount of qualified needs submitted to the organization and the actual amount published or assigned to members for contributions;

- Conduct an annual audit by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals that is made available to the public; and

- Provide a written disclaimer on all applications and guideline materials distributed by the organization, as provided by the bill, specifying that the organization is not an insurance company.

The tax subtraction modifications begin in tax year 2027 and only apply to the extent the health care sharing expenses are not already deducted and health care share received is included in the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income and is not otherwise deducted.

Oil Lease Tax Exemption Approval; HB 2440

HB 2440 allows the property tax exemption for certain low production oil leases, as defined in continuing law, to be approved by county appraisers without requiring the owners of such leases to file an application for exemption with the State Board of Tax Appeals.

Valuation Adjustments and Fee Simple Appraisal Requirements; HB 2644

HB 2644 expands a requirement that county appraisers either adjust property valuations based on prior valuation appeal final determinations or order independent fee simple appraisals of property in certain cases. The requirement is expanded from applying only to commercial real property to also apply to residential real and tangible personal property for which a final determination is made on or after January 1, 2026.

The requirement applies in cases where the valuation for such property has been reduced due to a final determination of value pursuant to the valuation appeals process and if the valuation has increased by more than 5.0 percent above the prior year's valuation.

The bill also extends the time for which the requirement applies from two years to five years.

No Handheld Phone Use in Work or School Zones; House Sub. for SB 366

House Sub. for SB 366 prohibits use of a mobile telephone in a school zone or road construction zone under certain circumstances and authorizes certain uses and colors of warning lights on highway construction vehicles.

Prohibiting Use of a Mobile Telephone in School and Work Zones

The bill prohibits use of a mobile telephone in a school zone when a reduced speed limit is enforced or in a road construction zone while workers are present (school or work zone) and signs are posted at the beginning of the road construction zone alerting drivers to such workers. Holding a mobile telephone will constitute a rebuttable presumption of a violation of that prohibition. These provisions would be added to the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways.

The prohibition will not apply to:

- A law enforcement officer or emergency service personnel acting within the course and scope of their employment;
- A person operating a motor vehicle that is halted where the vehicle can safely and lawfully remain stationary; or
- A mobile telephone that is being used with a hands-free device.

The bill does not prohibit using a mobile telephone in a school or work zone to:

- Report current or ongoing illegal activity to a law enforcement agency;
- Prevent imminent injury to a person or property;
- Summon medical or other emergency assistance; or
- Relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and the operator's dispatcher, if the device is permanently affixed to the motor vehicle.

The bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from taking certain actions without the consent of the person:

- Confiscate a mobile telephone device for the purpose of determining compliance with the prohibition;
- Confiscate and retain a mobile telephone as evidence pending trial for a violation of these provisions; or

- Extract or otherwise download information for a violation of this section unless:
    - The officer has probable cause to believe the mobile telephone has been used in the commission of a crime;
    - The information is extracted or otherwise downloaded under a valid search warrant; or
    - Otherwise authorized by law.

Definitions

For these purposes, the bill defines:

- "Hands-free device" to mean speakerphone capability or a telephone attachment or other equipment that allows use of the mobile telephone without the use of either of the operator's hands; and

- "Use a mobile telephone" to mean use of the mobile telephone by the motor vehicle operator without the use of a hands-free device.

The bill excludes from "use a mobile telephone" a voice-based communication automatically converted to written form while the telephone is used in hands-free mode, the use of the device for navigation or global positioning system purposes in hands-free mode, or use of the device to perform any task performed on the vehicle's entertainment system in hands-free mode.

The bill excludes from inclusion as a "mobile telephone" a commercial two-way radio communication device, subscription-based emergency communication device, prescribed medical device, amateur or ham radio device, or remote diagnostics system.

Enforcement

The bill requires a law enforcement officer to issue a warning citation to anyone violating the prohibition on use of a mobile telephone in a school or work zone until July 1, 2027.

The bill establishes a violation as a traffic infraction and authorizes a fine of $60.

Warning Lights in Highway Construction Zones

The bill authorizes vehicles engaged in highway construction and maintenance operations to display flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber, green, or white lights, or one or a combination of two of those colors, at all times in a road construction zone. The bill also authorizes stationary trailers to display flashing, rotating, or oscillating white and blue lights between sunset and sunrise within the area of a road construction zone when any portion of the highway is closed and workers are present in the road construction zone. Continuing law authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to adopt rules and regulations regarding special flashing lights on vehicles engaged in highway construction or maintenance; the bill requires those rules and regulations to be in accordance with the above provisions. [*Note:* These provisions are included in the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways.]

No Consideration of Driver's License Sanction after Five Years; HB 2467

HB 2467 prohibits a sanction of the Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, for failure to comply with a traffic citation from being considered in determining suspended or restricted driving privileges if the sanction is more than five years old. The prohibition on sanctions applies retroactively. [*Note:* Continuing law prohibits a conviction more than five years old from being considered, and that prohibition also applies retroactively.]

The bill also removes a requirement for the Division of Vehicles to mail notices to any persons eligible to have their driving privileges restored.

Physical Therapist Certification of Disability; HB 2562

HB 2562 adds physical therapists, licensed to practice under the Physical Therapy Practice Act, to the list of authorized practitioners who can certify to the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles, that an individual has a disability, for purposes of obtaining a placard displaying the international symbol of access for use in a vehicle.

Electric Public Utility Exemption; SB 348

SB 348 exempts any electric public utility that is a not-for-profit, wholly owned subsidiary of an electric cooperative public utility (electric public utility) from the jurisdiction, regulation, supervision, and control of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

The bill authorizes the KCC to investigate any changes to the electric rates, joint rates, tolls, charges and exactions, and classifications and schedules of rates (rates) affecting an exempt electric public utility following a petition filed by customers of the exempt electric public utility to investigate such rates.

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Gas System Reliability Surcharge—Allowing Recovery for Growth-Related Investments; Sub. for HB 2435

Sub. for HB 2435 amends the Gas Safety and Reliability Policy Act, which governs the gas system reliability surcharge (GSRS). The bill allows gas utilities to recover growth-related capital investments through the GSRS, adjusts the timing of certain Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) proceedings, and raises the cap on monthly charges to residential customers. The bill also makes conforming changes.

Investment Projects

The bill allows natural gas infrastructure investment projects that could increase revenues by directly connecting to new customers to be considered eligible infrastructure system investments under the GSRS.

The bill adds “any other investment plant, facilities, or equipment, excluding allocated corporate costs” to the definition of natural gas utility plant projects.

KCC Proceedings

The bill reduces the time the KCC is allowed to complete a GSRS docket from 120 days to 90 days.

The bill also changes the restriction on how often a natural gas utility may change its rates through the GSRS from once every 12 months to once every calendar year.

Charges to Residential Customers

The bill increases the cap on the monthly GSRS charge from $0.80 to $1.35 per residential customer over the:

- Base rates in effect for the initial filing of a GSRS; or

- Monthly charge established in the most recent filing of a GSRS for any subsequent filing of a GSRS.

[*Note*: Continuing law provides that natural gas utilities are prohibited from collecting GSRS for longer than 60 months. A utility is required to bring a new general rate proceeding to the KCC within that time frame, and the KCC's decision on such proceeding would effectively reset the GSRS by incorporating the charges into the new base rate.]

Non-driver Identification Cards for Homeless Veterans; Purple Heart Recognition; HB 2274

HB 2274 amends law to authorize the issuance of non-driver identification (ID) cards to homeless veterans and designates Kansas as a Purple Heart State and August 7 of each year as Purple Heart Day.

Non-driver ID Cards for Homeless Veterans

The bill allows any person who is a veteran, as defined by the bill, and is homeless to apply for and be issued a non-driver ID card without providing an address of principal residence. The bill provides that a non-driver ID card obtained by a homeless veteran does not expire and requires the veteran to provide a copy of a specified military discharge document to the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVS) to verify such person's character of military service.

Letters or Certificates Establishing Veteran Status

The bill authorizes the Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, to accept, in addition to any other documents proving identity and residency in Kansas accepted for an application for a non-driver ID card, a letter or certificate verifying the applicant resides at or receives services from any of the following entities:

- KOVS;
- Any veterans services medical center located in Kansas;
- Any jail or correctional facility; or
- Any nonprofit organization located in Kansas for the provision of services for the homeless.

If submitting letters or certificates as described above, the bill requires the applicant to provide either:

- Copies or digital forms of accepted documents for proof of identity in lieu of the original documents; or
- Certain expired forms of identification, including, but not limited to, common access cards, Kansas driver's licenses, or Kansas voter registration cards.

Fees

The bill prohibits the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary) from charging or accepting any fee related to a a homeless veteran's request for certain information from the Office of Vital Statistics for the purposes of obtaining a non-driver ID card, if the homeless

veteran exhibits correspondence from one of the above-mentioned entities and the homeless veteran needs the requested information to apply for a non-driver ID card. The Secretary is authorized to provide exemptions for such fees in agency rules and regulations.

Purple Heart State Designation and Purple Heart Day

The bill designates Kansas as a Purple Heart State, in recognition of Kansas citizens who have earned the Purple Heart as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force.

The bill requires the Governor to issue a proclamation recognizing Purple Heart Day to be observed on August 7 of each year.

The bill requires the Executive Director of KOVS to promote the observance of Purple Heart Day with appropriate activities and direct each local chapter of all veterans' organizations to plan special activities and events to honor the Purple Heart recipients in each chapter.

State Agricultural Production Fund; HB 2511

HB 2511 amends law that directs the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to establish separate accounts of the State Agricultural Production Fund for each state-owned property under the control and jurisdiction of the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks. The bill requires the separate accounts to be used for habitat management costs and expenses associated with the management of all state-owned properties.

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