

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KDHA

Kansas Legislative Report

January 28, 2022

As the remaining days of January wind down the momentum of the 2022 Legislative Session increases each day. The third week of session saw scores of new bills introduced, dozens of committee hearings, and the second bill of the session already on the way to the Governor's desk.

Redistricting map debates stole most the local news headlines as the House approved the congressional map forwarded by the Senate last week. The congressional map resets the boundaries for Kansas' four congressional districts to account for the population shift to the metro areas over the last decade. Approved by both chambers along party lines, it is likely Governor Kelly will veto the bill. Meanwhile the House and Senate Redistricting Committees are beginning to work on maps for state legislative districts.

Other committees are also generating interest. The House Tax Committee began reviewing food sales tax proposals with the Senate Tax Committee expected to follow suit next week. The Senate Public Health Committee made a splash with its consideration of a bill related to COVID treatment (SB 381). Next week committees are scheduled to continue hearings and consider recommending bills to their respective chambers.

The session is off and running as it relates to issues impacting the dental industry. Next week, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee has penciled time for SB 129, known as the Dental Therapy Bill, for consideration. In this meeting, the bill is eligible for amendments and possible recommendation to the Senate floor. This specific meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2 at 8:30AM and will be broadcasted live from the KS Legislature YouTube channel at this [LINK](#).

Next week's vote comes on the heels of a successful KDHA Advocacy Day where members and students gathered to learn about the legislative process and meet with their legislators.



Other dental industry related legislation is being discussed. The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on SB 121. SB 121, introduced last year, is a bill that proposes to allow the Kansas Dental Board to take disciplinary action against a dental licensee for failing to perform an examination of a patient prior to diagnosing and correcting malpositions of human teeth or initial use of orthodontic appliances. In the hearing, supportive testimony was provided by the Kansas Dental Association noting the bill codifies the standard of care for orthodontic treatment. The American Association of Orthodontists also supported the bill. The Smile Direct Club opposed the bill based on the bill’s mandates for x-rays.

Two more dental related bills were introduced in the House by the Kansas Dental Association and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. HB 2545 aims to define non-covered dental benefits under health insurance plans while HB 2546 requires health benefits plans that provide dental care services to provide the same benefits regardless if the claim is part of the provider network. No hearings have been scheduled at this time for either bill.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions. Please see below for the bill matrix.

Travis Lowe

Bill Number and Sponsor	Bill Subject	Current Status	Last Action
SB 10 Richard Hilderbrand, R-13th	Enacting the right to earn a living act to minimize unnecessary occupational licensing and regulation	In Senate Commerce	01/20/2021 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Commerce: Wednesday, 1/27, 10:30 AM, Rm 546-S

SB 34	Sunsetting administrative rules and regulations five years after adoption unless extended by the legislature	In Senate Federal and State Affairs	01/21/2021 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Federal and State Affairs: Tuesday, 1/26, 10:30 AM, Rm 144-S
SB 121	Updating certain provisions of the Kansas dental practice act	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	01/19/2022 - Senate Scheduled Hearing in Public Health and Welfare: Tuesday, 1/25, 8:30 AM, Rm 142-S
SB 129	Providing for the licensure of dental therapists	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	01/26/2022 - Senate Scheduled Discussion & Action in Public Health and Welfare: Wednesday, 2/2, 8:30 AM, Rm 548-S
SB 227	Providing dental benefits for medicaid enrollees and making technical updates to the dental practices act	In Senate Public Health and Welfare	02/12/2021 - Senate Referred to Public Health and Welfare
HB 2061	Increasing the minimum age to purchase or possess cigarettes and tobacco products from 18 to 21, and prohibiting cigarette vending machines and flavored vaping products	In House Federal and State Affairs	01/14/2021 - House Referred to Federal and State Affairs
HB 2129	Providing for tobacco cessation benefits coverage under the state health care benefits program	In House Insurance and Pensions	02/03/2021 - House Scheduled Hearing in Insurance and Pensions: Wednesday, 2/10, 3:30 PM, Rm 218-N
HB 2179	Providing for the licensure of dental therapists	In House Health and Human Services	01/29/2021 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
HB 2340	Increasing the minimum age to 21 to purchase or possess cigarettes and tobacco products	On General Orders in House	03/01/2021 - House Committee Report recommending bill be passed, by Federal and State Affairs

HB 2370 House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee	Prohibiting a criminal conviction from acting as a sole disqualification for occupational licensure and creating guidelines to follow when considering criminal convictions of an applicant for occupational licensure	In House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development	02/12/2021 - House Referred to Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
HB 2386 House Health and Human Services Committee	Establishing requirements for the payment and reimbursement of dental services by a dental benefit plan	In House Health and Human Services	02/15/2021 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
HB 2545 House Health and Human Services Committee	Defining non-covered dental benefits under health insurance plans	In House Health and Human Services	01/26/2022 - House Referred to Health and Human Services
HB 2546 House Health and Human Services Committee	Requiring health benefits plans that provide dental care services to provide certain information, accept certain claims and not reduce certain payments	In House Health and Human Services	01/26/2022 - House Referred to Health and Human Services