

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

KDHA

Kansas Legislative Report

January 20, 2023

The second week of the 2023 Legislative Session is in the books. Nearly 200 bills have been introduced with dozens more on the way. Tax policy, at least for the moment, appears to capture the most headlines, which ranges from accelerating the elimination of state sales tax on food, creating a back-to-school sales tax holiday to creating a flat rate for personal and corporate state income tax.

House and Senate committees are meeting to receive reports from state agencies and programs while preparing to turn their focus to bill hearings. Next week Governor Kelly will outline her priorities during her State of the State address, scheduled for February 24.

As it relates to issues impacting KDHA and registered dental hygienists, the Senate Committee on Commerce received a report summarizing expenditure licensure statistics from regulatory agencies since the passage of 2021's HB 2066, known as the Universal Licensure Bill. Members may recall the new law aimed to expedite licensure for new residents that move to Kansas already licensed.

Since the passage of the new law, the report noted the number of expedited license applications for reciprocity received and granted, per regulatory agency, along with the respective response time. In the last fiscal year, over 29,000 expedited licenses were issued, consisting of many types of licenses, with a high portion related to education and healthcare. For the Kansas Dental Board, only four expedited license requests were received and subsequently granted for dental hygienists.

The House Committee on Health and Human Services met to receive briefings from the Department of Children and Families, Department for Aging and Disability Services, Department of Health and Environment and Community Mental Health Centers. The Senate Committee on Public Health and Human Services received a presentation on the new 988 mental health hotline.

Next week the committees will review updates on foster care and local health departments.

No dental industry legislation has been introduced at this time.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Travis Lowe