

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

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APPROVED INTERIM TOPICS BY SUBJECT

JOINT COMMITTEES

(Requests and meeting days have been amended to reflect the recommendations adopted by the LCC. A complete listing of requested topics and meeting days is published in a separate memorandum.)

Administrative Rules and Regulations

Review Proposed Administrative Rules and Regulations

- Review and comment on administrative rules and regulations promulgated by state agencies within the required 60-day comment period.

Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

Review statutorily-required topics; electronic monitoring instead of incarceration; mental health and substance abuse treatment in non-prison settings; in juvenile offender cases, funding of substance abuse treatment and assessment of child support; requiring law enforcement officers to wear body cameras; and use of locally-collected civil fines.

KSA 2014 Supp. 46-2801 directs the Joint Committee to monitor inmate and juvenile offender populations and to review and study the programs, activities, plans, and operations of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC). As part of this charge, KDOC has requested study of juvenile justice reform; electronic monitoring as an alternative to prison; continuing implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (2013 HB 2170); and recruitment and retention of corrections staff.

Additionally, the Joint Committee is authorized to study the following topics:

- Requiring body cameras for all law enforcement officers and, to fund this requirement, the feasibility of changing the civil asset forfeiture process to require all assets seized be sent to a centrally administered fund to disperse back to local law enforcement;

- Using the Problem Gambling and Addictions Fund, which, pursuant to KSA 2014 Supp. 79-4805, may be used for treatment of alcoholism, drug abuse, and other addictive behaviors, to fund juvenile substance abuse treatment, particularly as it relates to placements and Youth Residential Centers; and
- Treating offenders with mental health and substance abuse issues in a setting other than prison.

Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight, Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee

Oversee Long-term Care Services

KSA 2014 Supp. 39-7,160 directs the Committee to oversee long-term care services, including home and community based services (HCBS), which are to be provided through a comprehensive and coordinated system throughout the state. In its oversight role, the Committee is to oversee the savings resulting from the transfer of individuals from state or private institutions to HCBS and to ensure that any proceeds resulting from the successful transfer be applied to the system for the provision of services for long-term care and HCBS, as well as to review and study other components of the state's long-term care system. Further, the Committee is to oversee the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and the state Medicaid programs (KanCare), and monitor and study the implementation and operations of these programs including, but not limited to, access to and quality of services provided and any financial information and budgetary issues.

Information Technology

Review, Monitor, and Report on Technology Plans and Expenditures

- Study computers, telecommunications, and other information technologies used by state agencies and institutions;
- Review proposed new acquisitions, including implementation plans, project budget estimates, and three-year strategic information technology plans of state agencies and institutions;
- Monitor newly implemented technologies of state agencies and institutions;
- Make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Appropriations on implementation plans, budget estimates, and three-year plans of state agencies and institutions;
- Report to the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) and make special reports to other legislative committees as deemed appropriate; and
- Review, evaluate, and submit to the LCC a report regarding the Propylon contract; and

- Information technology security at Kansas government agencies, including findings from LPA reports and agency responses.

Kansas Security

Review Various Security Issues

KSA 46-3301 directs the Joint Committee to “study, monitor, review, and make recommendations for the following: (1) matters relating to the security of state officers or employees; (2) security of buildings and property under the ownership or control of the state of Kansas; (3) matters relating to the security of a public body or agency, public building or facility; (4) matters relating to the security of the infrastructure of Kansas, including any information system; and (5) measures for the improvement of security for the state of Kansas.” The following topics were noted as being among those on which the Committee should hear testimony and formulate recommendations:

- The security of utilities in Kansas, specifically the electric grid, and what is done to ensure that security;
- The progress and potential security risks related to the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF);
- The rules for the use of deadly force at facilities including the NBAF and the nuclear facilities in Kansas;
- Safety planning and practices at K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions and the role of the Department of Education and other state agencies in increasing that safety planning;
- The extent to which certain persons may be claiming public and private benefits related to military service when not entitled to those benefits and how that could be reduced; and
- The governance of public emergency communications systems (as requested by the Adjutant General).

Legislative Budget

Compile Fiscal Information and Make Recommendations Regarding the State Budget, Revenues, and Expenditures; Oversee the Implementation of the Statewide Efficiency Study that was authorized by 2015 House Sub. for SB 112.

The Legislative Budget Committee is statutorily directed to:

- Compile fiscal information, study and make recommendations on the state budget, revenues and expenditures, the organization and functions of the state,

its departments, subdivisions and agencies with a view of reducing the cost of state government and increasing efficiency and economy.

The other topic assigned is:

- Oversee the implementation of the Statewide Efficiency Study authorized by 2015 House Sub. for SB 112.

Pensions, Investments and Benefits (Joint KPERS)

Review and study issues dealing with: the new working-after-retirement option; the newly created Deferred Retirement Option Program for the Kansas Highway Patrol; the funding ratio for KPERS; the various statutorily required reports submitted by KPERS and state agencies; monitoring, reviewing and making recommendations regarding KPERS as provided by KSA 46-2201; and establishing procedures with respect to granting employment extensions under the newly created working-after-retirement legislation

The Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Benefits is charged to study the following issues and topics during the 2015 Legislative Interim:

- Legislation enacted during the 2015 Legislative Session affecting the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS), in particular:
 - Senate Sub. for HB 2095, which revised working-after-retirement provisions and created a pilot Deferred Retirement Option Program for members of the Kansas Highway Patrol; and
 - SB 228, which authorizes \$1.0 billion in bonds to be issued for KPERS' unfunded actuarial liability;
- The overall funding ratio for the Retirement System;
- Various reports statutorily required to be submitted by KPERS and other state agencies to the Joint Committee; and
- To fulfill the Joint Committee's duties and responsibilities, as provided by KSA 46-2201, to monitor, review and make recommendations regarding the Retirement System.

The working-after-retirement legislation mentioned above also authorizes the Joint Committee to grant employment extensions if certain conditions are met. Procedures should establish by the Joint Committee prior to considering requests.

Special Claims Against the State

Review Claims Filed

No letter received at this point.

State Building Construction

Study, Review and Make Recommendations on Capital Improvement Plans and Other State Owned Properties and Leases

The Joint Committee is authorized by KSA 46-1701, which includes provisions allowing the Joint Committee to meet on call of its Chairperson at any time and any place within the state and to introduce legislation. The Committee is to:

- Study, review, and make recommendations on all agency five-year capital improvement plans;
- Review leases, land sales, and other statutorily required reports by agencies; and
- Travel throughout the state to observe state-owned buildings.

SPECIAL / STANDING COMMITTEES

Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

Review and Study the Change in Election Dates; Potential Conflicts of Interest of School Board Members; State Campaign Finance Laws; the Potential Reduction in the Number of Governments; Precinct and School District Lines in Order to Reduce Ballot Styles; and Whether Governmental Entities Should be Required to Publish Money Spent for Lobbying Purposes

The Committee is to review and study the following issues:

- The sections of 2015 HB 2104, relating to changing elections to November, with the purpose of determining if any trailer legislation is needed in order to make transition more seamless, correct any drafting errors, and avoid unintended consequences;
- Possible conflicts of interest of school board members including a hearing on 2015 HB 2345, which deals with this topic;
- Campaign finance laws of other states for the purpose of considering ways to modernize Kansas campaign finance statutes;
- Why Kansas has a disproportionate number of local governments and possible ways to simplify and reduce this number;
- Precinct and school district lines, and ways to simplify and/or standardize for the purpose of reducing ballot styles; and

- Whether governmental entities should be required to publish, with their budgets, an accounting of money spent for lobbying purposes (in addition to having required lobbyists to report similar information pursuant to 2015 HB 2183.) Please see 2015 SB 42, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, for further information.

Foster Care Adequacy

Review Issues Pertaining to Foster Care Adequacy

The study would include the following:

- Review the level of oversight and supervision by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) over foster care contractors;
- Evaluate whether a working group consisting of attorneys in the area of family law, judges, foster parents, and parents with reintegrated children would aid in addressing foster care concerns;
- Study the proper selection of foster parents and the qualifications of foster parents; and
- Review the duties of those individuals responsible for foster children, the Safe Families Act, the disconnect between DCF and foster care contractors, and the Grandparents Rights Law.

Insurance

Review Pharmacy Benefits Management Legislation

In February, the Senate Committee reviewed 2015 SB 103, a bill that would enact new law establishing requirements for Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), including publication of price lists and the drugs included on the lists, an appeals process for network pharmacies requesting reimbursement for drugs subject to MAC, and penalties for PBMs found to be in violation of the act, and would amend the Pharmacy Benefits Manager Registration Act to update the definition of “pharmacy benefits manager.”

The Committee is to review 2015 SB 103 and relevant issues associated with pharmacy benefits management, including maximum allowable cost (MAC) pricing of generic drugs, and the implications for Kansas pharmacies and health plans.

Study the Need to Increase the Minimum Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policy Limits

In February, the House Committee on Insurance held a hearing on HB 2067. The bill would have increased the mandatory minimum motor vehicle liability policy

limits. After hearing proponent and opponent testimony, no action was taken. The Committee indicated the need to study the matter before action, if any, was taken. Under existing law, KSA 40-3107, the minimum policy coverage limits in any one accident is \$25,000 for bodily injury or death of one person and \$50,000 for two or more persons, and \$10,000 for harm to or destruction of the property of others. The last changes to these limits were made in 1984.

OTHER COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND TASK FORCES

Capitol Preservation Committee

Confirmation Oversight Committee

Consider Various Appointments

Health Care Stabilization Fund Oversight Committee

This Committee annually receives a report on the status of the Health Care Stabilization Fund. No letter is normally received since payments for legislative members is not from legislative sources.

Clean Power Plan Implementation Study Committee