

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

68-West–Statehouse, 300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504
(785) 296-3181 • FAX (785) 296-3824

kslegres@klrd.ks.gov

<http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd>

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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

KSA 2015 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). In addition, the Joint Committee is to study:

- The Sexual Predator Treatment Program (SPTP) at Larned State Hospital, as significant issues and concerns were identified in a recent audit of SPTP;
- Implementation of 2016 SB 367, concerning juvenile justice reform, including any necessary amendments and integrating the efforts of the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;
- Retention of corrections officers, including compensation, the various levels of corrections employees, and best practices used elsewhere to retain staff; and
- Consideration of 2016 HB 2639, concerning the use of licensed crisis recovery centers for emergency observation and treatment of persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring conditions, including the Judicial Council's report on the bill, if available.

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). 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 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 (The state governmental entities defined by KSA 75-7201 include executive, judicial, and legislative agencies, and Regents institutions.);
- Review proposed new acquisitions, including implementation plans, project budget estimates, and three-year strategic information technology plans of state agencies and institutions (All state governmental entities are required to comply with provisions of KSA 75-7209 *et seq.* by submitting such information for review by the Joint Committee.);
- 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; and
- Report annually to the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) and make special reports to other legislative committees as deemed appropriate.

Kansas Security

Review Various Security Matters; Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center Briefing

KSA 46-3301 directs the Joint Committee to “study, monitor, review, and make recommendations on matters related to the security of state officers or employees, state and other public buildings and other property and infrastructure in the state, and to consider measures for the improvement of security for the state. Specifically, in 2016, the Committee is

authorized to tour of the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center and to address these additional topics:

- Investigations of threats to security of and within public offices;
- Legal issues facing the state with regard to security, including a review of the aftermath of use of deadly force;
- Security in the Capitol, to include the effects of changes in concealed carry law and the state of screening equipment, and at Cedar Crest;
- Communications within the state's law enforcement community, including the status of the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System;
- Security within educational settings;
- Agreements between the Wolf Creek Generating Station and state and local agencies;
- Moneys received from state and federal sources for security and an overview of how those moneys are spent;
- The readiness of the Kansas National Guard and the Air National Guard, to include procurement of needed equipment, uniforms, and other material needed to perform their missions;
- Efforts to attain optimal staffing at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas Highway Patrol and the effects of suboptimal staffing levels on fulfilling their missions; and
- An update on veterans issues, including protection of veterans program from fraud.

Legislative Budget

Review of Budget Stabilization Fund

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.

2016 HB 2739, among other things, establishes the Budget Stabilization Fund within the State Treasury as of July 1, 2017, and directs the Legislative Budget Committee to meet for up to ten days between 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions to study and review policies concerning

transfers to, and expenditures from, the Budget Stabilization Fund. The review by the Legislative Budget Committee will include, but not be limited to:

- Analyzing risk-based budget stabilization practices in other states;
- The appropriate time period over which to analyze State General Fund revenues and expenditures;
- Which entity should certify the reserve amount necessary in the Budget Stabilization Fund;
- Sources of funding for the Budget Stabilization Fund;
- The appropriate level of risk of exhausting the balance within the Budget Stabilization Fund during an economic downturn; and
- The circumstances under which money could be withdrawn from the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Pensions, Investments and Benefits (Joint KPERS)

Monitor, Review, and Make Recommendations Regarding the Retirement System

The Committee is to consider the following:

- Legislation enacted during the 2016 Legislative Session affecting the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS);
- The overall funding ratio for the Retirement System; and
- Various reports statutorily required to be submitted by KPERS and other state agencies to the Joint Committee.

Special Claims Against the State

Review Claims Filed

- Hold hearings on all claims filed by the statutory deadline of November 1, 2016, and make recommendations to the 2017 Session of the Legislature.

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

Organization of Public Health Boards

Combining Certain Health Boards

- Consider the combination of the Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts under one administrative entity for the purpose of potential reduction of administrative costs and increased efficiency over time.

Patient Protections for Step Therapy

Study Patient Protections in Commercial Health Insurance

- Consider patient protections for Step Therapy to be used in commercial health insurance in the State of Kansas.

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 connection between DCF and foster care contractors, and the grandparents rights law regarding custody, KSA 2015 Supp. 38-2286.

Larned and Osawatomie State Hospitals

Study Various Issues Regarding Larned State Hospital and Osawatomie State Hospital

The study would include the following:

- Monitor the patient populations and review the study the activities and plans of the treatment programs and correlation to patient outcomes;
- Tour each state psychiatric hospital, considering and evaluating facility issues relating to plan management and safety;
- Review and study the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services' (KDADS') policies relating to each state psychiatric hospital;
- Review and study KDADS responsiveness and efforts in identifying and resolving issues relating to facility, staff, and patients;
- Review and study KDADS staffing and policies relating to staffing, recruitment, retention, employee morale, and employee relations issues;
- Review and identify patient and employee safety concerns; and
- Review and study any other issues brought to the attention of the Committee concerning state psychiatric hospital oversight.

OTHER COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND TASK FORCES

Capitol Preservation Committee

Review Finalists for Brown v. Board of Education Mural

The study would include:

- An invitation to the finalists for the *Brown v. Board of Education* mural to present final renditions and provide an opportunity for public input on the selections as a part of its statutory duties outlined in KSA 75-2269.

Health Care Stabilization Fund Oversight Committee

Review the Status of the Health Care Stabilization Fund

This Committee annually receives a report on the status of the Health Care Stabilization Fund.