

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Donnell at 1:32pm on Monday, March 14, 2016, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Susan Wagle – Excused

Committee staff present:
Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department
Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Pam Scott, Executive Director, Kansas Funeral Directors Association (KFDA)
Senator Mitch Holmes
Rebecca Proctor, Executive Director, Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE)
Kyle Kessler, Executive Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) of Kansas Inc.

Others in attendance:
[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2518 — Mandatory electronic filing of death certificates.

Chairperson O'Donnell opened the hearing on **HB2518**. Scott Abbott, staff revisor, presented a briefing on the bill.

Pam Scott, KFDA, testified in support of **HB2518** indicating that KFDA requested the introduction of the bill because the filing of death certificates using the electronic death registration system (EDRS) would significantly speed up the death registration process. Ms. Scott stated that Kansas law requires that death certificates be filed within three days of death. Ms. Scott indicated that this is often not achieved for several reasons, and addressed a few of those issues that could be avoided by using the EDRS. ([Attachment 1](#))

Written testimony in support of **HB2518** was submitted by:
Elizabeth Saadi, PhD, State Registrar and Deputy Director, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment ([Attachment 2](#))

There being no further conferees, Chairperson O'Donnell closed the hearing on **HB2518**.

Hearing on: SB477 — Establishing legislative oversight of state psychiatric hospitals.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare at 1:32pm on Monday, March 14, 2016 in Room 118-N of the Capitol.

Chairperson O'Donnell opened the hearing on **SB477**. Scott Abbott presented a briefing on the bill.

Senator Mitch Holmes testified in support of **SB477** indicating that this bill was introduced as a result of ongoing problems at our state psychiatric hospitals. Senator Holmes stated that employee morale is a very serious problem, and as a result patient safety is also affected. ([Attachment 3](#))

Rebecca Proctor, KOSE, testified in support of **SB477** indicating that they don't think this bill goes quite far enough. Ms. Proctor referenced the provisions of **HB2559--State agencies; minimum staffing levels; reports**, and described the provisions that are in that bill. Ms. Proctor indicated that she would like to see the Committee have information in advance so preventative and proactive action can be taken rather than waiting until things are so bad. ([Attachment 4](#))

Kyle Kessler, Association of CMHCs of Kansas, Inc., testified in support of **SB477**, indicating that establishment of the Joint Committee on State Psychiatric Oversight is a common sense idea to ensure that all Kansans receive quality mental health services at our State Mental Health Hospitals (SMHHs). ([Attachment 5](#))

After questions by the Committee were addressed, Chairperson O'Donnell closed the hearing on **SB477**.

Final action on: HB2456 — Interstate medical licensure compact.

Chairperson O'Donnell opened final action on **HB2456**. Scott Abbott reviewed the bill.

*Senator Denning moved to recommend **HB2456** favorably for passage. Chairperson O'Donnell requested the motion be withdrawn so a conceptual amendment could be offered. Senator Denning withdrew his motion.*

*Senator O'Donnell moved, Senator LaTurner seconded, to amend **HB2456** conceptually to change the date from publication in the statute book to publication in the register. Motion carried.*

*Senator Denning moved, Senator Bowers seconded, to recommend **HB2456** as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

Final action on: HB2615 — Charitable healthcare providers; continuing education credits for gratuitous care of eligible patients.

Chairperson O'Donnell opened final action on **HB2615**. Scott Abbott reviewed the bill and answered questions from the Committee.

Chairperson O'Donnell distributed an amendment and explained the recommended changes. ([Attachment 6](#))

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After some discussion, Senator Love moved, Senator LaTurner seconded, to adopt the balloon amendment. Motion carried.

Senator LaTurner moved, Senator Love seconded, to recommend **HB2615** as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2016.