

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Peggy Mast - Excused

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Joseph Leiker, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Debbie Bartuccio, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Gary Robbins, Executive Director, Kansas Optometric Association ([Attachment 1](#))

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chairperson Landwehr inquired as to whether there were any bill introductions and there were none.

### **HB 2525–Amendments to the optometry law**

Chairperson Landwehr opened the hearing on the bill.

Gary Robbins, Executive Director, Kansas Optometric Association, presented testimony in support of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)). He indicated the bill addresses some ongoing issues with our Medicare carrier and other third party payers interpreting the Kansas Optometry Law and ignoring the authority of the Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry. One area of ongoing confusion has been caused by the gradual update of the optometry law during the last 30 years or so to allow optometrists to administer and prescribe topical and oral pharmaceutical drugs, treat glaucoma and remove foreign bodies from the eye. By May 31, 2010, all Kansas optometrists were required to upgrade their licenses to the highest level, so the outdated categories of licensure, along with the accompanying education requirements, have been eliminated with this bill.

The bill also clarifies minor surgical procedures that Kansas optometrists have been safely doing for more than 20 years within existing law. This language was worked out between the Kansas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Kansas Medical Society and Kansas Optometric

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Committee at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, January 31, in 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

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Association. It is believed the bill will help avoid some of the confusion with third party payers and the public.

Written only testimony in support of the bill was presented by Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society. (Attachment 2)

There was no testimony in opposition or neutral to the bill. Upon conclusion of questions, Chairperson Landwehr closed the hearing.

The next meeting is scheduled on February 1 as an update on child care rules and regulations by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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