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HOSPITAL LICENSURE BILL PASSES COMMITTEE

The House Health and Human Services Committee passed [House Bill 2418](#) out of committee. The legislation amends K.S.A. 65-425 and would place specific criteria that would define a “general” hospital. [House Bill 2418](#) states that a “general” hospital must:

- have a dedicated emergency department;
- participate in the statewide trauma system plan and any plan for the delivery of emergency medical services applicable to its region;
- not have more than 44% of its discharges in one area, or 65% in two areas, that focus on cardiac, ortho- or surgical cases; and
- participate in the Kansas Medicaid program.

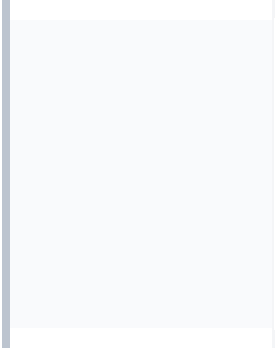
An amendment, which eventually failed, was proposed that would have eliminated the case mix percentages. With that said, several other committee members voiced their support for [House Bill 2418](#). From the support the legislation received in committee, it was apparent that the personal contacts that many of you made on this issue worked. KHA would like to thank you for your assistance. Also, please don't forget to follow up with the committee members and thank them for their support. The legislation will now be sent to the House floor for action.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS BILL HEARD

Today in the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, [Senate Bill 175](#) was heard. The proposed legislation would allow assignment of health care benefits to all health care providers. The legislation, also known as the Expanded Access to Care Act, would require a “provision permitting the insured to assign benefits for such care to the provider of the care.” In addition, whenever

“any insurance entity has notice of such assignment prior to such payment, any payment to the insured shall not release said entity from liability to the provider to which the benefits have been assigned, nor shall such payment be a defense to any action by the provider against that entity to collect the assigned benefits.”

Testifying in favor of [Senate Bill 175](#) was Doctor's Specialty Hospital, Heartland Spine & Specialty Hospital, Kansas Dental Association and Via Christi Health System. In addition, written testimony was provided by the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine and Kansas Medical Center in Andover. Proponents argued that assignment of benefits would ensure that



health care providers receive direct reimbursement for services provided rather than attempting to recoup payment from the patient. The opponents of [Senate Bill 175](#) included Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Kansas Bankers Association, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business, and Heartland Community Bankers Association. While several questions were raised by committee members, the committee did not take any final action on the bill.

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