



2023

# Legislative Session Report

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# Introduction

The LeadingAge Kansas team provided testimony nearly 15 times on 7 different bills before various committees. The bills LeadingAge Kansas provided testimony on were:

- [SB 191](#) and [HB 2246](#) - See respective testimonies [here](#) and [here](#).
- [HB 2049](#) - See respective testimony [here](#).
- [HB 2267](#) - See respective testimony [here](#).
- [HB 2264](#) - See respective testimonies [here](#) and [here](#).
- [HB 2408](#) - See respective testimonies [here](#) and [here](#).
- [Budget](#) - See respective testimonies [here](#) and [here](#).

In addition, we provided informational testimony before:

- Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight
- House Health and Human Services committee
- Senate Ways and Means committee
- Senate Public Health and Welfare committee

LeadingAge Kansas co-sponsored Monday evening social events to increase networking opportunities with partner associations, lobbyists, and legislators. We hosted our first in-person Day at the Legislature since 2019, and for the first time ever, we partnered with Kansas Adult Care Executives association to put on the event. It was a great experience to raise awareness on aging services issues and amplify our voice with another organization who shares our values and policy goals.

This report is a guide for what LeadingAge Kansas set out to accomplish during the 2023 legislative session and all that we achieved. If you have any questions or feedback for us, please reach out to our Director of Government Affairs Kylee Childs at [kylee@leadingagekansas.org](mailto:kylee@leadingagekansas.org).

# Message from the CEO

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Our new strategic vision for LeadingAge Kansas promises a laser focus on advocacy, and a commitment to bigger and better strategic partnerships across the state. The 2023 Kansas Legislative Session was our first proving ground, and we are thrilled about the results.

We delivered a record-breaking \$160 million in new funding for aging services programs, and millions more in investments for health care workforce programs. We also defeated bills that would have seriously harmed the health and safety of our sector. The joint legislative events, presentations and testimony we leveraged with partners across the health care spectrum were a key ingredient to that success.

The stronger you are, the stronger we are as an association. Our successes build on one another, and we can't wait to charge into the next legislative session with even more energy and determination to make aging services the most vibrant and growing sector in our state.

Thank you for everything you do for our communities, our seniors and their families. It is an honor every day to serve you.



**"The stronger  
you are, the  
stronger we  
are as an  
association."**

**- RACHEL MONGER  
PRESIDENT/CEO**

# Session Priorities

Each fall prior to the start of session, the Board of Directors, CEO, and Director of Government Affairs identify priorities or issues of importance to address during the legislative session. This year, there were 7 priorities of interest that guided advocacy efforts throughout the legislative session.



## 01. Lead

LeadingAge Kansas worked with our partners to lead the way on nursing facility and PACE funding for state fiscal year 2024 as well as regulatory oversight and pricing transparency for temporary staffing agencies in long term care.



## 02. Engage

LeadingAge Kansas supported efforts for state investments in health care workforce training and recruitment and HCBS/FE funding to meet increasing needs and avoid unnecessary nursing home placements.



## 03. Monitor

LeadingAge Kansas monitored legislation surrounding involuntary discharge appeal rights for assisted living residents, increased recruitment and retention of health care instructors, and reducing regulatory barriers to entering the health care workforce.

# Priority Bills

There were numerous bills monitored by the LeagingAge Kansas team. Some bills halted after introduction, or died after a hearing or conference committee. The following bills are ones that passed and take effect in the new fiscal year or could be brought back up during next year's session.



Bill Number/Requestor	Bill Subject	Outcome
<p><u>SB 62</u> Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee</p>	<p>Enacting the protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation act, requiring reporting of instances of suspected financial exploitation under certain circumstances and providing civil and administrative immunity to individuals who make such reports.</p>	<p>SB 62 did not receive a hearing, but has the opportunity to be heard during the 2024 legislative session. The bill ended in Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance.</p>
<p><u>SB 171</u> Sen. Tom Holland, D-3rd</p>	<p>Creating the veterans first medical cannabis act to regulate the cultivation, distribution, sale, possession and use of medical cannabis</p>	<p>SB 171 never received a hearing after being referred to the Senate Federal and State Affairs committee. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>
<p><u>SB 277</u> Senate Ways and Means Committee</p>	<p>Providing for the regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies by the secretary for aging and disability services</p>	<p>SB 277 never received a hearing after being referred to the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>
<p><u>HB 2023</u> Rep. Susan Concannon, R-107th Related: <u>SB 174</u></p>	<p>Increasing the criminal penalties for battery of a healthcare provider</p>	<p>Due to lack of time, the contents of HB 2023 were further amended and placed into SB 174 conference committee report. The governor approved on May 11, 2023.</p>

# Priority Bills Cont.



Bill Number/Requestor	Bill Subject	Outcome
<p><b>HB 2049</b> Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight</p>	<p>Changing the length of the nurse aide course required for unlicensed employees in adult care homes to 75 hours</p>	<p>HB 2049 received a hearing in House Health and Human Services committee. No final action took place, but the bill could be reconsidered next session.</p>
<p><b>HB 2125</b> House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee Related: <b>HB 2408</b></p>	<p>Amends law related to tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, and body piercing and exempts adult care homes and long-term care units of medical care facilities from statutes governing barbering and cosmetology.</p>	<p>HB2125 exempts adult care homes and long-term care units from establishing a salon or clinic with the Board of Cosmetology. The governor approved on April 19, 2023.</p>
<p><b>HB 2243</b> House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee</p>	<p>Enacting the protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation act</p>	<p>HB 2243 never received a hearing after being referred to the House Financial Institutions and Pensions committee. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>
<p><b>Sub for HB 2246</b> House Judiciary Committee Related: <b>SB 191</b></p>	<p>Establishing requirements for the involuntary discharge or transfer of a resident in an adult residential care facility and authorizing the secretary to investigate and assess a penalty for violations.</p>	<p>Sub for HB 2246 received a hearing and passed out of House Judiciary committee but was stricken from the House Calendar. This could be reconsidered next session.</p>

# Priority Bills Cont.



Bill Number/Requestor	Bill Subject	Outcome
<p><b><u>HB 2265</u></b> House Health and Human Services Committee</p>	<p>Providing for the regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies by the secretary for aging and disability services</p>	<p>HB 2265 never received a hearing after being referred to the House Health and Human Services committee. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>
<p><b><u>HB 2267</u></b> House Transportation Committee</p>	<p>Allowing adult care homes to apply for disability special license plates</p>	<p>HB 2267 received a hearing and passed out of House Transportation committee but was stricken from the House Calendar after the Department of Revenue reversed policy on plate issuance to adult care homes.</p>
<p><b><u>HB 2292</u></b> House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee Related: <a href="#">Sub for HB 2414</a></p>	<p>To promote and expand apprenticeships with Kansas businesses, nonprofit organizations, healthcare organizations and public schools by providing grants and tax credits for businesses, nonprofit organizations and healthcare organizations that offer apprenticeships and providing scholarship grants to aspiring teachers to obtain their professional degrees</p>	<p>HB2292 was the result of a conference committee that adopted several apprenticeship programs. The bill was approved by the governor on April 24, 2023.</p>
<p><b><u>HB 2345</u></b> House Federal and State Affairs Committee Related: <a href="#">HB 2250</a></p>	<p>Enacting the supported decision-making agreements act to provide a statutory framework for adults who want decision-making assistance</p>	<p>HB 2345 never received a hearing after being referred to the House Judiciary committee. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>

# Priority Bills Cont.



Bill Number/Requestor	Bill Subject	Outcome
<p><u>HB 2358</u> House Federal and State Affairs Committee</p>	<p>Permitting mid-level practitioners to provide medical certification to attest to an individual's cause of death to file a death certificate</p>	<p>HB2358 never received a hearing after being referred to the House Federal and State Affairs committee. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>
<p><u>HB 2367</u> <u>Rep. Silas Miller, D-86th</u></p>	<p>Creating the adult use cannabis regulation act to regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, possession and sale of cannabis in this state</p>	<p>HB 2367 never received a hearing after being referred to both House Federal and State Affairs and Interstate Cooperation committees. This bill could be brought back for consideration next session.</p>
<p><u>S Sub for HB2390</u> House Health and Human Services Committee Related: <u>SB 6</u>, <u>SB 314</u>, <u>SB 315</u></p>	<p>Secretary of health and environment; relating to drug overdoses; requiring the secretary of health and environment to study overdose deaths; providing for the confidentiality of acquired and compiled records; restricting the powers of the secretary of health and environment and local health officers to control the introduction and spread of infectious or contagious diseases; repealing the authority of the secretary to order individuals to isolate or quarantine and impose penalties for violations thereof; relating to vaccinations; requirements to attend child care facilities and elementary, secondary and public or private postsecondary educational institutions; prohibiting an inquiry into the sincerity of a request for an exemption from vaccine requirements; prohibiting the secretary of health and environment from requiring a COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend a child care facility or school</p>	<p>S Sub for HB 2390 was the result of a conference committee that included several bills throughout session that would have an impact on aging services and members. Ultimately, the conference committee report failed to pass on the Senate floor, but the contents of this report could be considered next session.</p>

# Budget Takeaways

The "Mega" budget bill, otherwise known as HB 2184, included expenditures of \$17.9 billion, including \$4.8 billion state general fund (SGF), which was a decrease from the previous year's budget. The omnibus bill contained from legislature adjustments based on how the Governor vetoed or accepted the Mega budget. Below were the following adjustments made and approved by the Governor related to aging services for fiscal year 2024.

## Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Health

- Deleted \$671.4M to remove funding for Medicaid expansion
- Added \$7.9M to increase emergency medical service rates
- Added \$1.2M to extend Medicaid adult dentures coverage to include dentures and patrials

## Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

- Added \$61.6M to fund additional payments to nursing facilities based on number of Medicaid residents served FY24
- Added \$86M to fully rebase the daily Medicaid rate for nursing facilities
- Added \$13M to increase the Home and Community Based Services Frail Elderly waiver reimbursement rates by 10%
- Addes \$3M to increase PACE reimbursement rates by 5%
- Added \$1.5M to Senior Nutrition Services
- Added \$2.5M for PACE program expansion to Johnson County
- Add \$116,250 SGF and 1.0 FTE position to create a dementia services coordinator position

# \$167M

**Additional funding towards senior services  
was awarded for fiscal year 2024.**

# Next Steps

Where do we go from here? Now is the time to keep monitoring the LeadingAge Kansas newsletter for updates surrounding budget enhancements and trainings to prepare for policies going into effect July 1, 2023. Additional steps include reaching out to set up meetings with legislators and sharing concerns or identified issues to address next session. Contact [Kylee Childs](#) if you have questions on getting started.



## 01. Stay Updated

Make sure you are signed up to receive notifications for [weekly webinars](#) and LeadingAge Kansas newsletters.



## 02. Meet Your Legislators

Call or email your [legislator](#) while they are back home and invite them to coffee or lunch. Now is the time to establish or reignite relationships.



## 03. Plan For Next Session

Use this report to review 2023 session priorities and what was accomplished. Share any outstanding issues needing addressed with your team and LeadingAge Kansas.

# Conclusion

**LeadingAge Kansas continues to be the leading advocate for effective policy on behalf of our members across the state.**

## Priorities

**We continue to lead, engage, and monitor important member issues**

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- Funding
- Staffing
- Access to Care

## Advocacy

**We continue to provide testimony and form trusted relationships.**

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- Legislative Day and Social Nights
- 15+ Legislative testimonies
- Over \$160M in additional funding

## Next Steps

**Plan for next session and start forming connections with your legislators.**

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- Review priorities
- Contact [Legislators](#)
- Contact [Kylee](#)

Our mission: To assist members in providing outstanding services and supports to older Kansans in a place they call home, through advocacy, education, and networking.

Our vision: LeadingAge Kansas will be the recognized leader, trusted voice, and knowledge resource for aging services in Kansas.

# Acknowledgements

This year's session accomplishments and report would not be possible without the support of:

- Our Board of Directors for guiding our session priorities
- Our colleagues and partners who assisted with testimony
- All who contributed, donated, or supported our legislative efforts this session

**We thank you for your continued support and insight to advocate for aging services.**

## Contact

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