

HOUSE BILL No. 2272

By Committee on Health and Human Services

1-29

9 AN ACT enacting the health care price transparency act; prescribing
10 disclosure and availability of prices charged by certain health care pro-
11 viders and reimbursed by health insurance carriers for health or med-
12 ical care services.

13

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

15 Section 1. (a) Each health insurance carrier, health maintenance or-
16 ganization (HMO), and preferred provider organization (PPO) shall make
17 available for public disclosure the carrier's negotiated rates for certain
18 and common health or medical care services.

19 (b) This public disclosure of the health insurance carrier's rates:

20 (1) Shall be based upon the health insurance carrier's, HMO's and
21 PPO's current negotiated medical rates with Kansas health care or med-
22 ical care service providers. Health care or medical care service providers
23 includes general and speciality hospitals; outpatient medical treatment

Electronic copies?

Digital preservation?

Lets use XML....

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Maybe something like this...

house_bill number="2272" session="2007">

<origin>Committee on Health and Human Services</origin>

<long_title>

<para>An act enacting the healthcare price transparency act; prescribing...</para>

</long_title>

<section number="1">

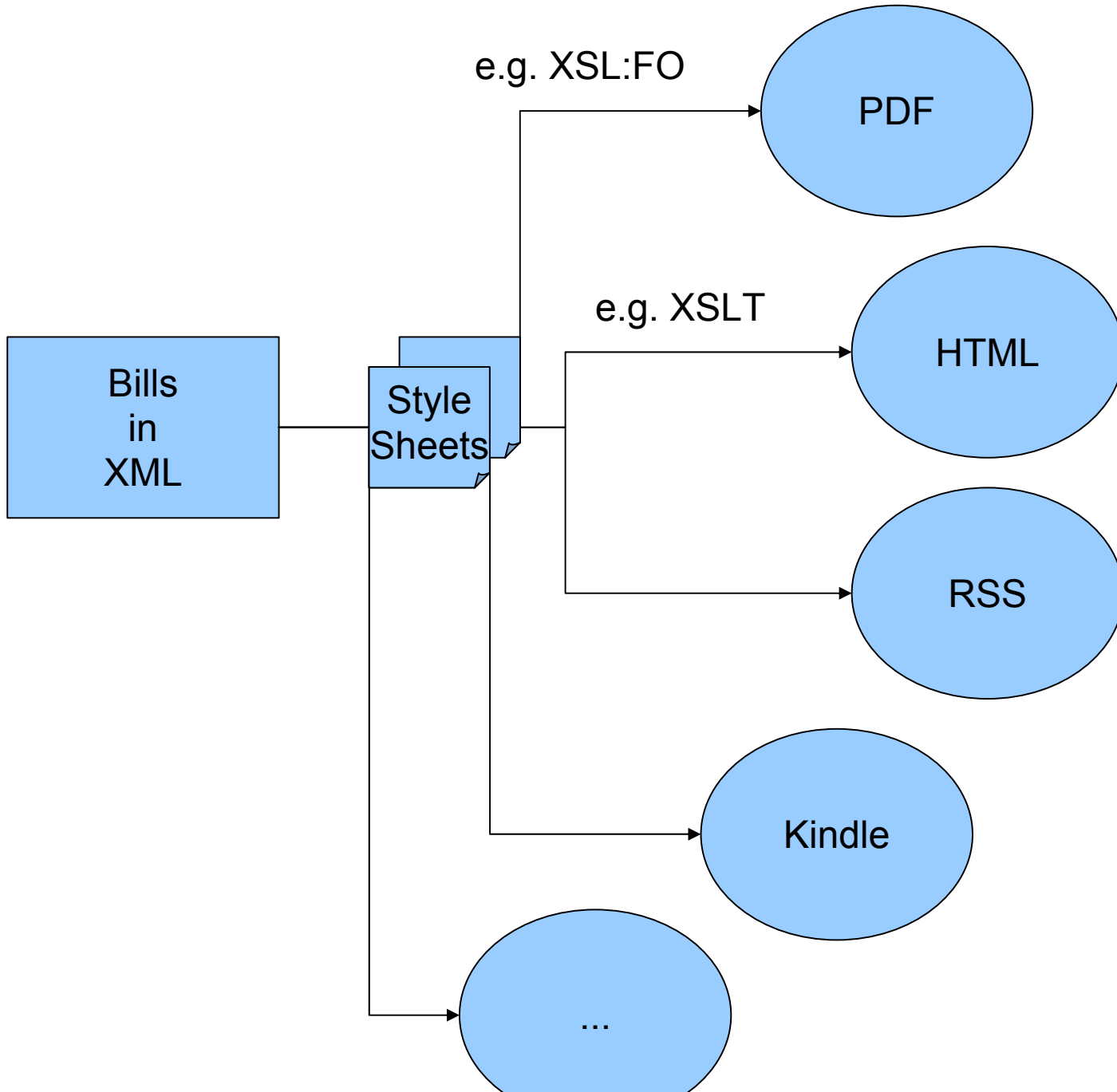
<clause>

<para>Each health insurance carrier...</para>

</clause>

</section>

...
house bill>




The “classic” XML automation flow

```
ouse_bill number="2272" session="2007">  
<origin>Committee on Health and Human  
rvices</origin>  
<long_title>  
  <para>An act enacting the healthcare price  
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</section>  
  
ouse_bill>
```

“Pure” data

Mere matter of
programming



Session of 2007

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“Mere” presentation

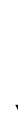
Which one is the “real” bill?

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This?



This?



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How did this get here?

Line numbers ?

Bold?, Centered ? Big font?

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(b)?
(1)?

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???

-?

Legislative applications are *different*

- “Separating content and presentation” is not always possible
 - Even if it was, it is not always desirable
 - Line numbers, Page breaks – Amendment cycles
 - Is it okay that the numbering of the sub-sub-clauses may *change* when you view the law because the list ornaments are generated computationally?
 - Is it okay that the numbering of the sections I see is potentially different from the ones you see (or the ones the Governor saw?)
 - What if I hyperlink to a repealed section but the link goes to the wrong place? Is the hyperlink part of the text or not?

Legislative applications are *different*

- “Separating content and presentation” is not always possible
 - Tables
 - Legacy “incorrect” renderings need to be preserved
 - Fonts (“II” = “I1” or “1I”)?
 - Dot leaders
 - **Graphics**
 - **Equations**
 - **Hyphenation, justification, vertical spacing...**
 - **etc. etc.**

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  ...  
</house_bill>
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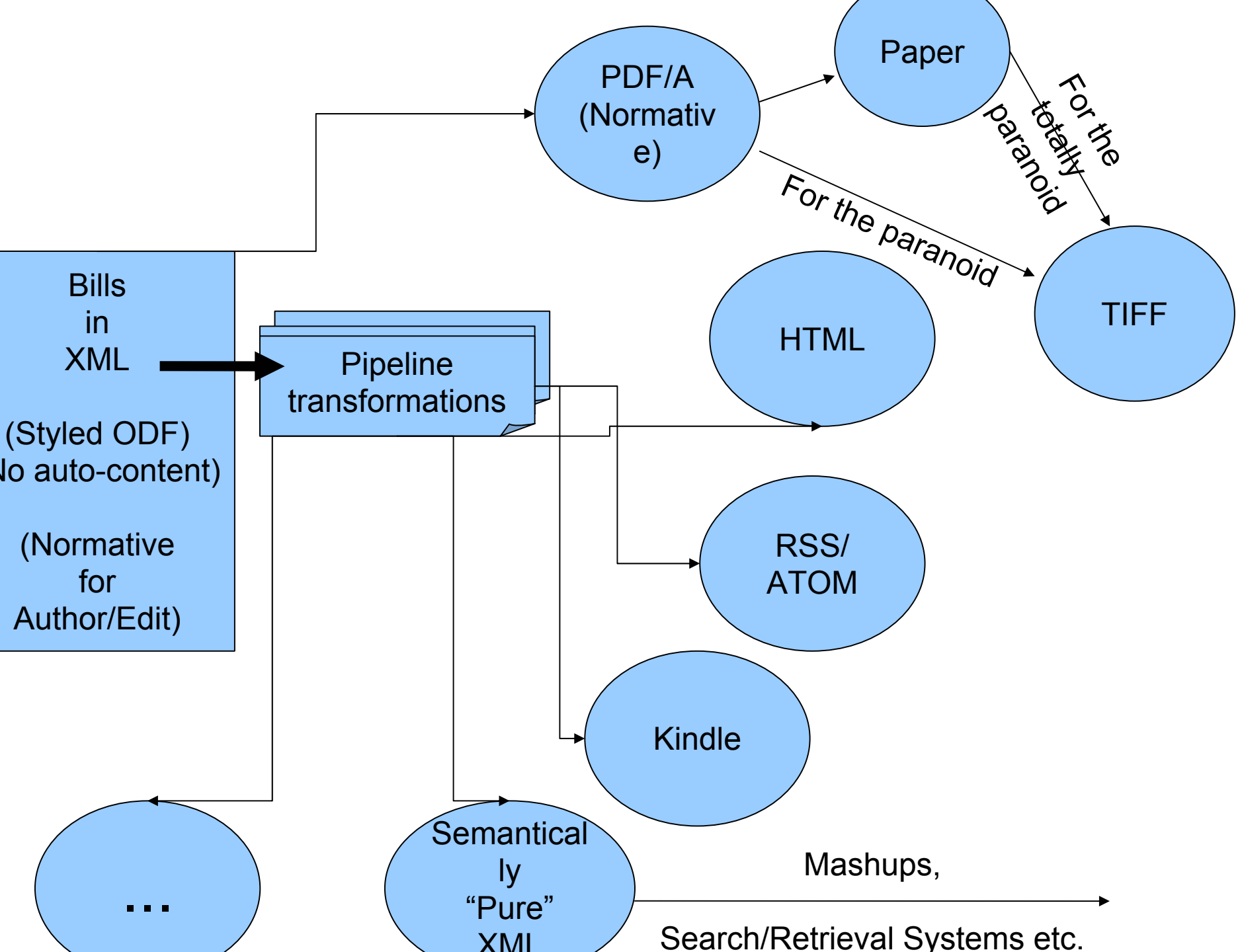


The XML Application Spectrum

Semantic
"Purity"



Presentation
Fidelity with
A Normative
Copy e.g. SVG



Final thoughts

- Apply XML carefully and it will serve you well:
 - There is no “one size fits all” data format for legislative workflows:
 - Amendment cycles - word-processor-oriented
 - Normative Electronic rendering – wysiwyg-oriented
 - Search/Retrieval - “pure” semantic
 - re-purposing/re-use - “pure” semantic
- The open-ness of XML is no good if the applications that process the XML are closed. XML does not render your legislation – applications do. If you do not own the rendering

Final thoughts

- Be scrupulous about differentiating normative content from *copies* of content. Allow copies to vary with respect to the normative rendering but *cite* the normative rendering:
 - Mashups
 - Transclusions that layer on hyperlinks e.g. GreaseMonkey, SmartTags
 - RSS/Atom feeds that strip markup
 - E-book/Mobile-friendly renderings

Final thoughts

- Raise awareness of the importance of clear separation between “the law” and mere “rendering artifacts” of the law on the paper used to promulgate it
 - Fonts
 - Hyperlinks
 - Semantics via indentation
 - Semantics via vertical alignment
 - Page numbers
- The entanglements are subtle, deep and generally not well understood but they critically