

Message from the Governor

In Kansas, vacancies in the office of United States Senator have been filled by a temporary appointment by the governor since 1927. The appointee serves as senator until the next election of representatives in Congress, at which time the vacancy is filled by election and the elected senator takes office as soon as he or she receives his or her certificate of election.

This statute has been used effectively several times since its passage 81 years ago, including:

In 1929, Senator Charles Curtis resigned and Senator Henry Allen was appointed to fill the vacancy by Governor Clyde Reed.

In 1949, Senator Harry Darby was appointed by Governor Frank Carlson to fill the vacancy caused by the death of then Senator Clyde Reed.

In 1962, Senator James Pearson was appointed by Governor John Anderson to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Andrew Schoeppel.

In 1978, Senator James Pearson resigned and Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum was appointed to the vacancy by Governor Robert Bennett.

In 1996, Senator Robert Dole resigned and Senator Sheila Frahm was appointed to the vacancy by Governor Bill Graves.

This process has served the citizens of Kansas well. Absent any compelling public policy reason to change this statute at this time, and pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Kansas Constitution, I veto House Bill 2683.

Vetoed: May 18, 2008

Signed: Kathleen Sebelius
Governor