

Journal of the Senate

SEVENTEENTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by President Ty Masterson.

The roll was called with 39 senators present.

Senator Shane was excused.

President Masterson introduced guest chaplain, Pastor Jason Roberts to deliver the invocation:

Gracious and Sovereign God, we come before You today mindful of the weight of this moment. Our nation feels divided: voices are loud, tensions are real, and trust is often fragile. Yet You remain unchanging—steadfast, faithful, and just. We ask that in the midst of uncertainty, You would anchor our hearts and minds in truth, humility, and hope.

Lord, You have placed these men and women in positions of responsibility for such a time as this. Remind each Senator that their words matter, their decisions carry consequence, and their conduct can either deepen division or build understanding. Where there is frustration, bring patience. Where there is disagreement, bring respect. Where there is fear or pride, bring courage and humility.

We pray for the State of Kansas—its communities, families, farms, businesses, schools and cities. May the work done in this chamber today seek the common good and the long-term flourishing of all Kansans, not personal gain or political victory. Teach this body to listen well, to speak with grace; and to pursue solutions that reflect justice, mercy and wisdom.

God, we ask for harmony in this session—not uniformity of opinion, but unity of purpose. Help these Senators to debate firmly yet honorably, to hold convictions without hostility and to remember that civility is not weakness but strength.

We lift up President Masterson, Vice President Shallenburger, Majority Leader Blasi, and Minority Leader Sykes. Grant them clarity, steadiness, and discernment as they lead. Surround with wise counsel and give them a spirit of cooperation that sets the tone for this chamber.

Finally, Lord we ask for Your peace—the kind that does not ignore difficulty but surpasses understanding. Let it guard hearts, guide decisions and mark the work done here today.

We ask these things humbly, trusting You to lead and sustain us. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Masterson.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills were introduced and read by title:

SB 472, AN ACT concerning the Kansas department of insurance; relating to the powers, duties and responsibilities of the commissioner of insurance; authorizing the commissioner of insurance to set the amount of certain fees; requiring the publication of such fees in the Kansas register; eliminating the 10% credit to the state general fund required of fee agencies as reimbursement for certain services provided by the state; amending K.S.A. 17-12a205, 17-12a302, 17-12a305, 17-12a410, 17-12a601, 17-12a605 and 75-3170a and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 40-241 and 40-246b and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

SB 473, AN ACT concerning real property; relating to the conveyance of certain property in Wabaunsee county; authorizing Audubon of Kansas to convey such property; requiring any deeds and conveyances related to such property be reviewed and approved by the state historical society; amending K.S.A. 75-2731 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SB 474, AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to accident and health coverage; enacting the Kansas short-term limited duration insurance act; establishing definitions, disclosure, premium, renewal and underwriting requirements related thereto; authorizing the commissioner of insurance to adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the act; amending K.S.A. 40-2,193 and repealing the existing section, by Senator Sykes.

SB 475, AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to hospitals; requiring the use of a surgical smoke plume evacuation system during certain surgical procedures, by Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

SB 476, AN ACT concerning property taxation; relating to exemptions; exempting certain property used for thrift store purposes by a church or religious organization; amending K.S.A. 79-201 and repealing the existing section, by Senator Kloos.

SB 477, AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to scholarship programs; enacting the Kansas first responder scholarship act; providing tuition assistance to certain first responders and dependents of such first responders, by Senator Corson.

SB 478, AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to crimes against persons; increasing the criminal penalties for assault or battery of a utility or communications employee; amending K.S.A. 21-5412 and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 21-5413 and repealing the existing sections, by Senators Corson and Claeys.

SB 479, AN ACT concerning state law enforcement personnel; authorizing the Kansas highway patrol and Kansas bureau of investigation to establish and implement a comprehensive wellness program for officers and employees; permitting certified law enforcement personnel of other state agencies to participate in such programs; making annual transfers from the state highway fund and the state general fund for the purpose of financing the implementation of such programs, by Senator Corson.

SB 480, AN ACT concerning probate; relating to estates of absentees; reviving and amending K.S.A. 59-2701, 59-2702, 59-2703, 59-2704, 59-2705, 59-2707 and 59-2708 and repealing the revived sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 481, AN ACT concerning courts; establishing procedures in the Kansas code of procedure for municipal courts related to determination of an accused person's

competency to stand trial; authorizing a municipal judge to order an examination; authorizing a district court judge to rely on a psychiatric or psychological examination ordered by a municipal court to facilitate an examination; amending K.S.A. 12-4113 and 22-3302 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 482, AN ACT concerning the residential landlord and tenant act; relating to dwelling units that are condemned; requiring landlords to return the security deposit and certain portions of rent payments that would be due; amending K.S.A. 58-2562 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 483, AN ACT concerning state governmental ethics; relating to the legislature; requiring all legislators and the spouses of legislators who are in leadership positions to disclose the amount of any salary paid by public funds; providing that such information be published on the legislative website; requiring such information be provided in statements of substantial interest; amending K.S.A. 46-229 and repealing the existing section, by Senator Holscher.

SB 484, AN ACT concerning the uniform controlled substances act; moving marijuana and tetrahydrocannabinols from schedule I to schedule III of the act; amending K.S.A. 21-5706 and 65-4109 and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 65-4105 and repealing the existing sections, by Senator Holscher.

SB 485, AN ACT concerning housing; relating to the residential landlord and tenant act; requiring landlords to consider certain income of a tenant or prospective tenant when demonstrating income as a condition for qualifying for housing; providing that court records in eviction actions in which the underlying rental agreement is governed by such act shall be sealed for certain periods; requiring expungement of certain court records of such eviction actions; requiring mediation in eviction actions in which the underlying rental agreement is governed by such act unless the court finds that mediation would not aid the parties materially; providing that certain violations of this act constitute deceptive or unconscionable acts or practices under the provisions of the Kansas consumer protection act; amending K.S.A. 60-2617, 61-3804, 61-3806 and 61-3807 and repealing the existing sections, by Senator Holscher.

SB 486, AN ACT concerning civil rights; creating a civil cause of action for violations of the constitution or laws of the United States by any person acting under the color of law, by Senator Holscher.

SB 487, AN ACT concerning the Kansas offender registration act; relating to agencies that register offenders under the act; requiring the Kansas bureau of investigation to provide a statewide offender registration system; allowing offenders required to register under the act to report where such offender works or attends school at a single point of registration; amending K.S.A. 22-4904 and 22-4905 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

REFERENCE OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills were referred to Committees as indicated:

Agriculture and Natural Resources: **SB 465**; **HB 2476**.

Assessment and Taxation: **SB 455**, **SB 470**.

Commerce: **SB 471**.

Education: **SB 458**.

Federal and State Affairs: **SB 451**, **SB 452**, **SB 453**, **SB 454**.

Financial Institutions and Insurance: **SB 467**.

Government Efficiency: **SB 450**.

Judiciary: **SB 456, SB 459, SB 460, SB 461, SB 462, SB 463, SB 466, SB 469**.

Local Government, Transparency and Ethics: **SB 468**.

Public Health and Welfare: **SB 457, SB 464**.

Transportation: **HB 2471**.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Announcing passage of **HB 2464**.

Announcing adoption of **HCR 5022**, as amended.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

HB 2464, HCR 5022 were thereupon introduced and read by title.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On motion of Senator Blasi, the Senate resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, for consideration of bills on the calendar under the heading of General Orders with Senator Owens in the chair.

On motion of Senator Owens the following summary report was adopted:

SB 299 be passed.

SB 327, SB 348 be passed as amended by adoption of the committee reports.

HB 2331 be passed as amended by adoption of the committee reports and as further amended by Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ACTIONS

SB 299 be passed

SB 327 be amended by the adoption of the committee amendments.

SB 348 be amended by the adoption of the committee amendments.

HB 2331 be amended by the adoption of the committee amendments, be further amended by motion of Senator Tyson; on page 1, following line 11, by inserting:

"Section 1. K.S.A. 21-6205 is hereby amended to read as follows: 21-6205. (a) Criminal desecration is:

(1) Knowingly obtaining or attempting to obtain unauthorized control of a dead body or remains of any human being or the coffin, urn or other article containing a dead body or remains of any human being; or

(2) recklessly, by means other than by fire or explosive:

(A) Damaging, defacing or destroying the flag, ensign or other symbol of the United States or this state in which another has a property interest without the consent of such other person;

(B) damaging, defacing or destroying any public monument or structure;

(C) damaging, defacing or destroying any tomb, monument, memorial, marker, grave, vault, crypt gate, tree, shrub, plant or any other property in a cemetery; or

(D) damaging, defacing or destroying any place of worship.

(b) Aggravated criminal desecration is criminal desecration as defined in subsection (a)(1) committed with the intent to conceal the death of a human being or the commission of a crime.

(c) (1) Criminal desecration as defined in:

~~(A)~~ Subsections Subsection (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C) or (a)(2)(D) if the property is damaged to the extent of:

~~(A)(i)~~ \$25,000 or more is a severity level 7, nonperson felony;

~~(B)(ii)~~ at least \$1,000 but less than \$25,000 is a severity level 9, nonperson felony; and

~~(C)(iii)~~ less than \$1,000 is a class A nonperson misdemeanor; and

~~(2)(B)~~ subsections subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2)(A) is a class A nonperson misdemeanor.

(2) Aggravated criminal desecration is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.;

On page 6, in line 5, after "K.S.A." by inserting "21-6205,";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 1, after the semicolon by inserting "creating the crime of aggravated criminal desecration when the offender had the intent to conceal a death or the commission of a crime.;" in line 8, after "K.S.A." by inserting "21-6205,"

And **HB 2331** be further amended by motion of Senator Clifford; on page 4, in line 16, by striking all after the comma; by striking all in lines 17 and 18; in line 19, by striking all before the period and inserting "all of which may be live online";

On page 5, in line 27, by striking all after the comma; by striking all in lines 28 and 29; in line 30, by striking all before the period and inserting "all of which may be live online"

And **HB 2331** be further amended by motion of Senator Faust Goudeau; on page 1, in line 17, by striking "refuse" and inserting "refuses or is unable"

A motion by Faust Goudeau to amend **HB 2331** was withdrawn.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on **Agriculture and Natural Resources** recommends **SB 364** be passed.

Also, **SB 344** be amended on page 1, following line 7, by inserting:

"Section 1. K.S.A. 47-1709 is hereby amended to read as follows: 47-1709. (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized, trained representatives shall make an inspection of the premises for which an application for an original license or permit is made under K.S.A. 47-1701 et seq., and amendments thereto, before issuance of such license or permit. No license or permit shall be issued by the commissioner to an applicant described in this subsection until the premises for which application is made has passed a licensing or permitting inspection. The application for a license shall conclusively be deemed to be the consent of the applicant to the right of entry and inspection of the premises sought to be licensed or permitted by the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized, trained representatives at reasonable times with the owner or owner's representative present. Refusal of such entry and inspection shall be grounds for denial of the license or permit. Notice need not be given to any person prior to inspection.

(b) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized, trained representatives may inspect each premises for which a license or permit has been issued under K.S.A. 47-1701 et seq., and amendments thereto. The acceptance of a license or permit shall conclusively be deemed to be the consent of the licensee or permittee to the right of entry and inspection of the licensed or permitted premises by the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized, trained representatives at reasonable times with the owner or owner's representative present. Refusal of such entry and inspection shall be grounds

for suspension or revocation of the license or permit. Notice shall not be given to any person prior to inspection.

(c) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized, trained representatives shall make inspections of the premises of a person required to be licensed or permitted under K.S.A. 47-1701 et seq., and amendments thereto, upon a determination by the commissioner that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person is violating the provisions of K.S.A. 47-1701 et seq., and amendments thereto, or rules and regulations adopted thereunder or that there are grounds for suspension or revocation of such person's license or permit.

(d) Any complaint filed with the commissioner shall be confidential and shall not be released to any person other than employees of the commissioner as necessary to carry out the duties of their employment.

(e) Any person making inspections under this section shall be trained by the commissioner in reasonable standards of animal care.

(f) The commissioner may request a licensed veterinarian to assist in any inspection or investigation made by the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative under this section.

(g) Any person acting as the commissioner's authorized representative for purposes of making inspections and conducting investigations under this section who knowingly falsifies the results or findings of any inspection or investigation or intentionally fails or refuses to make an inspection or conduct an investigation pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a class A nonperson misdemeanor.

(h) No person shall act as the commissioner's authorized representative for the purposes of making inspections and conducting investigations under this section if such person has a beneficial interest in a person required to be licensed or permitted pursuant to K.S.A. 47-1701 et seq., and amendments thereto.

(i) Records of inspections pursuant to this section shall be maintained in the office of the Kansas department of agriculture division of animal health. ~~Records of a deficiency or violation shall not be maintained for longer~~ not less than three five years ~~after the deficiency or violation is remedied.~~

(j) The commissioner, in consultation with Kansas state university college of veterinary medicine, shall:

(1) Continue procedures to provide for pet animal training or updated training for authorized trained representatives who inspect premises under the pet animal act and to allow the owners of such facilities licensed or permitted under the pet animal act to attend and participate at the training workshops for the authorized trained representatives; and

(2) make available to such owners and other interested persons an inspection handbook describing the duties and responsibilities of such authorized trained representatives.

(k) If the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative is denied access to any location where such access is sought for the purposes authorized under the Kansas pet animal act, the commissioner may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for an administrative search warrant authorizing access to such location for such purposes. Upon such application and a showing of cause therefore, the court shall issue the search warrant for the purposes requested.";

Also on page 1, in line 20, by striking "sick, injured or";

On page 2, following line 12, by inserting:

"(d) As used in this section, "neonate" means a newborn animal that is less than eight weeks of age and dependent on such animal's mother or a caregiver due to undeveloped biological functions related to feeding, regulation of body temperature and elimination of waste."; in line 13, after "K.S.A." by inserting "47-1709 and"; also in line 13, by striking "is" and inserting "are";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 2, by striking "certain" and inserting "neonate"; in line 4, after the semicolon by inserting "requiring records of inspections to be maintained by the department of agriculture division of animal health for not less than five years;"; in line 5, after "K.S.A." by inserting "47-1709 and"; also in line 5, by striking "section" and inserting "sections"; and the bill be passed as amended.

Committee on **Judiciary** recommends **SB 358** be passed.

REPORT ON ENROLLED BILLS, CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

SR 1724, SR 1725 reported correctly enrolled, properly signed and presented to the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2026.

On motion of Senator Blasi, the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2026.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks.*

COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

