

Journal of the Senate

EIGHTEENTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Thursday, February 5, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by Vice President Tim Shallenburger.

The roll was called with 38 senators present.

Senators Blew and Sykes were excused.

Invocation by Reverend Cecil T. Washington:

Freedom And Love For All Peoples!

Jeremiah 22:17, John 13:34-35

Heavenly Father, You inspired President Abraham Lincoln to propose a resolution that led to the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, declaring that the practice of involuntary servitude was a violation of God ordained human rights.

Your Words through the Prophet Jeremiah 22:17, express Your hatred and judgment against wicked rulers; rulers who violate the rights of other human beings, rights given to them by You. You express Your deep concern for justice and an intolerance for exploitation and violence. Lord, You also emphasize that in Your Divine knowledge, You're not only aware of the outward actions but also the internal motives of the heart.

Therefore all leaders and individuals will be held accountable for how they treat others, especially the vulnerable and how they take advantage of them. Lord, in calling attention to this need for human rights the month of February, has been declared National Freedom Month. So, Lord as we move forward this month and on in time, help us to move forward in our practice of human rights; because still today, we have ongoing controversies over economic, social, political and individual equal opportunities.

Lord, I think the bottom line, is for us to just learn to do as You said in John 13:34-35, to love one another, in the same way You have loved us, thereby demonstrating that we belong to You. I'm continuing this prayer today, in the precious Name of Jesus the Savior Who loved us to death. Amen!

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Shallenburger.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and concurrent resolution were introduced and read by title:

SB 488, AN ACT concerning taxation; enacting the Kansas property tax freedom act of 2026; providing for the phased elimination of property taxation; maintaining existing payments in lieu of taxes for renewable energy facilities; providing revenue replacement grants to taxing subdivisions; establishing the Kansas fair share purchase surcharge and the property tax freedom reserve fund; providing for the distribution of

Kansas fair share purchase surcharge revenue to school districts, counties, cities, townships and other taxing subdivisions, the state general fund and the property tax freedom reserve fund; providing for a voter-approved local add-on fair share purchase surcharge for debt service of general obligation bonds; providing for freedom dividend rebates, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 489, AN ACT concerning property taxation; relating to exemptions; providing for a universal homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation; providing for state reimbursement to school districts; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 79-2988 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

SB 490, AN ACT concerning taxation; relating to community improvement districts; authorizing the imposition of a privilege tax by a municipality for the privilege of selling alcoholic beverages, food and food ingredients and tobacco within a community improvement district; amending K.S.A. 12-194, 12-6a26, 12-6a27, 12-6a29, 12-6a30, 12-6a32, 12-6a33, 12-6a34 and 12-6a35 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

SB 491, AN ACT concerning education; enacting the Haylee Weissenbach protecting students act; establishing the office of education inspector general; authorizing the education inspector general to conduct audits, investigations and reviews of educational institutions; requiring reporting of suspected professional and criminal misconduct by school employees and agents; requiring certain individuals to register on an educator misconduct registry established by the education inspector general; requiring school employees and agents to submit to a criminal history record check; providing for civil penalties for violations of the act; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 22-4714 and 75-702 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Education.

SB 492, AN ACT concerning law enforcement; relating to file sharing by law enforcement agencies; requiring law enforcement agencies to share information about law enforcement officers related to criminal conduct or conduct giving rise to licensing or certification sanctions; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 75-4379 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 493, AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to sex offenses; adding an element of sexual exploitation of a child involving communication through electronic means and social media; providing criminal penalties therefor; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 21-5510 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 494, AN ACT concerning domestic violence; relating to victims of domestic violence offenses; expanding the definition of course of conduct used in the crime of stalking to include more technology-based methods; requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt policies for making primary aggressor assessments when responding to domestic violence calls; requiring the prosecutor to affirm a primary aggressor analysis was completed when filing a complaint or indictment in a domestic violence case; prohibiting public agencies from charging fees to victims of domestic violence offenses for public records; allowing evidence of other domestic violence offenses to be admissible in a criminal action in which the defendant is accused of a domestic violence offense; adding prohibitions on certain contact to options for protection from abuse or protection from stalking orders; allowing lifetime extension of protection from abuse orders for victims of domestic battery; amending K.S.A. 21-5427, 22-2307, 22-3201,60-455, 60-3107, 60-31a06 and 75-7d05 and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 45-219 and

repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. SCR 1621—

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

A PROPOSITION to amend section 1 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas; relating to property taxation; prohibiting the levy of property taxes by the state or any political or taxing subdivision of the state.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Section 1 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§ 1. System of taxation; classification; exemption. (a) The provisions of this subsection shall govern the assessment and taxation of property on and after January 1, 2013, and each year thereafter. Except as otherwise hereinafter specifically provided, the legislature shall provide for a uniform and equal basis of valuation and rate of taxation of all property subject to taxation. The legislature may provide for the classification and the taxation uniformly as to class of recreational vehicles and watercraft, as defined by the legislature, or may exempt such class from property taxation and impose taxes upon another basis in lieu thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to the taxation of motor vehicles, except as otherwise hereinafter specifically provided, mineral products, money, mortgages, notes and other evidence of debt and grain. Property shall be classified into the following classes for the purpose of assessment and assessed at the percentage of value prescribed therefor:

Class 1 shall consist of real property. Real property shall be further classified into seven subclasses. Such property shall be defined by law for the purpose of subclassification and assessed uniformly as to subclass at the following percentages of value:

- (1) Real property used for residential purposes including multi-family residential real property and real property necessary to accommodate a residential community of mobile or manufactured homes including the real property upon which such homes are located11½%
- (2) Land devoted to agricultural use which shall be valued upon the basis of its agricultural income or agricultural productivity pursuant to section 12 of article 11 of the constitution30%
- (3) Vacant lots12%
- (4) Real property which is owned and operated by a not-for-profit organization not subject to federal income taxation pursuant to section 501 of the federal internal revenue code, and which is included in this subclass by law12%
- (5) Public utility real property, except railroad real property which shall be assessed at the average rate that all other commercial and industrial property is assessed33%

(6) Real property used for commercial and industrial purposes and buildings and other improvements located upon land devoted to agricultural use25%

(7) All other urban and rural real property not otherwise specifically subclassified30%

Class 2 shall consist of tangible personal property. Such tangible personal property shall be further classified into six subclasses, shall be defined by law for the purpose of subclassification and assessed uniformly as to subclass at the following percentages of value:

(1) Mobile homes used for residential purposes11½%

(2) Mineral leasehold interests except oil leasehold interests the average daily production from which is five barrels or less, and natural gas leasehold interests the average daily production from which is 100 mcf or less, which shall be assessed at 25%30%

(3) Public utility tangible personal property including inventories thereof, except railroad personal property including inventories thereof, which shall be assessed at the average rate all other commercial and industrial property is assessed33%

(4) All categories of motor vehicles not defined and specifically valued and taxed pursuant to law enacted prior to January 1, 198530%

(5) Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment which, if its economic life is seven years or more, shall be valued at its retail cost when new less seven-year straight-line depreciation, or which, if its economic life is less than seven years, shall be valued at its retail cost when new less straight-line depreciation over its economic life, except that, the value so obtained for such property, notwithstanding its economic life and as long as such property is being used, shall not be less than 20% of the retail cost when new of such property25%

(6) All other tangible personal property not otherwise specifically classified30%

(b) All property used exclusively for state, county, municipal, literary, educational, scientific, religious, benevolent and charitable purposes, farm machinery and equipment, merchants' and manufacturers' inventories, other than public utility inventories included in subclass (3) of class 2, livestock, and all household goods and personal effects not used for the production of income, shall be exempted from property taxation.

(c) *Except for taxable years 2026 and 2027 as provided by law for any phased elimination of property or ad valorem taxes, the levy of any tax by the state or any political or taxing subdivision of the state upon real property or personal property is hereby prohibited. No property in this state shall be subject to property taxation after December 31, 2027. In any case of a conflict between any provision of this subsection and any other provision contained in the constitution, the provisions of this subsection shall control. The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) shall expire and have no effect after December 31, 2027. "*

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

"Explanatory statement. This amendment would prohibit the levy of any property taxes by the state or any political or taxing subdivision of the state, except for taxable years 2026 and 2027 as provided by law for any phased elimination of property or ad valorem taxes. No property in this state would be subject to property taxation after December 31, 2027.

"A vote for this proposition would prohibit the levy of any tax by the state or any political or taxing subdivision of the state upon real property or personal property, except for taxable years 2026 and 2027 as provided by law for any phased elimination of property or ad valorem taxes. No property in this state would be subject to property taxation after December 31, 2027. The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) would expire and have no effect after December 31, 2027.

"A vote against this proposition would not make any changes to the constitution of the state of Kansas and would continue the current system of property taxation in Kansas."

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November in the year 2026, unless a special election is called at a sooner date by concurrent resolution of the legislature, in which case the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the special election.

REFERENCE OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and concurrent resolution were referred to Committees as indicated:

Agriculture and Natural Resources: **SB 473**.

Assessment and Taxation: **SB 476; HB 2464**.

Education: **SB 477**.

Federal and State Affairs: **SB 483, SB 484; HCR 5022**.

Financial Institutions and Insurance: **SB 472, SB 474**.

Judiciary: **SB 478, SB 479, SB 480, SB 481, SB 482, SB 485, SB 486, SB 487**.

Public Health and Welfare: **SB 475**.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE OFFICERS

Semiquicentennial Annual Report, Kansas Department of Commerce
Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion (APEX) Annual Report, Kansas Department of Commerce

Apprenticeship Annual Report, Kansas Department of Commerce
Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) Annual Report, Kansas Department of Commerce

Job Creation Fund (JCF) Annual Report, Kansas Department of Commerce

Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZ) Annual Report, Kansas Department of Commerce

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Announcing passage of **HB 2515**.

Announcing passage of **SB 254**, as amended.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

HB 2515 was thereupon introduced and read by title.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

State Corporation Commission:

Dwight Keen, Term ends March 15, 2030

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 2.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Bowser, Claeys, Clifford, Corson, Dietrich, Erickson, Fagg, Faust Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Hill, Holscher, Klemp, Kloos, Masterson, Miller, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Rose, Ryckman, Schmidt, Shallenburger, Shane, Starnes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

Absent or Not Voting: Blew, Sykes.

The appointment was confirmed.

FINAL ACTION ON BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

HB 2331, AN ACT concerning the disposition of human remains; creating the crime of aggravated criminal desecration when the offender had the intent to conceal a death or the commission of a crime; authorizing the disposition of the unclaimed remains of deceased persons by district coroners; providing exemptions from liability for actions taken to dispose of such remains; establishing requirements for programs of continuing education for licensed embalmers and funeral directors; authorizing use of the word "crematory" as part of the business name for businesses owned by the same person who owns a licensed crematory; amending K.S.A. 21-6205, 22a-215, 65-1702, 65-1716 and 65-1769 and repealing the existing sections, was considered on final action.

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 2.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Bowser, Claeys, Clifford, Corson, Dietrich, Erickson, Fagg, Faust Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Hill, Holscher, Klemp, Kloos, Masterson, Miller, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Rose, Ryckman, Schmidt, Shallenburger, Shane, Starnes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

Absent or Not Voting: Blew, Sykes.

The bill passed, as amended.

SB 299, AN ACT concerning courts; relating to the supreme court nominating commission; requiring certain records of the commission to be released under the open records act; amending K.S.A. 20-123 and repealing the existing section, was considered on final action.

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 2.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Bowser, Claeys, Clifford, Corson, Dietrich, Erickson, Fagg, Faust Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Hill, Holscher, Klemp, Kloos, Masterson, Miller, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Rose, Ryckman, Schmidt, Shallenburger, Shane, Starnes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

Absent or Not Voting: Blew, Sykes.

The bill passed.

SB 327, AN ACT concerning legislative oversight; relating to the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell joint committee on home and community based services and KanCare oversight; eliminating the requirement that the committee's January and April meetings be held during the regular legislative session; amending K.S.A. 39-7,160 and repealing the existing section, was considered on final action.

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 2.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Bowser, Claeys, Clifford, Corson, Dietrich, Erickson, Fagg, Faust Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Hill, Holscher, Klemp, Kloos, Masterson, Miller, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Rose, Ryckman, Schmidt, Shallenburger, Shane, Starnes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

Absent or Not Voting: Blew, Sykes.

The bill passed, as amended.

SB 348, AN ACT concerning the state corporation commission; relating to the jurisdiction of the commission over electric public utilities; exempting any electric public utility that is a not-for-profit wholly owned subsidiary of an electric cooperative public utility from the jurisdiction of the state corporation commission; establishing certain exceptions; authorizing the customers of such subsidiary utility to petition the commission to investigate the rates of such utility; authorizing the commission to order new rates if the commission finds that such rates are found to be unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential; requiring the customers of such subsidiary utility to receive notice of and be provided access to meetings concerning electric rates; providing an option for the customers of such subsidiary utility to elect to terminate such exemption, was considered on final action.

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 38; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 2.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Bowser, Claeys, Clifford, Corson, Dietrich, Erickson, Fagg, Faust Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Hill, Holscher, Klemp, Kloos, Masterson, Miller, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Rose, Ryckman, Schmidt, Shallenburger, Shane, Starnes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

Absent or Not Voting: Blew, Sykes.

The bill passed, as amended.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Committee on **Government Efficiency** recommends **SB 387** be amended on page 1, in line 8, by striking "Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary" and inserting "For purposes of the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq., and amendments thereto"; in line 9, by striking all after "student"; in line

10, by striking all before "for" and inserting "who is deemed an at-risk student, as defined in K.S.A. 72-5132, and amendments thereto, by such school district meets the requirements to qualify"; in line 11, by striking all after "program"; in line 12, by striking all before "based"; in line 13, by striking "applicant's" and inserting "student's"; also in line 13, by striking all after the period; by striking all in line 14; in line 15, by striking all before the period and inserting "Such evidence may be submitted as part of the national school lunch program application or through another method. If a student does not provide written evidence of such student's household gross earned income, such student shall not be deemed an at-risk student for the purposes of the Kansas school equity and enhancement act. Each such student may submit an application and be eligible for the national school lunch program under federal law. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to be verification under the national school lunch act"; in line 16, after "(b)" by inserting "Subject to appropriations, the state department of education shall provide to each school district state aid for each reduced-price meal served to each student, not to exceed one breakfast and one lunch per student per school day. The state board shall determine the amount of such state aid by subtracting the actual federal reimbursement received for the reduced-price meal by the participating school district for the breakfast and lunch served to the student plus any amount reimbursed for such meal pursuant to K.S.A. 72-17,137, and amendments thereto, from the applicable federal reimbursement rate for a full-priced meal at the school site, as determined annually by the United States department of agriculture.

(c)";

Also on page 1, in line 16, by striking "(c)" and inserting "(d)";

And by redesignating subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses accordingly;

Also on page 1, in the title, in line 3, by striking all after "who"; in line 4, by striking "program" and inserting "is deemed an at-risk student; authorizing the state department of education to reimburse school districts for the cost of reduced-price meals"; and the bill be passed as amended.

Committee on **Transportation** recommends **SB 325** be passed.

Also, **SB 366**, **SB 403** be passed and, because the committee is of the opinion that the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar.

The Committee on **Utilities** recommends **SB 379** be amended on page 3, in line 2, by striking all after "(2)"; by striking all in lines 3 through 11; in line 12, by striking "the preceding month" and inserting "The state 911 board shall determine the amount of moneys considered necessary to carry out the program and provide for the services described in this section and may authorize the chairperson to certify to the director of accounts and reports amounts to be transferred from the state 911 operations fund to the emergency medical dispatch and telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation fund as determined appropriate. The chairperson of the state 911 board or the chairperson's designee shall transmit a copy of any such certification to the director of the budget and the director of legislative research. Upon receipt of any such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer such amount from the state 911 operations fund to the emergency medical dispatch and telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation fund. The chairperson of the state 911 board or the chairperson's designee may certify amounts to be transferred pursuant to this paragraph on an ongoing basis to cover expenditures. In no event shall the total amount of moneys transferred pursuant to this

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paragraph exceed \$300,000"; and the bill be passed as amended.

On motion of Senator Blasi, the Senate adjourned pro forma until 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2026.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks.*

COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

