

# Journal of the Senate

THIRTY-FOURTH DAY

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SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by Vice President Jeff Longbine.  
The roll was called with 39 senators present.  
Senator McGinn was excused.  
Invocation by Reverend Cecil T. Washington:

Heavenly Father, after a brief break, we come again in need of Your direction. And Lord, we want it to be apparent in our attitudes and in our actions, that You are the guiding influence in these halls.

An engraver puts the imprint or the image of a character on a coin and then names it after the one it characterizes.

In Luke 20:24-25, the question was asked, whose face...whose image or icon was on a certain coin...and whose name was on it?

Lord, in the same way, that the coin's image and name reflected who the coin represented, we want the work that we do to represent You.

Let the efforts put forth in these halls bear Your image.

As the Master Engraver, would You etch into our character the Godly qualities of love for You and compassion for our neighbors? Let them be reflected in what we legislate and in what we demonstrate.

Thanks for choosing us. Thanks for loving us enough to use us.

In the dear Name of Jesus, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Longbine.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bill was introduced and read by title:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1612—

By Senators Lynn, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Bowers, Denning, Doll, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Fitzgerald, Givens, Goddard, Haley, Hardy, Hawk, Hensley, Hilderbrand, Holland, Kelly, Kerschen, Masterson, McGinn, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Rogers, Skubal, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, and Wagle

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting and facilitating regionally competitive retail electric rates in the state of Kansas and urging the State Corporation Commission to take all lawful action to promptly set rates for retail electric service in the state of Kansas at regionally competitive levels.

WHEREAS, Rates for retail electric service in Kansas have risen significantly over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Kansas retail electric rates are no longer competitive with rates for electric service in the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Kansas' regionally uncompetitive electric rates are negatively impacting the State's economic competitiveness as a location for industry and commerce; and

WHEREAS, Captive Kansas residents and businesses are economically harmed by the significantly escalating electric rates of monopolistic electric public utilities, which are increasing rates at levels far outpacing the annual rate of inflation: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein:* That it shall be the policy of the state of Kansas to have regionally competitive rates for retail electric service to promote economic growth and support local communities; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we urge the State Corporation Commission to take any and all lawful action to promptly reduce Kansas retail electric rates to regionally competitive levels; and

*Be it further resolved:* That, following any initiative to reduce retail electric rates, we urge the State Corporation Commission to take any and all lawful action to maintain Kansas retail electric rates at regionally competitive levels; and

*Be it further resolved:* That, to the extent the State Corporation Commission determines it does not have sufficient statutory authority to promptly and effectively undertake an initiative to materially reduce retail electric rates, we urge it to report to the Kansas legislature, identifying any new statutory authority that is necessary or that would assist the agency to reduce retail electric rates to regionally competitive levels; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Chairman Shari Feist Albrecht, Commissioner Jay Scott Emler and Commissioner Pat Apple of the State Corporation Commission.

#### **REFERENCE OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

The following bills were referred to Committees as indicated:

Agriculture and Natural Resources: **HB 2477, HB 2478, HB 2583, HB 2619.**

Commerce: **SB 432; HB 2580.**

Ethics, Elections and Local Government: **HB 2509.**

Judiciary: **SB 431; HB 2458, HB 2459, HB 2480, HB 2481, HB 2523, HB 2524, HB 2567, HB 2568, HB 2571, HB 2579, HB 2603, HB 2648.**

Public Health and Welfare: **HB 2472.**

Transportation: **HB 2599.**

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

Announcing adoption of **HCR 5026.**

Announcing passage of **Sub HB 2040; HB 2419, HB 2457, HB 2496, HB 2530, HB 2549, HB 2566, HB 2573, HB 2577, HB 2581, HB 2590; Sub HB 2602; HB 2604, HB 2639, HB 2642, HB 2674, HB 2691, HB 2700, HB 2701.**

**INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

**Sub HB 2040; HB 2419, HB 2457, HB 2496, HB 2530, HB 2549, HB 2566, HB 2573, HB 2577, HB 2581, HB 2590; Sub HB 2602; HB 2604, HB 2639, HB 2642, HB 2674, HB 2691, HB 2700, HB 2701** were thereupon introduced and read by title.

On motion of Senator Denning, the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018.