

# Journal of the Senate

FORTIETH DAY

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SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by President Ty Masterson.

The roll was called with 40 senators present.

The President introduced guest chaplain, Charles McKinzie, Great Plains UMC, Winfield, who delivered the invocation:

Would you join me in an attitude of quiet prayer and reflection: Creator who made all matter, and the one who reminds us that we, too, matter, we give you thanks for the gift of wisdom and pray that you'll lead this body to use it.

Hear our prayers for the citizenry of this State, especially those who need help. For those who seek help but find that it is out of reach, may they find consolation in your healing presence. For all who are blessed with health and security, may they work to fulfill the needs of those who are less secure. For leaders who make decisions that affect the health and well-being of others, may they strive to meet the needs of those on the margins of our society.

O Great Mystery, remind us that you have called across the ages for us to be the helpers, to be the healers. May our generation be the one who makes the table of love longer and wider, not the generation who makes the walls higher and the doors bolted tighter. For you wisdom and guidance we ask, O God. 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 536**, AN ACT concerning taxation; relating to the local ad valorem tax reduction fund; requiring political subdivisions to adopt a budget that remains at or below revenue neutral and use funds to reduce property tax in order to receive fund distributions; amending K.S.A. 79-2960 and 79-2961 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

**SB 537**, AN ACT concerning sales and compensating use tax; relating to city and countywide retailers' sales tax; providing countywide retailers' sales tax authority for Neosho county for purposes of roadway and bridge construction, maintenance and improvement; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 12-187, 12-189 and 12-192 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

**REFERENCE OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

The following bill was referred to Committee as indicated:

Federal and State Affairs: **SB 535**.

**INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

Senator O'Shea introduced the following Senate resolution, which was read:

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1744—

A RESOLUTION designating April 24 as Ad Astra STEM Day to celebrate scientific achievement across the state of Kansas.

WHEREAS, Kansas has a rich history of innovation, both on land and in the air, for growth and development in our state; and

WHEREAS, This legacy of excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics continues today; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is blessed with innovative businesses and industries, quality universities, dedicated educators and curious young minds that nurture the enrichment of knowledge, the economy, our quality of life and global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Kansas have and will continue to have a global impact in STEM development; and

WHEREAS, The state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera," encourages us to celebrate our potential and is personified by astronaut Steve Hawley, who is a Kansas native and served as a mission specialist for the deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope after its launch from the Discovery space shuttle on April 24, 1990; Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we designate April 24 as Ad Astra STEM Day in Kansas to celebrate the scientific achievements and contributions made by Kansans across the state; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Jeanette Steinert, Jodi Spindler, Steve Durst and Senator O'Shea.

On emergency motion of Senator O'Shea **SR 1744** was adopted.

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

Enclosed herewith is Executive Order 24-01 (March 6, 2024)

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE**

Announcing passage of **HB 2648**.

Announcing passage of **SB 195**.

Also, announcing passage of **SB 307**, as amended.

**INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS**

**HB 2648** was thereupon introduced and read by title.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

In accordance with Senate Rule 55, the following appointment submitted to the Senate for confirmation was considered:

Senator Alley moved the following appointment:

*By the Governor*

On the appointment to the:

*State Board of Regents:*

Jonathan Rolph, term ends June 30, 2027

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 31; Nays 3; Present and Passing 6; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Baumgardner, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Corson, Dietrich, Doll, Fagg, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Holland, Holscher, Kloos, Longbine, McGinn, O'Shea, Olson, Petersen, Pettey, Pittman, Pyle, Reddi, Ryckman, Shallenburger, Steffen, Straub, Sykes, Tyson, Ware, Wilborn.

Nays: Kerschen, Peck, Thompson.

Present and Passing: Alley, Claeys, Erickson, Gossage, Masterson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

#### EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Most companies and organizations fail from within. Whether you are operating a restaurant business or a construction business. There are challenges in every business; from managing employees, cash flow, project completion, and customer satisfaction. I commend Jon Rolph for succeeding in an industry in which most fail. Eighty percent of restaurants fail within the first five years. Fifty percent of construction businesses fail within the first five years. Jon Rolph is to be commended for his outstanding skills in not just managing people, but in managing cash flow. I appreciate his contribution to the Kansas Board of Regents, and sharing his skills with our state universities and colleges. I vote "AYE" in support of reconfirming Jon Rolph to the Kansas Board of Regents.—ALICIA STRAUB

Senators Holland, Olson, Pyle, Reddi and Sykes request the record to show they concur with the "Explanation of Vote" offered by Senator Straub on the appointment.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Committee on **Federal and State Affairs** recommends **SCR 1609** be adopted.

On motion of Senator Alley, the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 7, 2024.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks.*

COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

