

Journal of the Senate

NINETEENTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Friday, February 7, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order pro forma by Senator Beverly Gossage.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

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

SB 245, AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; providing that no person shall be sentenced to death for crimes committed after July 1, 2025; creating the crime of aggravated murder; requiring a sentence of imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole therefor; clarifying laws related to sentences of imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole; amending K.S.A. 21-5301, 21-5402, 21-5419, 21-6614, 21-6618, 21-6620, 21-6622, 21-6628, 21-6629, 21-6806, 22-2512, 22-4902, 22-4906, 23-3222, 38-2271, 38-2303, 38-2312, 38-2365, 72-2165 and 75-52,148 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 21-6328, 22-3717, 38-2255, 39-970, 39-2009 and 65-5117 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 21-5401, 21-6617 and 21-6619; also repealing K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 39-2009a, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 246, AN ACT concerning criminal history record information; relating to state and national criminal history record checks; requiring the state board of education to conduct state and national criminal history record checks on all school employees; creating the criminal history record check reimbursement fund for certain state and criminal history record checks conducted by the Kansas department for aging and disability services; amending K.S.A. 72-2165 and 72-4223 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 22-4714 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 247, AN ACT concerning the scrap metal theft reduction act; relating to vehicle dealers; eliminating the exemption for vehicle dealers from certain requirements of the act; amending K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 50-6,110 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 248, AN ACT concerning criminal history record information; providing criminal history record information for hemp producers to the state fire marshal; authorizing the attorney general and the state gaming agency to receive more criminal history records; updating criminal history record language related to the state bank commissioner; amending K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 2-3906, 9-555, 9-565, 9-2411, 22-4714 and 75-7b01 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 249, AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to the department of health and environment; establishing the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) advisory task force to prevent FASD and provide for treatment and support for affected individuals and their families; requiring the submission of annual reports to the

legislature, by Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

SB 250, AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to treatments for life-threatening illnesses; enacting the right to try for individualized treatments act to permit certain manufacturers to make individualized investigative treatments available to eligible requesting patients, by Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

SB 251, AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to the department of health and environment; requiring the department to submit an annual report to the legislature concerning the newborn screening program; specifying the contents of the report, by Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

SB 252, AN ACT concerning education; relating to the low income students scholarship program act; expanding eligibility for scholarships to certain high school students and students eligible to be enrolled in certain school districts; increasing the tax credit for contributions made pursuant to such act and the aggregate tax credit limit; providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions; providing for program administration by the state treasurer; amending K.S.A. 72-4351, 72-4353, 72-4355 and 72-4356 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-4352, 72-4354 and 72-4357 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

SB 253, AN ACT concerning health professions and practices; enacting the massage therapist licensure act; providing for regulation and licensing of massage therapists; powers, duties and functions of the state board of healing arts; amending K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 22-4714 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1611—

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

A PROPOSITION to amend sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas; relating to the supreme court; providing for direct election of justices; abolishing the supreme court nominating commission; permitting justices to make contributions to and hold office in a political party or organization and take part in political campaigns.

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: Sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas are hereby amended to read as follows:

"§ 5. Selection of justices of the supreme court. *The citizens of Kansas who are qualified electors shall have the right to elect the justices of the supreme court. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Justice positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be elected at the general election in November of 2028, justice positions 4 and 5 in November of 2030 and justice positions 6 and 7 in November of 2032, and every six years thereafter, respectively. Any vacancy occurring on the supreme court for an unexpired term shall be filled at the next even-year election for the remainder of such term. (a) Any vacancy occurring in the office of any justice of the supreme court and any*

~~position to be open thereon as a result of enlargement of the court, or the retirement or failure of an incumbent to file his declaration of candidacy to succeed himself as hereinafter required, or failure of a justice to be elected to succeed himself, shall be filled by appointment by the governor of one of three persons possessing the qualifications of office who shall be nominated and whose names shall be submitted to the governor by the supreme court nominating commission established as hereinafter provided.~~

~~(b) In event of the failure of the governor to make the appointment within sixty days from the time the names of the nominees are submitted to him; the chief justice of the supreme court shall make the appointment from such nominees:~~

~~(c) Each justice of the supreme court appointed pursuant to provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall hold office for an initial term ending on the second Monday in January following the first general election that occurs after the expiration of twelve months in office. Not less than sixty days prior to the holding of the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office, any justice of the supreme court may file in the office of the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy for election to succeed himself. If a declaration is not so filed, the position held by such justice shall be open from the expiration of his term of office. If such declaration is filed, his name shall be submitted at the next general election to the electors of the state on a separate judicial ballot, without party designation, reading substantially as follows:~~

~~"Shall —~~

~~(Here insert name of justice.)~~

~~(Here insert the title of the court.)~~

~~be retained in office?"~~

~~If a majority of those voting on the question vote against retaining him in office, the position or office which he holds shall be open upon the expiration of his term of office; otherwise he shall, unless removed for cause, remain in office for the regular term of six years from the second Monday in January following such election. At the expiration of each term he shall, unless by law he is compelled to retire, be eligible for retention in office by election in the manner prescribed in this section.~~

~~(d) A nonpartisan nominating commission whose duty it shall be to nominate and submit to the governor the names of persons for appointment to fill vacancies in the office of any justice of the supreme court is hereby established, and shall be known as the "supreme court nominating commission." Said commission shall be organized as hereinafter provided.~~

~~(e) The supreme court nominating commission shall be composed as follows: One member, who shall be chairman, chosen from among their number by the members of the bar who are residents of and licensed in Kansas; one member from each congressional district chosen from among their number by the resident members of the bar in each such district; and one member, who is not a lawyer, from each congressional district,~~

appointed by the governor from among the residents of each such district.

~~(f) The terms of office, the procedure for selection and certification of the members of the commission and provision for their compensation or expenses shall be as provided by the legislature.~~

~~(g) No member of the supreme court nominating commission shall, while he is a member, hold any other public office by appointment or any official position in a political party or for six months thereafter be eligible for nomination for the office of justice of the supreme court. The commission may act only by the concurrence of a majority of its members."~~

"§ 8. Prohibition of political activity by justices and certain judges.

~~No justice of the supreme court who is appointed or retained under the procedure of section 5 of this article, nor any judge of the district court holding office under a nonpartisan method authorized in subsection (a) of section 6 of this article; shall directly or indirectly make any contribution to or hold any office in a political party or organization or take part in any political campaign."~~

"§ 15. Removal of justices and judges. Justices of the supreme court may be removed from office by impeachment and conviction as prescribed in article 2 of this constitution. In addition to removal by impeachment and conviction, justices may be retired after appropriate hearing, upon certification to the governor, by the supreme court ~~nominating commission~~ that such justice is so incapacitated as to be unable to perform adequately his duties. Other judges shall be subject to retirement for incapacity, and to discipline, suspension and removal for cause by the supreme court after appropriate hearing."

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

"Explanatory statement. This amendment gives the voters the right to elect the justices of the Kansas supreme court. The justices shall serve terms of six years, with the elections of justice positions 1, 2 and 3 to occur in 2028, positions 4 and 5 to occur in 2030 and positions 6 and 7 to occur in 2032, and every six years thereafter. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Any vacancy on the court for an unexpired term shall be filled at the next even-year election for the remainder of that term.

"A vote for this proposition would give Kansas citizens the right to elect Kansas supreme court justices as provided by law. Justices will hold office for terms of six years. The Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, would be abolished.

"A vote against this proposition would continue the current system in which the Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, provides the governor a list of three individuals to choose from for vacancies on the Kansas supreme court. Justices hold office for a term of six years and retain their offices if they win a retention election in which they do not face an opponent.

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 235**.

Assessment and Taxation: **SB 223, SB 224, SB 225, SB 226**.

Commerce: **SB 227, SB 229**.

Federal and State Affairs: **SB 231, SB 234; HB 2020; HCR 5004**.

Financial Institutions and Insurance: **SB 232, SB 238**.

Judiciary: **SB 237, SB 239, SB 240, SB 241, SB 242, SB 243, SB 244**.

Public Health and Welfare: **SB 236**.

Transportation: **SB 230**.

Utilities: **SB 233**.

Ways and Means: **SB 228**.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Announcing passage of **HB 2044, HB 2045, HB 2049, HB 2050**.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

HB 2044, HB 2045, HB 2049, HB 2050 were thereupon introduced and read by title.

TRIBUTES

The Committee on **Organization, Calendar, and Rules** authorizes the following tributes for the week of February 3 through February 7, 2025:

Senator Bowser: congratulating Dr. Renee Nugent on being named the 2025 Kansas Superintendent of the Year, congratulating KSi on being named the 2024 Kansas Exporter of the Year, celebrating Lavona Spunaugle's 100th Birthday;

Senator Schmidt: celebrating Ellen Schmidt's 75th Birthday; and

Senator Sykes: congratulating William Bailey on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Joshua Braun on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Quinton Brungardt on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Jackson Cantu on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Michael Denk on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Andrew Mitchell on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Jonah Myers on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Grant Robert Smallwood on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; congratulating Philip Benedict Whiteside on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

On motion of Senator Tyson, the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Monday, February 10, 2025.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks.*
COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

