Journal of the Senate

SIXTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by President Ty Masterson.
The roll was called with 38 senators present.
Senators Shane and Thompson were excused.
Invocation by Doug Henkle:

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the opportunity to come before Your throne in prayer this afternoon. Thank You that we can experience realistic, down-to-earth communication with the living Lord, resulting in a relief of personal anxiety and a calm assurance that You, God, are in full control of our circumstances.

I praise and thank You for this body You have brought together in this new year of 2026. Thank You for each senator here, each one brought to this chamber not by accident, chance or luck, but by Your divine appointment to accomplish Your perfect will for the benefit of the citizens of Kansas.

Thank You, Father, for each person in this building, working here in many necessary ways to protect, support and facilitate all that will be accomplished in this session.

I pray for President Masterson, Vice President Shallenburger, Majority Leader Blasi and Minority Leader Sykes as well as each member of this body. Bless them with Your wisdom and Your grace and peace. I pray for unity and friendly relations within this body as the issues of the day are debated and resolved, and that each would expect the best from one another.

I pray for our Governor, Father, that You would give her Godly wisdom and that she would follow your direction as she leads the executive branch of our state's government.

Grant each leader in our state and communities Your wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Give them Godly counsel and God-fearing advisors. Place in their hearts a desire for humility and a willingness to be servant leaders for the benefit of those who elected them.

In Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Masterson.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Senator Faust Goudeau rose on a Point of Personal Privilege and submitted the following remarks: I would like to recognize AARP Lobby Day and introduce guests, Glenda DuBoise - AARPKS, Megan Lynn - ASD Advocacy, Edith Gaines - AARP Staff, Kimberley Brown - AARP Volunteer, Rose Cooper – AARP Volunteer and Chris Cooper – AARP Volunteer.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

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

SB 342, AN ACT concerning education; relating to school finance; extending the expiration date of the Kansas school equity and enhancement act from 2027 to 2028; amending K.S.A. 72-5176 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Education.

SB 343, AN ACT concerning education; relating to postsecondary education outcome programs; requiring the state board of regents to adopt rules and regulations prohibiting state moneys from being allocated or expended for certain low-earning outcome programs and submit an annual report to the legislature; prohibiting political subdivisions from allocating or expending public moneys for low-earning outcome programs, by Committee on Education.

SB 344, AN ACT concerning animals; relating to the pet animal act; authorizing animal shelters to move certain animals needing treatment or care to a foster home; requiring shelters to display photographs of animals at a location other than the shelter during a holding period; amending K.S.A. 47-1710 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SB 345, AN ACT concerning jurors; relating to exclusions from jury service; removing breastfeeding mothers from the mandatory exclusion list and including them on the discretionary exclusion list; amending K.S.A. 43-158 and 43-159 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 346, AN ACT concerning civil actions and civil procedure; relating to abusive litigation; prohibiting plaintiffs from filing abusive civil actions against certain defendants with whom the plaintiff has a current or former family, household or dating relationship primarily to harass or maliciously injure such defendant; authorizing courts to impose prefiling restrictions on such plaintiffs, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 347, AN ACT concerning elections; relating to election commissioners; terminating the secretary of state's authority to appoint election commissioners; transferring the jurisdiction, powers and duties for conducting elections in counties with an election commissioner to the county clerk for such county; amending K.S.A. 19-3419 and repealing the existing section, by Senator Holscher.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **No. SCR 1618—**

By Senator Holscher

A PROPOSITION to amend article 10 of the constitution of the state of Kansas to establish requirements for reapportioning congressional, state senatorial, state representative and board of education districts; prohibiting reapportionment thereof except when required by the constitution of the state of Kansas or when ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

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: Article 10 of the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

"**§ 4. Reapportionment requirements.** When the legislature enacts

a bill to reapportion United States congressional districts, state senatorial or representative districts or state board of education districts, such legislation shall comply with the following:

(a) The basis for the reapportionment shall be the most recent official United States decennial census, and all voting districts, tracts, block groups and blocks referred to in such reapportionment shall mean the voting district, tract, block group or block identified on the most recent official United States decennial census;

(b) all state senatorial, representative and board of education districts shall be numerically as equal in population as practicable within the limitations of census geography and taking into account all other conditions set forth in this section. Deviations shall not exceed plus or minus 5% of the ideal population for each district, and all congressional districts shall be numerically as equal in population as possible;

(c) reapportionment shall not have the purpose or effect of diluting minority voting strength; and

(d) subject to subsection (b) and taking into account all other conditions set forth in this section:

(1) Districts shall be contiguous and as compact as possible;

(2) the core of existing districts and the integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions shall be preserved to the extent possible;

(3) communities of interest, including social, cultural, racial, ethnic and economic interests common to the population of an area that are probable subjects of legislation, shall be considered. While some communities of interest may be more readily accommodated than others, the legislature shall attempt to accommodate communities of interest articulated by the residents of such area;

(4) districts shall be drawn to avoid contests between incumbents to the extent possible; and

(5) districts shall be easily identifiable and understandable to voters.

§ 5. Restrictions on when reapportionment may occur. No legislation reapportioning United States congressional districts, state senatorial or representative districts or state board of education districts shall be enacted by the legislature except during the regular session or any special session commencing in a year prescribed by section 1 of this article or when ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction."

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

"*Explanatory statement.* This amendment would add two new sections to article 10 of the constitution of the state of Kansas. The first new section would establish requirements for drawing district boundaries when the legislature reapportions United States congressional districts, state senate or representative districts or state board of education districts. The second section would prohibit the legislature from redrawing district boundaries except when required by the constitution

of the state of Kansas or by court order.

"A vote for this proposition would add two new sections to article 10 of the constitution of the state of Kansas. The first new section would establish requirements for drawing district boundaries when the legislature reapportions United States congressional districts, state senate or representative districts or state board of education districts. The second section would prohibit the legislature from redrawing district boundaries except when required by the constitution of the state of Kansas or by court order.

"A vote against this proposition would make no changes to the constitution of the state of Kansas with respect to requirements or limits on reapportionment legislation."

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.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following appointments made by the Governor and submitted to the Senate for confirmation were introduced and the appointment letters read:

Dwight Keen, Commissioner, Kansas Corporation Commission (submitted: January 12, 2026)

Christi Smith, Director, Kansas Office of Early Childhood (submitted: January 12, 2026)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE OFFICERS

Performance Accountability Report, Kansas Department of Education

2026 Inaugural Annual Report, Kansas Office of Early Childhood (KOEC)

On motion of Senator Blasi, the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks.*

COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

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