Journal of the Senate

SEVENTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by President Ty Masterson.
The roll was called with 40 senators present.
Invocation by guest chaplain Doug Henkle:

Heavenly Father, Thank You for bringing us together here this afternoon. Remind us we have come together here, in this 2026 legislative session, in this chamber, to serve the people of Kansas who elected us. I lift up President Masterson, Vice President Shallenburger, Majority Leader Blasi and Minority Leader Sykes to You. Give them Your direction as they lead this chamber,

I pray that You would grant wisdom, understanding, discernment, and knowledge to each member of this body, Grant them favor, increase their faith, and equip them to pursue Your excellence. Draw them to You and cause them to know and fulfill Your purposes, Thank You that You can be our standard, that You can be the mark toward which we strive.

I pray for Your peace in this chamber and in this building. Keep us from quarrels and angry disputes, injuring otherwise friendly relations. Cause us to think before we speak. May we not think more of ourselves than we ought. At the end of the day, cause us to reflect not on what we gained or lost personally, but by what we accomplished for the people of Kansas in this legislative body called the Kansas Senate. In Jesus' name, Amen!

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Masterson.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Senator Titus rose on a Point of Personal Privilege and submitted the following remarks: I rise today on a point of personal privilege to recognize several outstanding individuals from my district and to acknowledge the many aging services providers who are here at the Capitol today as part of the Joint Aging Services Day. I am proud to recognize eight individuals from my district who serve Kansans through their work at Good Samaritan Society Valley Vista, Grace Team, Heritage Health and Rehabilitation Center, Joan Hudson Consulting, Recover-Care Heartland, St. Mary's Manor, and Topeka Presbyterian Manor. These individuals represent a wide range of roles, but they share a common commitment to caring for older Kansans with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. I would also like to recognize the many other provider organizations and advocates in attendance today, and to thank LeadingAge Kansas, the Kansas Healthcare Association, and the Kansas Adult Care Executives for jointly hosting Aging

Services Day and bringing these voices to the Statehouse. In fully one-third of Kansas counties, people over the age of 65 now make up the largest population group, and that number will only continue to grow as Kansans live longer lives. The work done by aging services providers is not just important, it is essential to the health, stability, and economic vitality of our communities. Today, we pause to recognize these individuals and their coworkers for the meaningful work they do, not only during Aging Services Day, but every single day, caring for Kansas seniors and supporting families across our state. Please join me in thanking them for their service and welcoming them to the Kansas Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills were introduced and read by title:

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, by Committee on Utilities.

SB 349, AN ACT concerning education; relating to the Kansas state high school activities association and the system for classification of high schools; requiring the association to use a multiplier factor to adjust a private school's student attendance for purposes of classification of such school for activities; amending K.S.A. 72-7114 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Education.

SB 350, AN ACT concerning education; relating to school districts; enacting the age-appropriate school device act; establishing limitations upon the use of digital devices in certain grade levels; establishing safety standards for such devices; authorizing parents to opt students out of the use of such devices in certain grade levels; establishing certain exceptions, by Committee on Education.

SB 351, AN ACT concerning correctional facilities and jails; relating to telephone calls made by inmates and prisoners; requiring correctional facilities and jails to allow inmates and prisoners to make telephone calls at no cost; amending K.S.A. 12-4213, 19-1919 and 75-5210 and repealing the existing sections, by Senator Shallenburger.

SB 352, AN ACT concerning unclaimed property; relating to digital assets; creating the bitcoin and digital assets reserve fund; providing definitions, procedures and requirements for abandoned digital assets; amending K.S.A. 58-3934, 58-3935, 58-3952 and 58-3955 and repealing the existing sections, by Senator Bowser.

SB 353, AN ACT designating the official Kansas railroad hall of fame for the purpose of celebrating the rich railroad heritage of Kansas and the Kansans who were and are leaders in such industry; setting the location of such hall of fame at the great plains transportation museum in Wichita; establishing the Kansas railroad hall of fame selection committee; prescribing powers and duties of the committee, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 354, AN ACT concerning fire and fire protection; relating to the Kansas fire service training commission; modifying member appointment, compensation and meeting requirements of such commission; amending K.S.A. 76-327a and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 355, AN ACT concerning cigarettes, electronic cigarettes and tobacco products; regulating the manufacture, wholesale and distribution of electronic cigarettes; requiring all wholesales of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco to be transacted between licensees under the Kansas cigarette and tobacco product act; requiring the licensure of electronic cigarette manufacturers; amending K.S.A. 79-3301, 79-3302, 79-3333, 79-3334 and 79-3373 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 356, AN ACT concerning firearms; relating to civil liability; providing for immunity from civil liability to federal firearms licensees for returning a firearm to the firearm owner at the termination of a firearm hold agreement, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 357, AN ACT concerning the passenger rail service program; establishing the intercity passenger rail service program; making transfers annually to the passenger rail service revolving fund; amending K.S.A. 75-5089 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Transportation.

SB 358, AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to release of persons after conviction; requiring persons convicted of certain felonies to be held without bond in the county jail until sentencing; amending K.S.A. 22-2804 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Judiciary.

SB 359, AN ACT concerning retirement and pensions; relating to the retirement system for judges; increasing the mandatory retirement age for certain judges; requiring more years of service prior to receiving a member contribution reduction; increasing the maximum retirement benefit; amending K.S.A. 20-2603, 20-2608 and 20-2610 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Judiciary.

REFERENCE OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

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

Agriculture and Natural Resources: **SB 344**.
Education: **SB 342, SB 343**.
Federal and State Affairs: **SB 347; SCR 1618**.
Judiciary: **SB 345, SB 346**.

President Masterson referred **SB 348** to the Committee on **Utilities**.

REFERENCE OF APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were referred to Committees as indicated:

Public Health and Welfare: **Christi Smith**, Office of Early Childhood
Utilities: **Dwight Keen**, State Corporation Commission

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

By the Governor
On the appointment to the:
State Board of Regents:

Pamela Ammar, Term ends June 30, 2027

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

State Banking Board:

Mary Berry, Term ends March 15, 2027

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Development Finance Authority:

Kimberley Brown, Term ends January 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas National Guard:

Kent Crane, At the pleasure of the governor

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

State Board of Regents:

Matthew Crocker, Term ends June 30, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Employment Security Board of Review:

Connor Cross, Term ends March 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

State Civil Service Board:

Sheryl Gilchrist, Term ends March 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission:

Natalie Haag, Term ends January 15, 2028

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor
On the appointment to the:
University of Kansas Hospital Authority:
Dave Harrison, Term ends March 15, 2028
On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.
Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.
The appointment was confirmed.
By the Governor
On the appointment to the:
Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board:
Stuart Hite, Term ends March 15, 2030
On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.
Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.
The appointment was confirmed.
By the Governor
On the appointment to the:
Kansas Development Finance Authority:
Moniqueka Holloway, Term ends January 15, 2029
On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.
Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.
The appointment was confirmed.
By the Governor
On the appointment to the:
Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission:
Brandon Jones, Term ends January 15, 2029
On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.
Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Secretary of Revenue

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Property Valuation Division:

Robert Kent, At the pleasure of the governor

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

University of Kansas Hospital Authority:

Gordon Lansford III, Term ends January 15, 2027

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Public Employee Relations Board:

Jennifer McCausland, Term ends March 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Development Finance Authority:

Suchitra Padmanabhan, Term ends January 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson,

Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Human Rights Commission:

Alicia Sanchez, Term ends January 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Public Employee Relations Board:

Bradley Sollars, Term ends March 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Board of Regents:

Kathy Wolfe-Moore, Term ends June 30, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Public Employees Retirement Board of Trustees:

Joanne Yun, Term ends January 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

By the Governor

On the appointment to the:

Kansas Public Employees Retirement Board of Trustees:

James Zakoura, Term ends January 15, 2029

On roll call, the vote was: Yeas 40; Nays 0; Present and Passing 0; Absent or Not Voting 0.

Yeas: Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Clifford, Claeys, 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, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Warren.

The appointment was confirmed.

On motion of Senator Blasi, the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, January 22, 2026.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks.*

COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

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