

SENATE BILL No. 105

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

1-29

1 AN ACT concerning the offices of United States senator, state treasurer
2 and the commissioner of insurance; relating to the filling of vacancies
3 in such offices; requiring the appointment of a person of the same
4 political party as the incumbent; requiring the legislature to nominate
5 three persons for consideration for such appointment and that the
6 governor appoint one of the nominated persons; establishing the joint
7 committee on vacancy appointments; amending K.S.A. 25-101b and
8 40-106 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 25-
9 318.

10
11 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

12 New Section 1. (a) Upon a vacancy occurring in the office of United
13 States senator from this state, the governor shall make a temporary
14 appointment to fill such vacancy until a successor is elected and qualified.
15 Such temporary appointment shall be made in accordance with the
16 provisions of sections 2 through 4, and amendments thereto. Within ~~two~~
17 **three** calendar days after receiving a concurrent resolution adopted
18 pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto, or a report submitted
19 pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto, the governor shall appoint
20 one of the three persons recommended as candidates in such concurrent
21 resolution or report to temporarily fill such vacancy. ***Except as otherwise***
22 ***provided***, at the time of the next election of representatives in congress
23 immediately following such vacancy, such vacancy shall be filled by
24 election and the senator so elected shall take office upon receiving such
25 senator's certificate of election. ***If the vacancy occurs on or after May 1***
26 ***in an even-numbered year, then such vacancy shall be filled by election***
27 ***at the election of representatives in congress held two years following***
28 ***the year in which such vacancy occurs.***

29 (b) No person shall be appointed pursuant to this act unless such
30 person is a resident of this state and shall have been registered with the
31 same political party for the immediately preceding six years as that of the
32 United States senator elected at the immediately preceding election for
33 such office. If the United States senator elected at the immediately
34 preceding election for such office was not registered with any political
35 party, then any suitable person who is a resident of this state may be
36 appointed pursuant to sections 2 through 4, and amendments thereto.

1 (c) *No person appointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall take office*
2 *unless such appointment is certified by the secretary of state to the*
3 *United States senate. The secretary shall not certify any person as being*
4 *appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of United States senator unless*
5 *such person is appointed in accordance with this section.*

6 New Sec. 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided, within 10 calendar
7 days of a vacancy occurring in the office of United States senator, the
8 office of state treasurer or the office of the commissioner of insurance, the
9 joint committee on vacancy appointments shall be established by
10 appointment of the members of the joint committee. ~~Each of this state's~~
11 ~~congressional districts shall be represented by at least two members of the~~
12 ~~joint committee who shall be residents thereof.~~ The joint committee shall
13 consist of 12 members as follows:

14 (1) The president of the senate, or a member of the senate designated
15 by the president;

16 (2) one member of the senate appointed by the president;

17 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives, or a member of the
18 house of representatives designated by the speaker;

19 (4) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
20 speaker;

21 (5) two members of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the
22 senate;

23 (6) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
24 majority leader of the house of representatives;

25 (7) one member of the senate appointed by the vice president of the
26 senate;

27 (8) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
28 speaker pro tem of the house of representatives;

29 (9) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the
30 senate; and

31 (10) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
32 minority leader of the house of representatives.

33 (b) *Of the members named or appointed under subsections (a)(1),*
34 *(a)(2), (a)(5) and (a)(7), each of this state's congressional districts shall*
35 *be represented by at least one such member who shall be a resident*
36 *thereof. Of the members named or appointed under subsections (a)(3),*
37 *(a)(4), (a)(6) and (a)(8), each of this state's congressional districts shall*
38 *be represented by at least one such member who shall be a resident*
39 *thereof.*

40 (c) The joint committee on vacancy appointments shall not be
41 established when a vacancy occurs less than 90 calendar days prior to
42 December 31 in any year in which a general election for such office is
43 held, unless the person vacating such office was elected to such office at

1 such general election and was an incumbent in such election.

2 ~~(e)~~(d) The president of the senate, or the president's designee, shall be
3 the chairperson of the joint committee and the speaker of the house of
4 representatives, or the speaker's designee, shall be the vice chairperson.
5 The vice chairperson shall exercise all the powers of the chairperson in the
6 absence of the chairperson.

7 ~~(d)~~(e) The joint committee on vacancy appointments shall meet at any
8 time and at any place within the state on call of the chairperson. Members
9 of the joint committee shall receive compensation and travel expenses and
10 subsistence expenses or allowances as provided in K.S.A. 75-3212, and
11 amendments thereto, when attending meetings of such committee.

12 ~~(e)~~(f) The first meeting of the joint committee shall be held within 30
13 calendar days of a vacancy occurring in the office of United States
14 senator, the office of state treasurer or the office of the commissioner of
15 insurance.

16 New Sec. 3. (a) The joint committee on vacancy appointments shall
17 review candidates to fill the vacancy described in section 2, and
18 amendments thereto. Such review shall include verifying that such
19 candidate satisfies federal and state requirements to hold such office and to
20 be appointed to fill a vacancy in such office. The joint committee shall
21 conduct one or more public hearings and shall grant each candidate an
22 opportunity to be heard before the joint committee.

23 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), at the conclusion of its
24 public hearings, the joint committee shall introduce a concurrent resolution
25 in each house recommending three persons as candidates to fill the
26 vacancy. ***No member of the joint committee shall be recommended as a***
27 ***candidate to fill the vacancy.***

28 (c) If the joint committee concludes its public hearings while the
29 legislature is not in regular or special session, then the joint committee
30 shall submit a report to the governor recommending three persons as
31 candidates to fill the vacancy.

32 New Sec. 4. (a) Each house shall consider any concurrent resolution
33 that is introduced pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto, within 10
34 days and shall either adopt such resolution or direct the joint committee to
35 reconvene to reconsider candidates to fill the vacancy.

36 (b) When directed to do so by the legislature, the joint committee
37 shall reconvene and act in accordance with section 3, and amendments
38 thereto. When introducing any second or subsequent resolution, the joint
39 committee may recommend one or more of the candidates who were
40 recommended in any prior resolution.

41 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-101b is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
42 101b. (a) At the general election held in 1978 and each four-~~(4)~~ years
43 thereafter, there shall be elected a treasurer for the state of Kansas, whose

1 term of office shall be four-~~(4)~~ years beginning on the second Monday in
2 January next succeeding such treasurer's election. In case of a vacancy in
3 such office, ~~within two~~ *three* calendar days after receiving a concurrent
4 resolution adopted pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto, or a
5 report submitted pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto, the
6 governor shall appoint ~~some suitable person~~ one of the three persons
7 recommended as candidates in such concurrent resolution or report to
8 serve for the unexpired term and until a successor is elected and qualified.
9 No person shall be appointed pursuant to this section unless such person
10 is a resident of this state and shall have been registered with the same
11 political party for the immediately preceding six years as that of the state
12 treasurer elected at the immediately preceding election for such office. If
13 the state treasurer elected at the immediately preceding election for such
14 office was not registered with any political party, then any suitable person
15 who is a resident of this state may be appointed pursuant to sections 2
16 through 4, and amendments thereto.

17 **(b) No person appointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall take office**
18 **unless such appointment is certified by the secretary of state. The**
19 **secretary shall not certify any person as being appointed to fill a vacancy**
20 **in the office of treasurer for the state of Kansas unless such person is**
21 **appointed in accordance with this section.**

22 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 40-106 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-106.

23 **(a)** At the general election held in 1978 and each four-~~(4)~~ years thereafter,
24 there shall be elected a commissioner of insurance for the state of Kansas,
25 whose term of office shall be four-~~(4)~~ years beginning on the second
26 Monday in January next succeeding such commissioner's election. In case
27 of a vacancy in such office, ~~within two~~ *three* calendar days after receiving
28 a concurrent resolution adopted pursuant to section 4, and amendments
29 thereto, or a report submitted pursuant to section 3, and amendments
30 thereto, the governor shall appoint ~~some suitable person~~ one of the three
31 persons recommended as candidates in such concurrent resolution or
32 report to serve for the unexpired term and until a successor is elected and
33 qualified. No person shall be appointed pursuant to this section unless
34 such person is a resident of this state and shall have been registered with
35 the same political party for the immediately preceding six years as that of
36 the commissioner of insurance elected at the immediately preceding
37 election for such office. If the commissioner of insurance elected at the
38 immediately preceding election for such office was not registered with any
39 political party, then any suitable person who is a resident of this state may
40 be appointed pursuant to sections 2 through 4, and amendments thereto.

41 **(b) No person appointed pursuant to subsection (a) shall take office**
42 **unless such appointment is certified by the secretary of state. The**
43 **secretary shall not certify any person as being appointed to fill a vacancy**

1 *in the office of commissioner of insurance for the state of Kansas unless*
2 *such person is appointed in accordance with this section.*

3 *New Sec. 7. The provisions of sections 1 through 4, and*
4 *amendments thereto, and K.S.A. 25-101b and 40-106, as amended by*
5 *this act, are severable. If any portion of such provisions is declared*
6 *unconstitutional or invalid, or the application of any portion of such*
7 *provisions to any person or circumstance is held unconstitutional or*
8 *invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other portions of such provisions*
9 *that can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, and*
10 *the applicability of such other portions of such provisions to any person*
11 *or circumstance shall remain valid and enforceable.*

12 ~~Sec.-7.~~ 8. K.S.A. 25-101b, 25-318 and 40-106 are hereby repealed.

13 ~~Sec.-8.~~ 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
14 publication in the Kansas register.