

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

AN ACT concerning the office of United States senator; providing for the filling of a vacancy in such office; requiring temporary appointment by the governor from a slate of three candidates selected by the state party committee of the same political party as the incumbent; amending K.S.A. 25-318 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-318 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-318. When a vacancy shall occur in the office of United States senator from this state, the governor shall immediately notify in writing the chairperson of the state party committee of the same political party as that of the United States senator elected at the immediately preceding election for such office. Such chairperson shall call a meeting of such state party committee to be held not more than 15 days after receipt of notice of such vacancy. At the meeting, such state party committee shall select three individuals qualified to fill such vacancy and shall transmit the names of such individuals to the governor. Within five days of receiving the three names, the governor shall make a temporary appointment of one of the three names to fill such vacancy until the next election of representatives in congress, at which time such vacancy shall be filled by election, and the senator so elected shall take office as soon thereafter as ~~he~~ such senator shall receive ~~his~~ a certificate of election to such office. If the United States senator elected at the immediately preceding election for such office was not registered with any political party at the time of such election, the governor shall notify in writing the chairpersons of each state party committee of each political party recognized in accordance with K.S.A. 25-302a. and amendments thereto. Each such chairperson shall call a meeting of such state party committee, and not more than 15 days after receipt of notice of such vacancy, each state party committee shall transmit the name of one individual qualified to fill such vacancy to the governor. The governor shall also cause to

be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the state a notice of such vacancy. Persons qualified to fill such vacancy who are not registered with any political party recognized in accordance with K.S.A. 25-302a, and amendments thereto, may, not more than 15 days after publication of such vacancy, submit a petition signed by 100 registered voters seeking consideration for appointment to fill such vacancy. Within five days after receiving the names of persons qualified to fill such vacancy, the governor shall make a temporary appointment to fill such vacancy from the names transmitted or those individuals petitioning for consideration for appointment.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-318 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.