

Journal of the Senate

FOURTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

The Senate was called to order by Vice President Rick Wilborn.
The roll was called with 38 senators present.
Senators Doll and Steffen were excused
Invocation by Reverend Cecil T. Washington:

Our Only True Source
Exodus 20:1-3,5; Exodus 34:14

Heavenly Father, before I ask You to bless us, I have to acknowledge Your holiness. You desire that we come to You in humility. And too often, in our humanity, we don't acknowledge Your Divinity.

Yet there are times, when we have to acknowledge that You are our God, with a capital G. And none of the little small g gods are worthy of the honor, loyalty and devotion due to You. You are our only true source for purpose, hope and optimism.

Your Ten Commandments in Exodus, chapter 20, begin in verses 1-3, with the requirement to honor You in the vertical before honoring anything or anybody else. Lord, You make it clear in vs 5, and in Exodus 34:14, that You are jealous of us and in Your jealousy You don't want anything or anybody to come before You or to displace You in our affections.

So, with renewed acknowledgment of our dependance on You, I'm asking You Lord to bless us, all of us. Since You are the real source of purpose and meaning in life, give us Your wisdom-to know Your will; Your guidance-in how to achieve it and Your empowerment for strength to accomplish it. Then in closing this prayer, Lord, I humbly ask that everyone under the sound of my voice receive a special touch of Your loving grace and mercy. I ask this in the precious Name of Jesus, Amen!

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Wilborn.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Senator Haley rose on a Point of Personal Privilege to deliver the following remarks on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday: Various value and core beliefs define us; each of us as a person...and, assumedly, much in what we are, whom we have become and perhaps known to be, as leaders in our communities and in general society. You know what I mean. Everyone knows someone that when you first see them or pick up the phone and hear their voice, you already pretty much know what they are going to profess because you've heard it, or seen it, from them all so much before. Well for those

of you who may have heard this annual Legislative exhortation from me (especially the now Senator from Baxter Springs who, as then House Speaker, allowed my very first Personal Privilege on the topic THIRTY Sessions ago having no idea what was going to come out of my mouth), I hasten to underscore the obvious yet, slow a bit to plead a freshness in the intent and it's necessity. See this year, 2024, an election year, will be the last time some of us will sit in these hallowed seats and reflect on the long holiday weekend ahead. As I've noted before, so often in our country the true meaning of a holiday is lost; the Spirit of a celebration succumbs to being just another day "off" from work or school or other daily routine. As an acolyte of the struggles for inclusion based on content of character and not color of skin, it's my continuing plea to each of you, my Honorable colleagues, to be ambassadors for a few days at least to this idyllic, uniquely American (our multi-ethnicity; multi-faith, etc. "melting pot" or at LEAST "stir fry" of a country) Holiday. You knew when you saw me stand that your colleague David Haley was going to seek your favor to share my (and my father, former Senator George Haley's) Morehouse College brother's life's message, known now as the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday celebrated on or around his January 15th birthday, to focus on what Dr. King said "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. And every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle. It calls for the tireless, passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Indeed, the moral arc of the Universe bends towards Justice. And I submit, gentle colleagues, that Justice in a truly great, diverse State must somehow encompass inclusion and, ultimately, acceptance. This holiday is not a black holiday or a white holiday or a brown holiday or a yellow holiday or a red holiday (and I have actually bemoaned that some have swayed it and even fashioned it to seem as if it should be ... it is NOT) it IS a UNITED all-racial, all creed, all religion AMERICAN holiday. It doesn't "belong" to my people or your people or those people or that people, look at ourselves; the legend of the many various backgrounds that fought the battles of equal access and inclusion for all Americans belongs to us ALL. And I pray you, gentle leaders, will charge that to your heads and to your hearts and share the meaning to those you love and those you represent. I implore each of US, not just as pillars from within our individual Senate districts but uniting all within our Kansas communities to use the true meaning of this holiday as not just a day "off" but a day to live out the true meaning of an inspirational and decidedly unique American Holiday. As I have urged so often before from this seat of the MLK Holiday, often to unhearing ears or too hardened, non-receptive hearts, this concept, this often diminishing but societally civil reality, this tapestry of a strong, diverse Country is not the sole province of my political party or of yours. This celebration, this Spirit doesn't belong to my religion or to your religion, to my community or to yours. It isn't creed, or racial or economically based. No, Mister President. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday belongs to us ALL. To the beauty of the "stir-fry" blend when combined produces our unique (though yet still somewhat dysfunctional, like any, family) AMERICAN culture! Please have a safe, reverent and evocative, King Holiday.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills were introduced and read by title:

SB 333, AN ACT concerning the state use law; removing the expiration provision for the state use law committee; amending K.S.A. 75-3322c and repealing the existing

section, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 334, AN ACT Designating the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad as the official state heritage railroad, by Committee on Transportation.

SB 335, AN ACT concerning traffic regulations; relating to unlawful passing of stationary authorized emergency vehicle; increasing penalties for certain violations; creating a crime for injuring or causing death of certain authorized emergency vehicle operators and providing a penalty therefor; amending K.S.A. 8-1520a, 8-2116 and 8-2118 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Transportation.

SB 336, AN ACT concerning health and environment; relating to underground storage tanks; removing the requirement for underground storage tank operating permits to be obtained annually; amending K.S.A. 65-34,135 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SB 337, AN ACT designating the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe #3415 as the official state steam locomotive, by Committee on Transportation.

SB 338, AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to group-funded liability and group-funded workers compensation pools; changing certain reporting requirements; amending K.S.A. 12-2620, 44-584 and 44-590 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

SB 339, AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to risk-based capital requirements; updating the version of instructions in effect; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 40-2c01 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

SB 340, AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to insurance laws and enforcement thereof; removing automobile club from the definition of person; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 40-2,125 and repealing the existing section, by Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

SB 341, AN ACT concerning drivers' licenses; authorizing certain individuals with revoked licenses to be eligible for restricted driving privileges; permitting individuals with restricted driving privileges to drive to and from dropping off or picking up children from school or child care; amending K.S.A. 8-286 and 8-2110 and repealing the existing sections, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

SB 342, AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to license plates; providing for the Sedgwick county zoo distinctive license plate, by Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

REFERENCE OF APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were referred to committees as indicated:

Education: **Jonathan Rolph**, Member, Kansas Board of Regents.

Utilities: **Andrew French**, Commissioner, Kansas Corporation Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE OFFICERS

The following reports were submitted to the Senate and are on file with the Secretary of the Senate:

Kansas Training Information Program report, Kansas Board of Regents

KAN-ED Fund Annual Report, Kansas Board of Regents

Qualified Admissions Annual Report, Kansas Board of Regents

Disposition of Surplus Property Report, Kansas Board of Regents

Kansas State School for the Blind Inspection, Kansas Department for Children and Families

State Inspection of Children's Institutions, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative and Diabetes Report, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Quality Care Improvement Panel Annual Report, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

The House announced the appointment of Representatives, Smith, A., Bergkamp and Sawyer to replace Representatives Sutton, Penn and Neighbor as conferees on **HB 2284**.

REPORT ON ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SR 1728, SR 1729 reported correctly enrolled, properly signed and presented to the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2024.

On motion of Senator Alley, the Senate adjourned pro forma until 9:00 a.m., January 12, 2024.

CHARLENE BAILEY, CINDY SHEPARD, *Journal Clerks*.

COREY CARNAHAN, *Secretary of the Senate*.

