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SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Senate Chamber

President Pro Tempore Anthon called the Senate to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present except Senator Hart, absent and formally excused by the Chair; and Senators Adams and Semmelroth, absent and excused.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Drew Brown, Page.

The Senate advanced to the Third Order of Business.

Reading and Correction of the Journal

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that the Senate Journal of the proceedings of February 20, 2026, was read and approved as corrected.

LAKEY, Chairman

There being no objection, the report was adopted and ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Sixth Order of Business.

Reports of Standing Committees

February 23, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [S 1331](#), [S 1332](#), [S 1333](#), [S 1334](#), and [S 1335](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[S 1331](#) and [S 1332](#) were referred to the Finance Committee.

[S 1333](#) and [S 1334](#) were referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[S 1335](#) was referred to the Education Committee.

February 23, 2026

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION Committee reports out [H 551](#) and [H 594](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

RICKS, Chairman

[H 551](#) and [H 594](#) were filed for second reading.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Ninth Order of Business.

Messages from the House

February 20, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith [HCR 28](#), [H 639](#), [H 532](#), [H 629](#), [H 503](#), and [H 543](#), which have passed the House.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

[HCR 28](#), [H 639](#), [H 532](#), [H 629](#), [H 503](#), and [H 543](#) were filed for first reading.

February 20, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I return herewith [SCR 115](#), which has passed the House.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

[SCR 115](#) was referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for enrolling.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eleventh Order of Business.

Introduction, First Reading, and Reference of Bills, House Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials

[HCR 28](#), by State Affairs Committee, was introduced, read at length, and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[H 639](#), by Health and Welfare Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

[H 532](#) and [H 629](#), by Transportation and Defense Committee, were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Transportation Committee.

[H 503](#), by Resources and Conservation Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Resources and Environment Committee.

[H 543](#), by Commerce and Human Resources Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

The Senate advanced to the Twelfth Order of Business.

Second Reading of Bills

Senator Adams was recorded present at this order of business.

[H 512](#), by Business Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1294](#), [S 1314](#), and [S 1316](#), by Health and Welfare Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1297](#), by State Affairs Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

The Senate advanced to the Thirteenth Order of Business.

Third Reading of Bills

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, [S 1254](#) retained its place on the Third Reading Calendar for one legislative day.

[S 1255](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Harris arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 33.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Hart, Semmelroth. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President Pro Tempore declared [S 1255](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

[S 1256](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Bjerke arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 33.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Hart, Semmelroth. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President Pro Tempore declared [S 1256](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, [S 1264](#) retained its place on the Third Reading Calendar for one legislative day.

[S 1262](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Guthrie arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 33.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Hart, Semmelroth. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President Pro Tempore declared [S 1262](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

[S 1265](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Blaylock arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 33.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Hart, Semmelroth. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President Pro Tempore declared [S 1265](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

[S 1266](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Galloway arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 34.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Hart. Total - 1.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President Pro Tempore declared [S 1266](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

[H 504](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Guthrie arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Lakey, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward. Total - 30.

NAYS—Kohl, Lenney, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 4.

Absent and excused—Hart. Total - 1.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President Pro Tempore declared [H 504](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered returned to the House.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifteenth Order of Business.

Miscellaneous Business

On motion by Senator Den Hartog, seconded by Senator Wintrow, by voice vote, the Senate adjourned at 10:14 a.m. until the hour of 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

KELLY ARTHUR ANTHON, President Pro Tempore

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary