

THIRTY-THIRD DAY - FEBRUARY 26, 2025

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION**

THIRTY-THIRD DAY

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska
Wednesday, February 26, 2025

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Pastor Tom Barnes, Minden Evangelical Free Church, Minden.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Senator Andersen.

ROLL CALL

Pursuant to adjournment, the Legislature met at 9:00 a.m., President Kelly presiding.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senators Bostar, M. Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Dover, Guereca, Hansen, Hunt, and Raybould who were excused until they arrive.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL

The Journal for the thirty-second day was approved.

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE GOVERNOR

February 25, 2025

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Metzler:

Engrossed Legislative Bills 1e, 2, 20, 38, 43e, 51, 52, 58, 72, 85, 91, 108e, 126, 167e, 182, 194, 208, and 209e were received in my office on February 21, 2025, and signed on February 25, 2025.

These bills were delivered to the Secretary of State on February 25, 2025.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Judiciary

LEGISLATIVE BILL 640. Placed on General File.

(Signed) Carolyn Bosn, Chairperson

MOTION(S) - Confirmation Report(s)

Senator Brandt moved the adoption of the Natural Resources Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 546:

Bradley Dunbar - Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
Chuck Hutchison - Nebraska Power Review Board
Matt Smallcomb - Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Voting in the affirmative, 39:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Holdcroft | McKeon | Sanders |
| Arch | Conrad | Hughes | Meyer | Sorrentino |
| Armendariz | DeBoer | Ibach | Moser | Storer |
| Ballard | DeKay | Jacobson | Murman | Storm |
| Bosn | Dorn | Juarez | Prokop | Strommen |
| Brandt | Fredrickson | Kauth | Quick | von Gillern |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Hallstrom | Lippincott | Riepe | Wordekemper |
| Clements | Hardin | Lonowski | Rountree | |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 4:

Cavanaugh, M. Dungan McKinney Spivey

Excused and not voting, 6:

| | | |
|--------|---------|----------|
| Bostar | Guereca | Hunt |
| Dover | Hansen | Raybould |

The appointments were confirmed with 39 ayes, 0 nays, 4 present and not voting, and 6 excused and not voting.

Senator Moser moved the adoption of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 588:

Underground Excavation Safety Committee

Jeffrey D Grady
Brandon Jones
Aaron Krebs
Trevor Roth
James Saville

Voting in the affirmative, 42:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Holdcroft | Meyer | Spivey |
| Arch | Conrad | Hughes | Moser | Storer |
| Armendariz | DeBoer | Ibach | Murman | Storm |
| Ballard | DeKay | Jacobson | Prokop | Strommen |
| Bosn | Dorn | Juarez | Quick | von Gillern |
| Brandt | Dungan | Kauth | Riepe | Wordekemper |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Fredrickson | Lippincott | Rountree | |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Hallstrom | Lonowski | Sanders | |
| Clements | Hardin | McKeon | Sorrentino | |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 1:

McKinney

Excused and not voting, 6:

| | | |
|--------|---------|----------|
| Bostar | Guereca | Hunt |
| Dover | Hansen | Raybould |

The appointments were confirmed with 42 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, and 6 excused and not voting.

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 504. Senator Dungan renewed [MO45](#), found and considered on page 586.

The Dungan motion to reconsider failed with 0 ayes, 29 nays, 18 present and not voting, and 2 excused and not voting.

Senator J. Cavanaugh offered the following amendment:

[FA22](#)

On Page 13, Line 7, strike beginning with "The" through Line 9 "act.".

The J. Cavanaugh amendment was withdrawn.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 38 ayes, 0 nays, 8 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)
Enrollment and Review

LEGISLATIVE BILL 265. Placed on Select File with amendment.

[ER17](#)

- 1 1. On page 1, line 3, after "48-622.02," insert "48-626,"; and in
- 2 line 7 after the semicolon insert "to state intent;"
- 3 2. On page 24, line 29, after "48-622.02," insert "48-626,".

LEGISLATIVE BILL 297. Placed on Select File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 34. Placed on Select File with amendment.

[ER16](#)

- 1 1. On page 3, line 5, strike "of" and insert "on".

LEGISLATIVE BILL 302. Placed on Select File with amendment.

[ER18](#)

- 1 1. On page 3, line 24, after "central" insert "time".

LEGISLATIVE BILL 123. Placed on Select File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 373. Placed on Select File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 294. Placed on Select File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 296A. Placed on Select File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 609A. Placed on Select File.

(Signed) Dunixi Guereca, Chairperson

General Affairs

LEGISLATIVE BILL 60. Placed on General File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 186. Placed on General File.

(Signed) Rick Holdcroft, Chairperson

Transportation and Telecommunications

LEGISLATIVE BILL 191. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM394](#)

- 1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
- 2 sections:
- 3 Section 1. Section 76-2325.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 4 is amended to read:
- 5 76-2325.01 Any person who willfully and maliciously breaks, injures,
- 6 destroys, or otherwise interferes with the poles, wires, or other
- 7 facilities of any telecommunications, broadband, communications, wireless
- 8 infrastructure, or railroad company or electric light and power company

9 in this state or who willfully and purposely interrupts or interferes
 10 with the transmission of telecommunications, broadband, communications,
 11 ~~messages or the transmission of~~ light, heat, ~~and~~ power in this state
 12 shall be subject to the action and penalty prescribed in section 28-519.
 13 Sec. 2. Original section 76-2325.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of
 14 Nebraska, is repealed.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 561. Placed on General File with amendment.
[AM316](#) is available in the Bill Room.

(Signed) Mike Moser, Chairperson

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE HEARING(S)
 Natural Resources
 Room 1023 1:30 PM

Thursday, March 6, 2025
 Steve Mattoon - Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

(Signed) Tom Brandt, Chairperson

General Affairs
 Room 1510 1:30 PM

Monday, March 17, 2025
 Julie J Jacobson - Nebraska Arts Council
 Clark Kolterman - Nebraska Arts Council
 Jeanne Salerno - Nebraska Arts Council
 Karen Harris - Nebraska Arts Council

(Signed) Rick Holdcroft, Chairperson

Revenue
 Room 1507 1:30 PM

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
 LB211
 LB242
 LB699

(Signed) R. Brad von Gillern, Chairperson

AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Hallstrom filed the following amendment to LB230:
[AM381](#)

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM55)

- 1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
- 2 insert the following new sections:
- 3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 15 of this act shall be known and may be
- 4 cited as the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

5 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act:

6 (1) Attractive to children means products:

7 (a) Manufactured in the shape of humans, cartoons, or animals; or

8 (b) Manufactured in a form that bears any reasonable resemblance to

9 an existing candy product that is familiar to the public as a widely

10 distributed or a branded food product such that a product could be

11 mistaken for the branded food product, especially by children;

12 (2) Department means the Department of Revenue;

13 (3) Kratom means the plant mitragyna speciosa or any part of that

14 plant, including, but not limited to, all components present in the

15 natural plant;

16 (4) Kratom extract means the material obtained by extraction of

17 kratom leaves with a solvent consisting of water, ethanol, or food-grade

18 carbon dioxide, or any other solvent allowed by federal or state

19 regulation to be used in manufacturing a food ingredient;

20 (5) Kratom product means a food, ingredient, or dietary supplement

21 that:

22 (a) Consists of or contains kratom or kratom extract;

23 (b) Does not contain any synthesized kratom alkaloids, other

24 synthesized kratom constituents, or synthesized metabolites of any kratom

25 constituent;

26 (c) Does not contain a level of 7-hydroxymitragynine in the alkaloid

1 fraction that is greater than two percent of the alkaloid composition of

2 the kratom product; and

3 (d) Does not include any kratom product in any form that is

4 combustible, intended to be used for vaporization, or is injectable;

5 (6) Processor means a person that manufactures, packages, labels,

6 or distributes kratom products or advertises, represents, or holds itself

7 out as manufacturing, preparing, packaging, labeling, or distributing

8 kratom products;

9 (7) Retailer has the same meaning as in section 77-2701.32; and

10 (8) Synthesized means an alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has

11 been created, in full or in part, by directed chemical, physical, or

12 biosynthetic conversion, including, but not limited to, fermentation,

13 recombinant techniques, yeast-derived, or enzymatic techniques, rather

14 than traditional food preparation techniques, such as heating or

15 extracting.

16 Sec. 3. (1) No person shall sell, offer for sale, provide, or

17 distribute a kratom product to a person under twenty-one years of age.

18 (2) An online retailer or marketplace that sells or offers for sale

19 a kratom product shall implement an age-verification system to ensure

20 compliance with this section.

21 Sec. 4. No person shall produce, manufacture, distribute, offer for

22 sale, sell, or introduce into commerce a kratom product in the State of

23 Nebraska if the product is manufactured in a manner that is attractive to

24 children.

25 Sec. 5. A kratom product sold, offered for sale, or introduced into

26 commerce in the State of Nebraska shall:

27 (1) Be manufactured, packaged, labeled, or held in a facility that

28 meets the requirements of 21 C.F.R. Part 111, as such regulations existed

29 on January 1, 2025; and

30 (2) Be manufactured, processed, packed, or held by a processor who

31 has registered with the federal Food and Drug Administration as a food

1 facility.

2 Sec. 6. A kratom product sold, offered for sale, or introduced into

3 commerce in the State of Nebraska shall have a label on each retail

4 package that clearly and conspicuously provides the following

5 information:

6 (1) The product is not recommended for use by individuals who are

7 under twenty-one years of age, who are pregnant, or who are

8 breastfeeding;

9 (2) A health care practitioner should be consulted prior to using
10 the product;

11 (3) The product may be habit-forming;

12 (4) The following statements: "These statements have not been
13 evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not
14 intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.";

15 (5) The name and place of business of the processor;

16 (6) Directions for use that include a recommended amount of the
17 kratom product per serving that is:

18 (a) Clearly described on the label for product forms such as
19 capsules, gummies, prepackaged, single-serving units, and similar product
20 forms; or

21 (b) A clear instruction or a mark on the package or container for
22 beverages or liquids;

23 (7) A recommended number of servings that can be safely consumed in
24 a twenty-four-hour period;

25 (8) A listing of the servings per container; and

26 (9) A listing of kratom alkaloids mitragynine and
27 7-hydroxymitragynine and other ingredients in the product, including
28 quantitative declarations of the amount per serving of mitragynine.

29 Sec. 7. (1) The department shall establish, operate, and administer
30 a program to register kratom products. The Tax Commissioner shall
31 designate an implementation date for such program which date is on or
1 before January 1, 2026.

2 (2) Beginning on the implementation date designated by the Tax
3 Commissioner pursuant to subsection (1) of this section:

4 (a) No processor may manufacture, package, label, or distribute a
5 kratom product to be offered for sale in the State of Nebraska unless the
6 product has been registered with the department;

7 (b) Applications for product registration shall be submitted on a
8 form prescribed by the department. Each application shall include:

9 (i) The name, address, and state of organization for the processor
10 of the product;

11 (ii) A principal point of contact for the processor and contact
12 information for the point of contact;

13 (iii) The name of the product;

14 (iv) The product label;

15 (v) A certificate of analysis for the kratom product that states the
16 kratom product's alkaloid content and certifies that the kratom product
17 has a level of 7-hydroxymitragynine that is less than two percent of the
18 alkaloid composition of the kratom product from an independent
19 laboratory. Such laboratory shall obtain and maintain an International
20 Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical
21 Commission (ISO/IEC) 17025 accreditation for testing and calibration
22 laboratories from an accreditation body that is a signatory to the
23 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition
24 Arrangement;

25 (vi) A valid good manufacturing practice certificate issued by an
26 accredited third-party certification body in compliance with 21 C.F.R.
27 Part 111; and

28 (vii) A current food facility registration certificate issued by the
29 federal Food and Drug Administration for all facilities where kratom
30 products are manufactured, prepared, packaged, or labeled;

31 (c) A certificate of registration shall be valid for one calendar
1 year after the date of issue and shall not be transferable; and

2 (d) The department may charge a fee for product registration
3 applications and may adjust such fee annually. The fee shall be
4 reasonable and shall not exceed any reasonable or necessary costs to
5 administer the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

6 (e) A product that contains the same kratom ingredients in the same
7 kratom delivery form, but is packaged, sold, or offered for sale in a
8 different container, package, or volume shall be included in a single
9 registration.
10 (3) If an application is incomplete or deficient, the department
11 shall, in a timely manner, notify the applicant in writing describing the
12 reason or reasons and request additional information. If such application
13 is not corrected or supplemented within thirty days after the
14 department's request, the department shall deny the application.
15 (4) If any false statement is made in any part of an application,
16 the department shall deny the application.
17 (5) A person aggrieved by the denial of an application may request a
18 hearing pursuant to section 11 of this act.
19 (6) A processor or retailer is not prohibited from selling,
20 preparing, manufacturing, distributing, maintaining, advertising,
21 representing, or holding itself out as selling, preparing, or maintaining
22 kratom products in the State of Nebraska prior to the implementation date
23 designated by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to subsection (1) of this
24 section, or while the first product registration applications submitted
25 by processors operating in the State of Nebraska as of January 1, 2025,
26 are pending approval or denial by the department.
27 Sec. 8. Beginning on the implementation date designated by the Tax
28 Commissioner pursuant to subsection (1) of section 7 of this act, the
29 department shall make public a list of all registered kratom products on
30 its website.
31 Sec. 9. (1) No person shall sell, offer for sale, provide, or
1 distribute an adulterated kratom product in the State of Nebraska.
2 (2) A product shall be deemed adulterated if:
3 (a) It contains any kratom alkaloid or metabolite, including
4 7-hydroxymitragynine, and does not meet the definition of a kratom
5 product under section 2 of this act; or
6 (b) The kratom product is combined with a dangerous nonkratom
7 substance that contains a poisonous or otherwise deleterious nonkratom
8 ingredient, including, but not limited to, any substance listed as a
9 controlled substance under the laws of this state or federal law.
10 (3) Upon receipt of evidence that suggests a product may be an
11 adulterated kratom product, the department may require the person
12 selling, providing, or distributing the product to obtain an independent
13 third-party test of the product by a laboratory of the department's
14 choosing.
15 Sec. 10. (1) Any processor or retailer that violates any section of
16 the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, including those related to the
17 application or registration, or any of the rules and regulations adopted
18 and promulgated by the department that apply to processors or kratom
19 products shall be subject to the penalties provided in this section.
20 (2) For the first violation, the department shall impose a civil
21 penalty of up to one thousand dollars. For the second violation, the
22 department shall impose a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars.
23 For a third violation and any subsequent violations, the department shall
24 impose a civil penalty of at least five thousand dollars and no more than
25 twenty thousand dollars and, if the violator is a processor, the
26 department shall prohibit the sale of any kratom products of such
27 processor within the State of Nebraska for a period of three years.
28 (3) For any processor or retailer that has no violation for a period
29 of four consecutive years, a new violation shall be treated as a first
30 violation.
31 (4) No determination that a violation has occurred shall be made
1 until notice has been given and a hearing has been held by the Tax
2 Commissioner as provided in section 11 of this act if requested by the
3 processor or retailer.

4 (5) A retailer shall not be found to be in violation of the Kratom
5 Consumer Protection Act if it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence
6 that the retailer relied in good faith upon the representation of a
7 processor that a product is not an adulterated kratom product as defined
8 in section 9 of this act or otherwise conformed to the act.
9 Sec. 11. (1) A processor or retailer aggrieved by a notice of
10 denial of an application issued under section 7 of this act or a notice
11 of violation issued under section 10 of this act may request a hearing.
12 (2) Such request shall be made within twenty days after the receipt
13 of any such notice.
14 (3) At such hearing the Tax Commissioner, or any officer or employee
15 of the Tax Commissioner designated in writing, may examine any books,
16 papers, memoranda, or other evidence bearing upon the matter at issue and
17 require the attendance of any officer or employee of the processor or
18 retailer or any person having knowledge pertinent to such hearing. The
19 Tax Commissioner or the Tax Commissioner's designee may administer oaths
20 to persons testifying at such hearing.
21 (4) During the hearing, the Tax Commissioner or the Tax
22 Commissioner's designee shall not be bound by the technical rules of
23 evidence, and no informality in any proceeding or in the manner of taking
24 testimony shall invalidate any order or decision made or approved by the
25 Tax Commissioner.
26 (5) Within a reasonable time after the hearing the Tax Commissioner
27 shall make a final decision or final determination and notify the
28 processor or retailer by mail of such decision or determination.
29 (6) If it is determined that a processor intentionally and
30 materially falsified any information contained in an application under
31 the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, the processor shall be ineligible to
1 obtain a certification of registration for a period of twelve months
2 after the date of such determination.
3 (7) A processor or retailer may appeal the decision of the Tax
4 Commissioner, and the appeal shall be in accordance with the
5 Administrative Procedure Act.
6 Sec. 12. The Attorney General shall have authority to enforce the
7 Kratom Consumer Protection Act pursuant to the Consumer Protection Act
8 and the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act. This section shall not be
9 construed to allow for a private right of action under the Kratom
10 Consumer Protection Act even though such action is authorized under the
11 Consumer Protection Act and the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act.
12 Sec. 13. (1) If a registered processor has been convicted by any
13 court of a violation of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, the processor
14 may, in addition to the penalties for such offense, incur a forfeiture of
15 the certificate of registration for its kratom products and all money
16 that had been paid for such certificate of registration.
17 (2) If any materially false statement is made in any part of an
18 application submitted under section 7 of this act, the applicant shall be
19 subject to prosecution for perjury and if convicted may, in addition to
20 the penalties for such offense, incur a forfeiture of any certificate of
21 registration that was issued for the applicant's kratom products and all
22 money that had been paid for such certificate of registration.
23 Sec. 14. Except as otherwise provided in the Kratom Consumer
24 Protection Act, no political subdivision shall impose additional
25 restrictions on the manufacturing, packaging, labeling, distribution, or
26 sale of kratom products greater than or in addition to those enumerated
27 in the act.
28 Sec. 15. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
29 regulations to carry out the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.
30 Sec. 16. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2025.
31 Sec. 17. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
1 passed and approved according to law.

MOTION(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Raybould filed the following motion to [LB675](#):
[MO46](#)
Withdraw LB675.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 53. Introduced by Holdcroft, 36; Andersen, 49; Arch, 14; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45.

WHEREAS, Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis has retired after more than fifty years of devoted service to the Sarpy County community; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Davis began his service at eighteen as a dispatcher for the Sarpy County Emergency 911 Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Davis obtained his law enforcement officer certification and rose through the ranks to be sworn in as Sarpy County Sheriff in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Davis adopted the Project Lifesaver program which provides tracking bracelets for people with Autism, Alzheimer's, and Down Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Davis brought the Standard Response Protocol and Active Shooter Training to the school districts and law enforcement departments in Sarpy County; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Davis's career and years of personal service to the Sarpy County community are worthy of recognition and admiration and have earned him several well-deserved awards and titles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates retired Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis on a successful and impactful career of public service.
2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Sheriff Jeff Davis and to the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office.

Laid over.

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 185. Speaker Arch requested to pass over LB185.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 195. Title read. Considered.

Committee [AM135](#), found on page 460, was offered.

Senator Bosn offered [AM240](#), found on page 565, to the committee amendment.

The Bosn amendment was adopted with 42 ayes, 0 nays, 4 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

The committee amendment, as amended, was adopted with 43 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 44 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 341. Title read. Considered.

Committee [AM176](#), found on page 461, was offered.

The committee amendment was adopted with 35 ayes, 0 nays, 10 present and not voting, and 4 excused and not voting.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 39 ayes, 0 nays, 6 present and not voting, and 4 excused and not voting.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 54. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, in his final days as president, former President Joe Biden posthumously pardoned Marcus Garvey, the leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), on January 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Marcus formed UNIA in 1914 in Jamaica with an intentional focus on Black self-reliance and a back-to-Africa movement; and

WHEREAS, Marcus moved to Harlem, New York, in 1916, where Marcus organized the International Conference for the Negro Peoples of the World and created the Black Star Line; and

WHEREAS, the Black Star Line eventually failed due to the company being heavily affected by the Great Depression and due to J. Edgar Hoover's sabotage by using the Federal Bureau of Investigation to infiltrate the shipping company; and

WHEREAS, Marcus lost his credibility after the collapse, was prosecuted for mail fraud, and was eventually deported, and in 1940, Marcus suffered a stroke causing the media to prematurely publish obituaries focused on his mail fraud conviction. The action caused Marcus so much distress that he suffered a second stroke and passed away; and

WHEREAS, Marcus was posthumously pardoned to undo the hate garnered towards his ideas and to restore respect to his name and ideas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the hard work of the people fighting continuously to provide evidence for Marcus Garvey's posthumous pardon.

2. That the Legislature congratulates Marcus Garvey, his family, and his descendents on his posthumous pardon.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 55. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, the Bobby Douglas Legacy Award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the Black wrestling community and the longstanding commitment to inspiring, connecting, and empowering Black wrestlers through attitude, words, and actions; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edmondson posthumously earned the 2024 Bobby Douglas Legacy Award; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Joe broke his neck in a trampoline accident making him a quadriplegic and was told he would only live for ten more years, but, in 1968, Joe started his own wrestling program while earning his master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Joe also developed the nationally respected Exploradories and ran the Edmondson Youth Outreach Center of the YMCA to provide opportunities for inner-city youth to be mentored and to learn about wrestling; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Joe earned many awards and recognition, including reaching the Gold level certification in the National Coaches Education Program, being named USA Wrestling's 1985 Kids Person of the Year, being named a Point of Light by George H. W. Bush in 1991, and being named to the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Joe's impact on wrestling and his community is not forgotten and has been revived through posthumously earning the Bobby Douglas Legacy Award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Joe Edmondson and the family of Joe Edmondson on posthumously earning the 2024 Bobby Douglas Legacy Award.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Joe Edmondson.

Laid over.

VISITOR(S)

Visitors to the Chamber were members of Nebraska Health Care LEAD Class; Leadership Wayne; members of the Nebraska Community College Association; Kurt, Kase, and Kade Arganbright, Valentine; students from Bruning Davenport, Davenport.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:59 a.m., on a motion by Senator Rountree, the Legislature adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature