UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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Legislature convenes, elects leaders

Senators who were elected or re-elected in November were sworn into office Jan. 7, the opening day of the 2015 legislative session.

The 104th Nebraska Legislature convened at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 7 for the 90-day first session. Seventeen new members were sworn into office and senators were elected to serve as chairpersons of the Legislature's standing committees.

Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley defeated Sen. Colby Coash of Lincoln in the race to replace outgoing speaker of the Legislature, York Sen. Greg Adams, who left the Legislature due to term limits.

Hadley said one of his priorities would be to assist new committee leaders in their work. As the former chairperson of the Revenue Committee and the Tax Modernization Committee, Hadley said he would bring vital experience to the position of speaker.

"I have an understanding of what it takes to chair a committee," he said.

Term limits also opened up leadership positions on 10 of the Legislature's 14 standing committees.

Sen. Jerry Johnson of Wahoo defeated Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch as chairperson of the Agriculture Committee. Johnson said his 42 years of experience in agribusiness would help him meet the challenge of expanding the state's livestock industry.

"My focus will be to build agriculture and to build Nebraska," Johnson said.

Elected in uncontested races were: Sen. Jim Scheer of Norfolk to chair the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee; Sen. Burke Harr of Omaha to chair the Business and Labor Committee; Sen. Tyson Larson of O'Neill to chair the General Affairs

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Legislators elected Sen. Galen Hadley of Kearney to serve as speaker of the Legislature.

INSIDE: Ricketts inauguration • 2015 list of senators • New bills • Committee membership

Gov. Ricketts takes oath of office

Before a crowded chamber of legislators, staff, family and friends, Pete Ricketts was sworn in Jan. 8 as the 40th governor of Nebraska.

Joining Ricketts was his wife, Susanne Shore, and their three children, Roscoe, Margot and Eleanor. Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican administered the oath of office.

In his remarks, Ricketts said that the success of the state depends upon the strength of its diverse citizens.

"Our rich history is deeply rooted in freedom, opportunity, liberty and hope for a better life for future generations," he said. "As we gather here today, we continue to welcome people who value freedom and who search for a better life."

Ricketts outlined several priorities for lawmakers, including the creation of jobs, growth of businesses and modernization of educational policies. His number one priority, however, is cutting property taxes.

"We must cut taxes," Ricketts said. "At the same time, we must act responsibly."

"The people of Nebraska expect government to work and they hold us to high standards. I will work every day to meet those standards and safeguard that trust," he said.

The inaugural ceremonies also included the swearing in of several returning and newly elected officials, including:

- Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley;
- Secretary of State John Gale;
- State Treasurer Don Stenberg;
- State Auditor Charlie Janssen;
- Attorney General Doug Peterson;
- Public Service Commissioner Crystal Rhoades;
- State Board of Education members Patrick McPherson, Maureen Nickels, Molly O'Holleran and Patricia Timm; and
- Board of Regents members Tim Clare and Rob Schafer. ■

Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican administers the oath of office to Gov. Pete Ricketts as First Lady Susanne Shore looks on.

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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Assistance provided by the Clerk of the Legislature's Office, the Legislative Technology Center, committee clerks, legal counsels, journal clerks, pages, transcribers, mail room and bill room staff and the State Print Shop.

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Legislature convenes, elects leaders

(continued from front page)

Committee; Sen. John Murante of Gretna to chair the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee; Sen. Les Seiler of Hastings to chair the Judiciary Committee; Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala to chair the Natural Resources Committee; Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion to chair the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee; and Sen. Sue Crawford of Bellevue to chair the Urban Affairs Committee.

Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha held off a challenge from freshman Sen. Brett Lindstrom of Omaha to remain chairperson of the Retirement Committee.

Nordquist said the state's retirement plans are among the healthiest in the country due to his leadership and the good working relationships that the committee has established with various stakeholders.

"We did it the Nebraska way," Nordquist said. "We all came to the table looking [for] and working toward solutions."

Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha was re-elected chairperson of the Appropriations Committee in an uncontested race. Also re-elected were Sens. Kate Sullivan of Cedar Rapids to chair the Education Committee and Kathy Campbell of Lincoln to chair the Health and Human Services Committee.

Senators also chose a new leader of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, which oversees all legislative services and employees.

Omaha Sen. Bob Krist was chosen to lead the Executive Board over Sen. Dave Bloomfield of Hoskins. Previously vice chairperson of the board, Krist said his goal as chairperson would be to focus on improving logistics and supporting legislative staff.

"I believe that I'm ready for the next step," Krist said. "I realize and understand the significance—and appreciate the scope—of [this] position."

New bills may be introduced for the first 10 legislative days, or until Jan. 21.

Gov. Pete Ricketts' State of the State Address is scheduled for Jan. 22. Committee hearings are scheduled to begin Jan. 20 and continue through March.

The session will last 90 legislative days and is tentatively scheduled to adjourn June 5. ■

Senators and their families filled the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber on the first day of the 2015 session.

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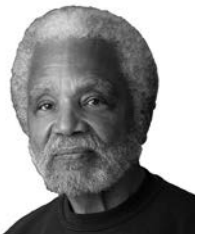

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Find Your Senator

The Legislature's website, **www.NebraskaLegislature.gov**, provides an easy tool for locating your district and senator.

Click on the "Senators" ► "Find your senator" link on the left side of the home page. Enter your full address into the search field above the map and click "Find."

Your district number and a picture of your senator will be displayed on the right, along with a link to that senator's web page.

Their web page contains the senator's contact information and links to their biography and photos. It also provides a list of committees they serve on, the bills they've introduced and links to coverage of them in the Unicameral Update.

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
Jan. 8, 2015		
LB1	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal an obsolete section relating to a transfer of property taking place in 1994
LB2	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal an obsolete section relating to design and location of certain facilities done in the 1970's
LB3	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal obsolete tax credit sections that terminated January 1, 2010
LB4	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal obsolete Nebraska Opportunity Zone Act sections that terminated December 31, 2010
LB5	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal obsolete Nebraska Innovation and High Wage Employment Act sections that terminated January 1, 2011
LB6	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal an obsolete prenatal service section that terminated June 30, 2011
LB7	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program sections that terminated June 30, 2011
LB8	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature that terminated December 31, 2012
LB9	Exec Board	Revisor bill to repeal the Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force that terminated June 30, 2012
LB10	McCoy	Change election of presidential electors
LB11	Krist	Change participation and reimbursement provisions under the Managed Care Plan Network Adequacy Act
LB12	Krist	Suspend medical assistance provided to persons who become inmates of public institutions
LB13	Krist	Change Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program provisions
LB14	Krist	Create the offense of use of a facsimile firearm or nonfunctioning firearm to commit a felony
LB15	Krist	Provide additional powers and duties for guardians ad litem
LB16	Krist	Adopt the Purchasing from Persons with Disabilities Act
LB17	Krist	Change provisions relating to transfers to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund
LB18	Krist	Change provisions relating to immunizations for students
LB19	Krist	Change provisions relating to laboratory certification under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Safety Act
LB20	Krist	Change the income tax exemptions for social security benefits and military retirement benefits
LB21	Krist	Provide requirements for rate increases for providers of behavioral health services as prescribed
LB22	Krist	Provide immunity from liability for engineers and architects for emergency services
LB23	Krist	Change the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act
LB24	Krist	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Capitol Commission
LB25	Krist	Change court jurisdiction relating to 17 year olds and young adults
LB26	Krist	Adopt the Choice for the Advancement of Nebraska Children in Education Act and provide for tax credits
LB27	Krist	Create a reporting requirement under the Vital Statistics Act when parenting time is established or modified
LB28	Krist	Adopt the Radon Resistant New Construction Act
LB29	McCoy	Change provisions relating to school health inspections
LB30	McCoy	Prohibit disclosure of any applicant or permitholder information regarding firearms registration, possession, sale, or use as prescribed
LB31	Bloomfield	Eliminate motorcycle and moped helmet requirements
LB32	Mello	Require the Department of Correctional Services to submit strategic plans as part of its budget request and progress reports
LB33	Mello	Require revenue volatility reports by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
LB34	Howard	Adopt the Carbon Monoxide Safety Act
LB35	Howard	Change the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act operative date and change Business Corporation Act references
LB36	Bolz	Adopt the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act
LB37	Krist	Adopt the Prescription Drug Safety Act and change and transfer pharmacy, prescription, and drug provisions
LB38	Kolowski	Change motor vehicle homicide penalties and provide penalties for causing serious bodily injury to vulnerable road users
LB39	Kolowski	Change provisions regarding passing bicycles and bicycle operating regulations
LB40	Nordquist	Grant investigative powers to the Public Employees Retirement Board
LB41	Nordquist	Redefine county for county retirement plan purposes
LB42	Nordquist	Change the due date for certain retirement plan reporting
LB43	Coash	Provide for standby guardians and recovery of assets under the Nebraska Probate Code
LB44	Coash	Change provisions relating to a notice of objection to adoption
LB45	Coash	Eliminate film vehicle provisions under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act
LB46	Watermeier	Change provisions of the Statewide Trauma System Act
LB47	Watermeier	Change provisions relating to anatomical gifts under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act
LB48	Scheer	Change unfair insurance trade practices relating to casualty losses
LB49	Scheer	Provide for allied school systems
LB50	Scheer	Change provisions relating to medicaid covered services
LB51	Scheer	Require disclosures prior to joining a risk management pool under the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act
LB52	Scheer	Exempt sanitary drainage districts from sales and use taxes
LB53	Scheer	Provide for issuance of one license plate for passenger cars as prescribed
LB54	Scheer	Change provisions relating to postsecondary education statewide transfer-of-credit policies
LB55	Scheer	Provide authority to the Adjutant General to make expenditures for a disaster or emergency
LB56	Scheer	Provide procedures for donation of real property to the Northeast Community College Area

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB57	Scheer	Appropriate funds to the Department of Administrative Services to demolish certain buildings
LB58	Scheer	Provide for calculation and distribution of funds to certain schools as prescribed
LB59	Scheer	Redefine state aid value for purposes of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB60	Kintner	Authorize possession of firearms as prescribed
LB61	Bolz	Change funding for county offices relating to administration of public assistance programs
LB62	Schumacher	Provide an income tax deduction for loan principal payments for graduate degrees
LB63	Schumacher	Provide an income tax deduction for the amount of income subjected to Social Security taxes
LB64	Schumacher	Provide an income tax deduction for the income earned from second jobs
LB65	Schumacher	Change provisions relating to termination of township boards
LB66	Schumacher	Require political subdivisions to make disclosures regarding bonds and provide for liability
LB67	Schumacher	Provide for governmental unit bond priority
LB68	Schumacher	Eliminate stepped-up basis of inherited real estate
LB69	Schumacher	Provide an income tax credit for corporate income taxes paid
LB70	Schumacher	Authorize an occupation tax on certain mechanical amusement devices
LB71	Schumacher	Adopt the Agricultural Property Tax Credit Act
LB72	Schumacher	Change and provide provisions relating to trustees, liens for medicaid reimbursement, and inheritance tax petitions
LB73	Schumacher	Adopt the Modern Tax Act
LB74	Schumacher	Change sales and use tax collection fees
LB75	Schumacher	Adopt the Taxpayer Investment Program
LB76	Schumacher	Change provisions relating to the earned income tax credit and the homestead exemption
LB77	Nordquist	Require a medicaid state plan amendment for family planning services and state intent relating to appropriations for the Every Woman Matters program
LB78	Gloor	Change provisions relating to the public agencies authorized to enter into agreements under the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act
LB79	Gloor	Require insurance coverage for renewals of prescription eye drops
LB80	Gloor	Provide, change, and eliminate anesthesia and sedation permit provisions under the Dentistry Practice Act
LB81	Cook	Change provisions relating to eligibility for child care assistance
LB82	Cook	Appropriate funds in support of dental services
LB83	Cook	Provide certain protections for employees relating to wage disclosure
LB84	Davis	Permit a public body to use telephone conferencing or videoconferencing for public meetings
LB85	Davis	Increase the brand inspection fee
LB86	Davis	Change number of districts and members of Game and Parks Commission
LB87	Campbell	Change membership of the Nebraska Children's Commission
LB88	Campbell	Change fees relating to marriage licenses
LB89	Campbell	Change provisions relating to aid to dependent children
LB90	Campbell	Change provisions for directed review under the Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act
LB91	Johnson	Repeal obsolete provisions relating to scabies, diseased swine, and hog cholera
LB92	Johnson	Change provisions of the Agricultural Liming Materials Act
LB93	Johnson	Change provisions of the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act
LB94	Smith	Provide for issuance of printed motor vehicle certificate of title for nonresidents as prescribed
LB95	Smith	Provide for operation and regulation of electric-powered bicycles
LB96	Smith	Eliminate certain taxing authority of learning communities
LB97	Smith	Eliminate additional fees for Pearl Harbor and disabled veteran license plates
LB98	Bolz	State intent regarding appropriations for tobacco use prevention control
LB99	Sullivan	Eliminate a reporting duty for the Education Committee of the Legislature
LB100	Sullivan	Provide for allocation of state aid to tribally controlled community colleges
LB101	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to statewide assessment of student learning and reporting
LB102	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to the Access College Early Scholarship Program
LB103	Kintner	Change provisions relating to participation in extracurricular activities as prescribed
LB104	Krist	Change provisions relating to notice of discontinuance of utility service
LB105	Watermeier	Change provisions relating to payment of fees and costs associated with deaths of incarcerated persons and grand juries
LB106	Watermeier	Adopt the Livestock Operation Siting and Expansion Act and change powers of counties relating to zoning
LB107	Crawford	Eliminate integrated practice agreements and provide for transition-to-practice agreements for nurse practitioners
LB108	Crawford	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to fund behavioral health internships
LB109	Crawford	Change residency requirements for veterans attending a public college or university
LB110	Larson	Appropriate funds for pediatric cancer specialists
LB111	Larson	Require identification to vote
LB112	Larson	Adopt the Interstate Compact on the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote
LB113	Larson	Provide a co-payment for correctional inmates' health care services
LR1	Watermeier	Extend sympathy to the family of Dr. Thomas Ediger
LR2	Davis	Congratulate the students, faculty, and staff of Chadron High School on their admirable rankings

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LR3	Davis	Congratulate the students, faculty, and staff of Hay Springs High School on their admirable ranking
LR4	Davis	Congratulate the Hemingford High School football team for winning the 2014 Class D-1 state championship
LR5	Davis	Congratulate the community of Rushville and the project's donors on the grand-reopening of Modisett Ball Park
LR6	Davis	Congratulate Hyannis High School for winning the 2014 Class D-2 One-Act Play state championship

Jan. 9, 2015

LB114	McCoy	Redefine ambulatory surgical center and health clinic under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act
LB115	Scheer	Prohibit certain actions related to social security numbers
LB116	Haar	Change election procedures and membership for certain sanitary and improvement district boards of trustees
LB117	Haar	Change provisions relating to energy financing contracts
LB118	Larson	Provide for licensure of cigar shops
LB119	Schumacher	Change where certain sentences of imprisonment may be served
LB120	Schumacher	Provide for seizure of license plates of certain uninsured motor vehicles or trailers as prescribed
LB121	Schumacher	Require voter identification and secret-ballot envelopes
LB122	Schumacher	Change provisions relating to operation of utility-type vehicles
LB123	Schumacher	Change provisions relating to the payment of warrants
LB124	Nordquist	Provide requirements relating to copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles
LB125	Nordquist	Create a fund relating to health care homes for the medically underserved
LB126	Nordquist	Change a combined contribution retirement benefit rate as prescribed
LB127	Chambers	Eliminate provisions relating to hunting mountain lions
LB128	Chambers	Repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act
LB129	Harr	Require criminal background checks for applicants for an initial nursing license
LB130	Watermeier	Change provisions relating to the Water Sustainability Fund
LB131	Craighead	Change provisions relating to annexation and prohibit sanitary and improvement districts from spending certain assets
LB132	Ebke	Change joint public agency bonding powers and procedures
LB133	Ebke	Change interest rate provisions on certain Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court awards
LB134	Johnson	Change provisions relating to first injury reports under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB135	Johnson	Change provisions relating to termination of township boards
LB136	Johnson	Prohibit flying lanterns
LB137	Johnson	Change provisions relating to discharge of a firearm
LB138	Johnson	Name the Land Surveyors Regulation Act and provide for a code of practice
LB139	Johnson	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Real Property Appraiser Act
LB140	Davis	Provide for primary elections for partisan county offices without party affiliation in counties with less than 10,000 population
LB141	Schilz	Change provisions relating to the Public Entities Mandated Project Charges Act
LB142	Schilz	Create the Aquatic Invasive Species Program and provide funding
LB143	Schilz	Provide training cost reimbursement relating to underground storage tanks
LB144	Davis	Reduce levy authority of community colleges and increase state aid to community colleges
LB145	Watermeier	Change provisions governing active executive officers of banks and provide the Department of Banking and Finance with certain powers
LB146	Crawford	Provide for disposition of unclaimed cremated remains in a veteran cemetery
LB147	Crawford	Change provisions relating to asset limitations for public assistance
LB148	Crawford	Provide for medical assistance program coverage for certain youth formerly in foster care
LB149	Urban Affairs	Change provisions relating to election procedures for sanitary and improvement districts
LB150	Urban Affairs	Redefine terms under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act
LB151	Urban Affairs	Provide for a person designated to accept city or village notices in cases of mortgaged property or trust deed default
LB152	Urban Affairs	Authorize cities and villages to borrow from state-chartered or federally chartered financial institutions as prescribed
LB153	Morfeld	Exempt college textbooks from sales and use taxes
LB154	Hadley	Appropriate funds to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
LB155	Willams	Change provisions relating to capital stock requirements and clearing and settlement of checks
LB156	Stinner	Change the amount of credits allowed under the Angel Investment Tax Credit Act
LR7CA	Schumacher	Constitutional amendment to limit service of members of the Legislature to two 6-year terms
LR8	Johnson	Congratulate the David City Aquinas Catholic High School football team for winning the 2014 Class C-2 state championship
LR9	Gloor	Congratulate Hornady Manufacturing on being named the 2014 Nebraska Manufacturer of the Year

2015 Legislative Committees

AGRICULTURE

Chairperson: Sen. Jerry Johnson

Members: Sens. Bloomfield, Chambers, B. Harr, Kolterman, Larson, Riepe and Schilz

Meets: Tuesdays — Room 2102

Sen. Jerry Johnson

APPROPRIATIONS

Chairperson: Sen. Heath Mello

Members: Sens. Bolz, K. Haar, Hilkemann, Kintner, Kuehn, Nordquist, Stinner and Watermeier

Meets: Mon. and Tues.— Room 1524; Wed., Thurs. and Fri. — Room 1003

Sen. Heath Mello

BANKING, COMMERCE & INSURANCE

Chairperson: Sen. Jim Scheer

Members: Sens. Campbell, Craighead, Gloor, Howard, Lindstrom, Schumacher and Williams

Meets: Mondays and Tuesdays — Room 1507

Sen. Jim Scheer

BUSINESS & LABOR

Chairperson: Sen. Burke Harr

Members: Sens. Bloomfield, Chambers, Crawford, Ebke, Johnson and McCollister

Meets: Mondays — Room 2102

Sen. Burke Harr

EDUCATION

Chairperson: Sen. Kate Sullivan

Members: Sens. Baker, Cook, Groene, Kolowski, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks and Schnoor

Meets: Mondays and Tuesdays — Room 1525

Sen. Kate Sullivan

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Chairperson: Sen. Tyson Larson

Members: Sens. Coash, Hansen, Hughes, Kolterman, Krist, Riepe and Schilz

Meets: Mondays — Room 1510

Sen. Tyson Larson

GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Chairperson: Sen. John Murante

Members: Sens. Bloomfield, Craighead, Garrett, Groene, Hansen, Larson and McCoy

Meets: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — Room 1507

Sen. John Murante

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Chairperson: Sen. Kathy Campbell

Members: Sens. Baker, Cook, Crawford, Howard, Kolterman and Riepe

Meets: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — Room 1510

Sen. Kathy Campbell

2015 Legislative Committees

JUDICIARY

Chairperson: Sen. Les Seiler

Members: Sens. Chambers, Coash, Ebke, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks and Williams

Meets: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — Room 1113

Sen. Les Seiler

NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairperson: Sen. Ken Schilz

Members: Sens. Friesen, Hughes, Johnson, Kolowski, Lindstrom, McCollister and Schnoor

Meets: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — Room 1525

Sen. Ken Schilz

NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Chairperson: Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

Members: Sens. Davis, Groene, Kolowski, Kolterman and Mello

Meets: At the call of the chairperson — Room 1525

Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

REVENUE

Chairperson: Sen. Mike Gloor

Members: Sens. Brasch, Davis, B. Harr, Scheer, Schumacher, Smith and Sullivan

Meets: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — Room 1524

Sen. Mike Gloor

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson: Sen. Jim Smith

Members: Sens. Brasch, Davis, Friesen, Garrett, McCoy, Murante and Seiler

Meets: Mondays and Tuesdays — Room 1113

Sen. Jim Smith

URBAN AFFAIRS

Chairperson: Sen. Sue Crawford

Members: Sens. Coash, Ebke, Hansen, Hughes, Krist and McCollister

Meets: Tuesdays — Room 1510

Sen. Sue Crawford

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairperson: Sen. Bob Krist

Members: Sens. Watermeier (vice chairperson), Campbell, Chambers, Coash, Hadley, Hughes, Larson, Murante and Mello (nonvoting ex officio)

Sen. Bob Krist

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Chairperson: Sen. Beau McCoy

Members: Sens. Bloomfield, Campbell, Coash, Garrett, Hadley, B. Harr, Krist, Mello, Schilz, Schumacher, Smith and Watermeier

Sen. Beau McCoy

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