

SIXTIETH DAY - APRIL 17, 2026

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION**

SIXTIETH DAY

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, April 17, 2026

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Speaker Arch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Senator Wordekemper.

ROLL CALL

Pursuant to adjournment, the Legislature met at 9:00 a.m., Senator DeBoer presiding.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senators Bostar, Conrad and Raybould who were excused until they arrive.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL

The Journal for the fifty-ninth day was approved.

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

Presented to the Governor on April 10, 2026, at 2:55 p.m. were the following: LBs 455, 525, 596, 764, 781e, 815, 815A, 820e, 820Ae, 826e, 838e, 838Ae, 839, 852, 867e, 888, 905e, 912e, 912Ae, 935e, 955, 972, 972A, 986e, 1010, 1029, 1048, 1057e, 1086e, 1087, 1091, 1126, 1126A, 1135e, 1181, 1181A, 1212, 1237, 1237A, 1261, 1261A, 304, 304A, 762, 803e, 803Ae, 878e, 889, 921, 929, 937, 958e, 962, 965, 966, 1022, 1032, 1075e, 1075Ae, 1096, 1114e, 1165e, 1165Ae, 1187, and 1209e.

(Signed) Jamie Leishman
Clerk of the Legislature's Office

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE GOVERNOR

April 15, 2026

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

Dear Clerk Metzler:

Engrossed Legislative bills 304, 304A, 365, 365A, 429, 455, 525, 596, 721, 722, 727, 737, 743, 745, 748, 749, 753, 758, 762, 764, 768, 778, 781e, 784, 787, 788, 797, 798, 815, 815A, 820e, 820Ae, 822, 823, 826e, 838e, 838Ae, 852, 867e, 888, 889, 905e, 912e, 912Ae, 913, 921, 935e, 952e, 955, 972, 972A, 977, 986e, 998, 1010, 1048, 1055, 1057e, 1086e, 1087, 1091, 1108, 1126, 1126A, 1135e, 1181, 1181A, 1195, 1212, 1216, 1261 and 1261A were received in my office on April 10, 2026, and signed on April 14, 2026.

These bills were delivered to the Secretary of State on April 15, 2026.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 15, 2026

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

Dear Clerk Metzler:

Engrossed Legislative Bills 834, 835, 883, 894, 900, 903, 924, 940, 954, 979, 985, 1067, 1127, 1127A, 1155, 1205, 1236e, 1236Ae, and 1240 were received in my office on April 9, 2026, and signed on April 14, 2026.

These bills were delivered to the Secretary of State on April 15, 2026.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

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

Dear Clerk Metzler:

Engrossed Legislative Bills 803e, 803Ae, 937, 958e, 962, 965, 966, 1022, 1032, 1096, 1114e, 1165e, 1165Ae, 1187, and 1209 were received in my office on April 10, 2026, and signed on April 16, 2026.

These bills delivered to the Secretary of State on April 16, 2026.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

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

Dear Clerk Metzler:

Engrossed Legislative Bills 1075e and 1075Ae were received in my office on April 10, 2026, and signed on April 15, 2026.

These delivered to the Secretary of State on April 16, 2026.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 15, 2026

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

I return herewith LB1256 without my signature and with my objections. LB1256 allows counties, cities and villages to exceed property tax caps by reclassifying snow and ice removal and flood management as emergency management services under the Emergency Management Act. I do not believe that this Legislation was properly discussed in the context of increasing property taxes.

When the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act was enacted during the 2024 special session to reign in annual out-of-control property tax increases, it

created limited exceptions that allow municipalities to spend above their property tax levy, one of which is spending in response to a declared emergency. By adding snow and ice removal and flood management to the list of exempted emergency spending, municipalities will be able to circumvent these property tax caps to recover unplanned expenses in the event of just a single snow or flood emergency.

Based on historical analysis of political subdivisions impacted by snow emergencies in recent years, the Department of Revenue estimated the statewide annual impact could be as much as \$40 million in additional property taxes, assuming a 2.5% increase in property taxes for snow emergencies.

I cannot in good conscience sign LB1256 into law, which will increase property taxes, while we are in the middle of a property tax crisis.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to sustain my veto of LB1256 and bring LB1256 in some form next year and deliberate the property tax implications of the bill.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

I return herewith LB929 without my signature and with my objections.

LB929 is the epitome of do-nothing legislation. As passed, LB929 states that the Managed Care Organizations can (but do not have to) cover the cost of co-pays, deductibles and other cost sharing. This is already permitted under current law.

Even though it has limited immediate effect, LB929 sends a terrible message. LB929 invites overuse of our health system and more meddling in future legislative sessions. Legally mandating that the Department of Health and Human Services allow the Managed Care Organizations to pick up all cost sharing makes certain that the relevant enrollees will get the message that they will never have any "skin in the game." This creates an expectation that there will be no shared responsibility, which is a core tenant in ensuring that our benefits are hand-ups, not handouts.

With LB929 the Nebraska taxpayers lose two ways: (1) they get a more-complicated, cluttered statutory scheme that provides no benefit; and (2) it encourages Medicaid enrollees (that Nebraskans are paying for) to overuse the system without consequence. It does not streamline systems, and it potentially increases the future burden on Nebraska taxpayers.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

With this letter, I am returning LB878e without my signature and with my objections. I believe benefits such as paid maternity leave should be negotiated through the collective bargaining process instead of mandated in state statutes, allowing any increases to salaries and benefits for state employees to be properly accounted for during the budgetary process.

Last year, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) worked in good faith with the leaders of the Nebraska Association of Public Employees, Local 61 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (NAPE/AFSCME) to negotiate six weeks of paid maternity leave for expectant mothers. This benefit has also been extended to employees covered by the Personnel Rules & Regulations pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1317.

At my direction, I have asked DAS to immediately begin working with the leaders of the State Law Enforcement Bargaining Council (SLEBC), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and the State Code Agencies Teachers Association (SCATA) to negotiate comparable paid maternity leave benefits for their members. As of the writing on this communication the State has successfully negotiated six weeks of paid maternity leave for close to 12,000 public servants.

It should be noted that the benefit that now all state employees have applies to all mothers, including those who adopt. It is not sound policy to bifurcate a benefit between adoptive fathers and biological fathers, which LB 878e in its current form does.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to sustain my veto of LB878e.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

I return herewith LB1029 without my signature and with my objections.

Nebraska has consistently been a national leader in the fight to secure our state against the growing threat posed by foreign adversaries, specifically the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Since 2023, we have worked together to build a robust legal firewall by implementing the Foreign-Owned Real Estate National Security Act, the Pacific Conflict Stress Test act, the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act, and the Secure Drone Purchasing Act. LB1029 is not just a step backward, but it is a direct contradiction of the security posture this Legislature has fought to establish.

By explicitly allowing institutions of higher education to shield employment contracts, salaries, and wages from public reporting, this bill creates a statutory vulnerability at the very moment transparency is most required. Reports from the U.S. House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the U.S. and the CCP have laid bare the strategic intent of our adversaries to infiltrate American research institutions. Recent data reveals that China has poured approximately \$6.8 billion into higher education institutions across our country, often through opaque contracts designed to exploit American intellectual property.

LB1029 would make Nebraska an outlier and a soft target at a time when the federal government is sounding the alarm on documented infiltration of our research institutions. In Michigan, a Chinese National working with a University of Michigan laboratory was successfully prosecuted for introducing a dangerous biological pathogen into the U.S., a case characterized as a direct assault on our biosafety protocols. Similarly, on the same day the Legislature passed LB1029 to my desk, the Department of Justice secured a guilty plea from an Indiana University researcher for smuggling E. coli DNA from China, with prosecutors emphasizing that such covert transfers pose serious threats to public safety and the health of our agricultural economy. The Department of War has indicated transparency is a prerequisite for security, and this culture of openness must start at home. Every single state employee's salary, including our own, is public; there is absolutely no reason why these expenditures should not be fully transparent to the people we serve. Institutions that fail to maintain transparent reporting are in jeopardy of being designated as high-risk, potentially resulting in the loss of federal defense grants and research partnerships. This designation could threaten the University's partnership with the National Strategic Research Institute and the success of the Defense Efforts Workforce Act.

I am deeply concerned that the full impact of these reporting exemptions was not adequately debated by the members of the Legislature. Transparency in state-supported institutions is a fundamental right of the public. To carve out these specific exceptions for higher education - at a time when global tensions and foreign academic espionage are at an all-time high - is blatant disregard of our duty to protect Nebraska's infrastructure and intellectual property.

It is for these reasons that I have vetoed LB1029.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

I return herewith LB839 without my signature and with my objections. LB839 creates needless regulatory burdens on recipients of Affordable Housing Trust Fund grants by forcing multifamily housing developers to build an arbitrary percentage of accessible dwelling units for individuals with mobility and hearing or vision impairments.

During a time when housing prices continue to rise, this new mandate will force builders to opt out of affordable housing programs or spend additional resources on accessible dwelling units that often go unrented or are rented out to those without the physical impairments they were designed to accommodate.

Instead of mandating the types of units housing developers should build, I believe a more prudent approach would be for the Department of Economic Development and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority to work with disability rights advocates and housing developers to develop a scoring system that incentivizes developers to build the appropriate number of accessible dwelling units.

Simply put, adding expensive new regulatory requirements to a program designed to make housing more affordable is counterintuitive and the wrong approach for lowering housing costs for Nebraskans.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to sustain my veto of LB839.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

April 16, 2026

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and
Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Nebraska Constitution, I have allowed LB1237 and 1237A to become law without my signature. While I believe this bill is a well-intentioned measure to enhance the security of the Nebraska State Capitol, I cannot in good conscience place my signature and approval on a bill which I believe unnecessarily disrupts a long tradition of allowing for the open and secure expression of one of our most important Constitutional rights - the Second Amendment - in the very building in which those rights frequently have come under attack.

I share the Legislature's abiding commitment to ensuring our Capitol is safe and secure, both for the people who work there and the thousands who visit, especially the many young children who brighten the building with their exploration of its vast spaces and history. My team and I will continue to work in partnership with the other branches of state government to be stewards of Capitol security, and I hope that other policies and steps - including, but not limited to, additional well-trained and armed security and State Patrol personnel - will be a focus on future enhancements to our comprehensive security plans.

Although LB1237 includes provisions which would not have been my preferred policy routes toward achieving our shared goal of a secure Capitol, I nevertheless respect the good faith and earnest efforts of the bill's designers, as well as the overwhelming support it received on final passage by the Legislature and will therefore allow it to become law. Although I anticipate some challenges with compliance and implementation, I will provide diligent directives to the State Patrol to take care that all the provisions of this bill will be faithfully executed.

For the sake of completeness, I note that LB1237 does contain a long-overdue revision to our laws governing concealed-carry permit holders to be armed in the Capitol. I am grateful that the Legislature has fixed this problem in our laws.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

COMMUNICATION(S)

Received a copy of Senate Joint Memorial No. 112 from the State of Idaho calling on Idaho's federal delegation to lead the Congress of the United States in balancing the federal budget and reigning in the national debt, including proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that shall be ratified by the states requiring a balanced federal budget and to encourage the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho to engage in discussions and deliberation on this issue with the Congress of the United States.

REPORT OF REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

Following is a list of all lobbyists who have registered as of April 16, 2026, in accordance with Section 49-1481, Revised Statutes of Nebraska. Additional lobbyists who have registered will be filed weekly.

Filosa, Sarah
bet365 and its Affiliates
Jensen Rogert Associates, Inc.
Cornerstone Government Affairs on behalf of the Embassy of Qatar
(Withdrawn 04/16/2026)
Koehler, Nicholas
Apex Family Care (Withdrawn 04/15/2026)
Matos, Chris
Google LLC and its Affiliates

(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

REPORTS

Agency reports electronically filed with the Legislature can be found on the [Nebraska Legislature's website](#).

MOTION(S) - Override Veto on LB839

Senator Rountree offered the following motion to LB839:
[MO584](#)
That LB839 becomes law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor

SPEAKER ARCH PRESIDING

Whereupon the President stated: "The question shall be, 'Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' "

Voting in the affirmative, 19:

Bostar	Conrad	Fredrickson	McKinney	Rountree
Brandt	DeBoer	Guereca	Prokop	Spivey
Cavanaugh, J.	Dorn	Hunt	Quick	Wordekemper
Cavanaugh, M.	Dungan	Juarez	Raybould	

Voting in the negative, 28:

Andersen	DeKay	Ibach	Meyer, G.	Storer
Armendariz	Dover	Jacobson	Moser	Storm
Ballard	Hallstrom	Kauth	Murman	Strommen
Bosn	Hansen	Lippincott	Riepe	von Gillern
Clements	Hardin	Lonowski	Sanders	
Clouse	Holdcroft	Meyer, F.	Sorrentino	

Present and not voting, 2:

Arch	Hughes
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Having failed to receive a constitutional three-fifths majority voting in the affirmative, the bill failed to pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

MOTION(S) - Override Veto on LB878

Senator Guereca offered the following motion to LB878:

MO587

That LB878 becomes law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor

Whereupon the President stated: "The question shall be, 'Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' "

Voting in the affirmative, 21:

Brandt	Dorn	Hunt	Quick	Wordekemper
Cavanaugh, J.	Dungan	Juarez	Raybould	
Cavanaugh, M.	Fredrickson	McKinney	Rountree	
Conrad	Guereca	Moser	Spivey	
DeBoer	Hughes	Prokop	von Gillern	

Voting in the negative, 27:

Andersen	Clouse	Holdcroft	Meyer, F.	Storer
Arch	DeKay	Ibach	Meyer, G.	Storm
Armendariz	Dover	Jacobson	Murman	Strommen
Ballard	Hallstrom	Kauth	Riepe	
Bosn	Hansen	Lippincott	Sanders	
Clements	Hardin	Lonowski	Sorrentino	

Present and not voting, 1:

Bostar

Having failed to receive a constitutional three-fifths majority voting in the affirmative, the bill failed to pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

MOTION(S) - Override Veto on LB929

Senator Fredrickson offered the following motion to LB929:

[MO586](#)

That LB929 becomes law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor

Whereupon the President stated: "The question shall be, 'Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' "

Voting in the affirmative, 22:

Arch	Cavanaugh, M.	Fredrickson	McKinney	Rountree
Ballard	Conrad	Guereca	Prokop	Spivey
Bostar	DeBoer	Hughes	Quick	
Brandt	Dorn	Hunt	Raybould	
Cavanaugh, J.	Dungan	Juarez	Riepe	

Voting in the negative, 26:

Andersen	Dover	Kauth	Murman	von Gillern
Armendariz	Hallstrom	Lippincott	Sanders	Wordekemper
Bosn	Hardin	Lonowski	Sorrentino	
Clements	Holdcroft	Meyer, F.	Storer	
Clouse	Ibach	Meyer, G.	Storm	
DeKay	Jacobson	Moser	Strommen	

Present and not voting, 1:

Hansen

Having failed to receive a constitutional three-fifths majority voting in the affirmative, the bill failed to pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

MOTION(S) - Override Veto on LB1256

Senator J. Cavanaugh offered the following motion to LB1256:

MO585

That LB1256 becomes law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor

Whereupon the President stated: "The question shall be, 'Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' "

Voting in the affirmative, 23:

Arch	Cavanaugh, M.	Fredrickson	McKinney	Rountree
Bosn	Conrad	Guereca	Prokop	Spivey
Bostar	DeBoer	Hughes	Quick	Wordekemper
Brandt	Dorn	Hunt	Raybould	
Cavanaugh, J.	Dungan	Juarez	Riepe	

Voting in the negative, 22:

Andersen	Hallstrom	Kauth	Moser	Strommen
Armendariz	Hardin	Lippincott	Murman	von Gillern
Clements	Holdcroft	Lonowski	Sanders	
Clouse	Ibach	Meyer, F.	Sorrentino	
DeKay	Jacobson	Meyer, G.	Storm	

Present and not voting, 4:

Ballard	Dover	Hansen	Storer
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Having failed to receive a constitutional three-fifths majority voting in the affirmative, the bill failed to pass notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 509. Read. Considered.

DEBOER PRESIDING

LR509 was adopted with 47 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 present and not voting.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 510. Read. Considered.

PRESIDENT KELLY PRESIDING

LR510 was adopted with 49 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 not voting.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 511. Read. Considered.

LR511 was adopted with 49 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION(S)

Pursuant to Rule 4, Sec. 5(b), LRs 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 507, and 508 were adopted.

PRESIDENT SIGNED

While the Legislature was in session and capable of transacting business, the President signed the following: LRs 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 507, and 508.

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Robert Evnen
Secretary of State
2300 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Inasmuch as the Legislature did not override the veto by Governor Pillen of LB1256, and consistent with our rules, I am delivering the bill for filing in the form prescribed by the Governor.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

BM:jl

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Robert Evnen
Secretary of State
2300 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Inasmuch as the Legislature did not override the veto by Governor Pillen of LB929, and consistent with our rules, I am delivering the bill for filing in the form prescribed by the Governor.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

BM:jl

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Robert Evnen
Secretary of State
2300 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Inasmuch as the Legislature did not override the veto by Governor Pillen of LB878e, and consistent with our rules, I am delivering the bill for filing in the form prescribed by the Governor.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

BM:jl

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Robert Evnen
Secretary of State
2300 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Inasmuch as the Legislature did not override the veto by Governor Pillen of LB839, and consistent with our rules, I am delivering the bill for filing in the form prescribed by the Governor.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

BM:jl

April 17, 2026

The Honorable Robert Evnen
Secretary of State
2300 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Inasmuch as the Legislature did not override the veto by Governor Pillen of LB1029, and consistent with our rules, I am delivering the bill for filing in the form prescribed by the Governor.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

BM:jl

SPEAKER ARCH PRESIDING

SPEAKER SIGNED

While the Legislature was in session and capable of transacting business, the Speaker signed the following: LRs 509, 510, and 511.

PRESIDENT KELLY PRESIDING

MOTION - Notify Governor

Senator Clements moved that a committee of five be appointed to notify the Governor that the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026, of the Nebraska Legislature, is about to complete its work, and to return with any message the Governor may have for the Legislature.

The motion prevailed.

The Chair appointed Senators Brandt, DeBoer, Moser, Murman, and Raybould to serve on said committee.

The committee returned and escorted Governor Pillen to the rostrum where he delivered a message to the members.

The committee escorted Governor Pillen from the Chamber.

MOTION - Disposition of Bills

Senator M. Cavanaugh moved that all bills not otherwise disposed of, excluding bills on Final Reading and vetoed or line-item vetoed bills on this date, be indefinitely postponed.

The motion prevailed.

MOTION - Committee Records

Senator Dorn moved that the chairpersons of all standing committees file with the Clerk of the Legislature all standing committee records so that a proper record may be made of the final disposition of all bills.

The motion prevailed.

MOTION - Printing of Journal, Session Laws, and Indexes

Senator Hunt moved that the Legislature approve the preparation and printing of the permanent Legislative Journal, Session Laws, and Indexes by Brandon Metzler and that he be directed to send to each member of the Legislature a copy of the permanent Legislative Journal and Session Laws, and that the Journal for the sixtieth day, as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature, be approved.

The motion prevailed.

VISITOR(S)

Visitors to the Chamber were students from Cedar Hollow Elementary, Grand Island; Andrew Troy, New Mexico; students from Elgin Public School, Elgin; students from Lifegate Christian School, Omaha; students from St. Wenceslaus, Dodge; students from Starr Elementary, Grand Island.

The Doctor of the Day was Dr. Rob Rhodes, Eagle.

MOTION - Adjourn Sine Die

Senator Hansen moved that the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026 Session of the Nebraska Legislature, having finished all business before it, now at 2:57 p.m., adjourn sine die.

The motion prevailed.

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature