Journal of the Senate

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SIXTY-NINTH DAY - WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

President Wasinger in the Chair.

The Reverend Stephen George offered the following prayer:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." (Psalm 103:2 NKJV)

Lord God Almighty, as we start our session today, we pause to remember all of the blessings You have given us, and we thank You for them. We ask now that You would work through us in our deliberations and decisions so that our work will be a blessing to all we serve in this great state. We ask this in Your Holy Name, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

A quorum being established, the Senate proceeded with its business.

The Journal of the previous day was read and approved.

Photographers from The Associated Press, KOMU 8 News, KSHB 41 News, the Missouri Independent, and St. Louis Public Radio were given permission to take pictures in the Senate Chamber.

The following Senators were present during the day's proceedings:

Present—Senators

Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (16)	Brown (26)
Burger	Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)
Gregory (21)	Henderson	Hough	Hudson	Lewis	Luetkemeyer	May
McCreery	Moon	Mosley	Nicola	Nurrenbern	O'Laughlin	Roberts
Schnelting	Schroer	Trent	Washington	Webber	Williams—34	

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senators—None

Vacancies—None

The Lieutenant Governor was present.

RESOLUTIONS

Senator Brown (16) offered Senate Resolution No. 503, regarding Tiffany Ann Brunner, Springfield, which was adopted.

Senator Nurrenbern offered Senate Resolution No. 504, regarding Patty Garney, Kansas City, which was adopted.

Senator Williams offered Senate Resolution No. 505, regarding David Breon Harper, Overland, which was adopted.

Senator Hudson assumed the Chair.

PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

Senator Brown (26) moved that **SS** for **SB 61**, with **HCS**, as amended, be taken up for 3rd reading and final passage, which motion prevailed.

HCS for **SS** for **SB 61**, entitled:

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 61

An Act to repeal sections 324.009, 332.211, 332.281, 333.041, 333.042, 334.031, 338.010, 338.333, 338.710, 339.150, 339.780, 345.050, 361.909, 701.040, and 701.046, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twenty-nine new sections relating to professional licensing.

Was taken up.

Senator Brown (26) moved that **HCS** for **SS** for **SB 61**, be adopted.

At the request of Senator Brown (26), the motion to take up **SS** for **SB 61**, with **HCS**, as amended, for 3rd reading and final passage, was withdrawn.

HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

HCS for **HBs 243** and **280**, entitled:

An Act to repeal sections 452.305 and 452.310, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to a judgment of dissolution of marriage or legal separation.

Was called from the Informal Calendar and taken up by Senator Carter.

Senator Carter moved that **HCS** for **HBs 243** and **280** be adopted.

Senator Moon offered **SA 1**:

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend House Committee Substitute for House Bills Nos. 243 and 280, Page 5, Section 452.310, Line 113, by inserting after all of said line the following:

"452.335. 1. In a proceeding for nonretroactive invalidity, dissolution of marriage or legal separation, or a proceeding for maintenance following dissolution of the marriage by a court which lacked personal jurisdiction over the absent spouse, the court may grant a maintenance order to either spouse, but only if it finds that the spouse seeking maintenance:

(1) Lacks sufficient property, including marital property apportioned to him, to provide for his reasonable needs; and

(2) Is unable to support himself through appropriate employment or is the custodian of a child whose condition or circumstances make it appropriate that the custodian not be required to seek employment outside the home.

2. The maintenance order shall be in such amounts and for such periods of time as the court deems just, and after considering all relevant factors including:

(1) The financial resources of the party seeking maintenance, including marital property apportioned to him, and his ability to meet his needs independently, including the extent to which a provision for support of a child living with the party includes a sum for that party as custodian;

(2) The time necessary to acquire sufficient education or training to enable the party seeking maintenance to find appropriate employment;

(3) The comparative earning capacity of each spouse;

(4) The standard of living established during the marriage;

(5) The obligations and assets, including the marital property apportioned to him and the separate property of each party;

(6) The duration of the marriage;

(7) The age, and the physical and emotional condition of the spouse seeking maintenance;

(8) The ability of the spouse from whom maintenance is sought to meet his needs while meeting those of the spouse seeking maintenance;

(9) The conduct of the parties during the marriage; and

(10) Any other relevant factors**;**

provided, that the court shall have the authority to set an end date for any maintenance order granted, whether as part of the original order or as a modification. In no case shall the duration of a maintenance order go beyond the payor's actual date of full retirement; provided, that such date is no earlier than the payor's sixty-second birthday.

3. The maintenance order shall state if it is modifiable or nonmodifiable. The court may order maintenance which includes a termination date. Unless the maintenance order which includes a termination date is nonmodifiable, the court may order the maintenance decreased, increased, terminated, extended, or otherwise modified based upon a substantial and continuing change of circumstances which occurred prior to the termination date of the original order."; and

Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.

Senator Moon moved that the above amendment be adopted.

At the request of Senator Carter, **HCS** for **HBs 243** and **280**, with **SA 1** (pending), was placed on the Informal Calendar.

Senator Schnelting moved that **HCS** for **HJR 73,** with **SS** for **HCS**, **SA 1**, and **SA 1** to **SA 1** (pending) be called from the Informal Calendar and again taken up for 3rd reading and final passage, which motion prevailed.

SA 1 to **SA 1** was again taken up.

Senator Fitzwater assumed the Chair.

Senator Bean assumed the Chair.

Senator Fitzwater assumed the Chair.

Senator Hudson assumed the Chair.

At the request of Senator Beck, **SA 1** was withdrawn, rendering **SA 1** to **SA 1** moot.

Senator McCreery offered **SA 2**, which was read:

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 2

Amend Senate Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution No. 73, Page 7, Section B, Lines 8-17, by striking all of said lines and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"● Repeal the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative passed in 2024;

● Prohibit abortion, except in cases of medical emergency, fatal fetal anomaly, rape, or incest;

● Prohibit abortion after rape or incest if the pregnancy has passed 12 weeks; and

● Expand government authority to restrict abortion?".".

Senator McCreery moved that the above amendment be adopted and requested a roll call vote be taken. She was joined in her request by Senators May, Lewis, Nurrenbern, and Mosley.

Senator Bean assumed the Chair.

At the request of Senator Schnelting, **SS** for **HCS** for **HJR 73** was withdrawn, rendering **SA 2** moot.

Senator Schnelting moved that **HCS** for **HJR 73** be read the 3rd time and finally passed, and submitted the following privileged motion:

Shall the Main question be now put?

Signed:

/s/ Cindy O'Laughlin
/s/ Tony Luetkemeyer
/s/ Nick Schroer
/s/ Jason Bean
/s/ Jamie Burger
/s/ Adam Schnelting
/s/ Brad Hudson
/s/ Jill Carter
/s/ Rusty Black
/s/ Mike Henderson
/s/ Sandy Crawford
/s/ Travis Fitzwater
/s/ David Gregory
/s/ Ben Brown
/s/ Rick Brattin
/s/ Kurtis Gregory
/s/ Mary Elizabeth Coleman
/s/ Curtis Trent
/s/ Mike Cierpiot

The motion to move the previous question was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer
Trent—22						

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Hough	Lewis	May	McCreery	Mosley	Nurrenbern
Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—11			

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

Senator Schnelting moved that **HCS** for **HJR 73** be read the 3rd time and finally passed, which motion prevailed on the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer	Trent—21

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Lewis	May	McCreery	Moon	Mosley	Nurrenbern
Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—11			

Absent—Senator Hough—1

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

The President declared the bill passed.

Senator Schnelting moved that the title to the bill be agreed to.

Senator Beck rose to object.

Senator Schnelting submitted the following privileged motion:

Motion for the Previous Question – Pursuant to Rule 84 of the Missouri Senate:

Shall the Main question be now put?

Signed:

/s/ Cindy O'Laughlin
/s/ Tony Luetkemeyer
/s/ Nick Schroer
/s/ Jason Bean
/s/ Jamie Burger
/s/ Adam Schnelting
/s/ Brad Hudson
/s/ Jill Carter
/s/ Rusty Black
/s/ Mike Henderson

/s/ Sandy Crawford
/s/ Travis Fitzwater
/s/ David Gregory
/s/ Ben Brown
/s/ Rick Brattin
/s/ Kurtis Gregory
/s/ Mary Elizabeth Coleman
/s/ Curtis Trent
/s/ Mike Cierpiot

The motion to move the previous question was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer	Trent—21

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Hough	Lewis	May	McCreery	Moon	Mosley
Nurrenbern	Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—12		

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

On motion of Senator Schnelting, the title was agreed to by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer	Trent—21

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Hough	Lewis	May	McCreery	Moon	Mosley
Nurrenbern	Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—12		

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave— Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

Senator Schnelting moved that the vote by which the joint resolution passed be reconsidered.

Senator Schroer moved that motion lay on the table, which motion prevailed.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 93, Senator Moon submitted the following:

May 14, 2025

Kristina Martin
Secretary of the Senate
201 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101

PROTEST OF HJR 73

While I understand the potential ramifications of the passage of Amendment 3 in the November 2024 General Election and the need to address the resulting radical language in the Missouri Constitution, Article I, section 36, I cannot support the creation of a sub-human group (e.g., persons who were conceived during a rape or incest and those with conditions which may make it difficult to live a normal life) as HJR 73 will do. This is an unacceptable option.

Although, the numbers of persons, alive today, who were conceived as a result of a horrible act is relatively small, I cannot find good reason to vote in favor of a resolution which will allow another horrible act - murder. Simply because a 'man' (the biological father) commits a crime should not condemn the resulting baby to death.

Certain conditions, such as Trisomy 13 (otherwise known as Patau Syndrome) and Trisomy 18 (also known as Edwards Syndrome) are typically considered not well-suited for life after birth. However, a number of examples of persons who were born with these conditions lived many years – some several decades. These conditions are some of the exceptions HJR 73 will give the 'green light' for terminating a life.

During debate on the resolution, it was stated that, "No person should have their life ended simply because of the way in which they were conceived." "A human life is a human life." "Life begins at conception." I wholeheartedly agree with these statements.

Science has proven, time and time again, that life, God-given life, begins at conception – no matter how that life was conceived or whether or not a doctor believes the baby will live a life free of physical ailments.

Since each developing human, from the moment of conception, has a unique DNA (not unlike other persons), each person should have equal protection under the law and due process should be required before a person's life is ended (other than natural death).

HJR 73 contains a pre-conceived notion that all life is not as valuable as some others. The most basic God-give right is life. Yet, in the resolution, that basic right is discounted.

The words, "Nothing is politically right that is morally wrong" are inscribed on a wall in the Senate chamber. If this is what we truly believe, how can we justify our belief (by attempting to be politically right by committing a moral wrong)? Are all persons conceived truly valuable? Or, are some lives disposable simply because of how they were conceived or during their development physical disorders appear which may indicate a troubled existence following birth? This dilemma creates a conundrum. We cannot be both politically right and morally wrong.

Republicans, and some Democrats, profess to be the 'protectors' of life. I claim to be one of them. Because of this, I cannot support an effort which does not recognize all life as precious and worth saving (and, protecting). Therein is my reason for voting, 'no' on HJR 73.

Mike Moon
District 29

Senator Bernskoetter moved that **HCS No. 2** for **HBs 567**, **546**, **758**, and **958**, with **SS No. 2**, **SA 1**, and **SA 1** to **SA 1** (pending), be called from the Informal Calendar and again taken up for 3rd reading and final passage, and submitted the following privileged motion:

Motion for the Previous Question – Pursuant to Rule 84 of the Missouri Senate:

Shall the Main question be now put?

Signed:

/s/ Cindy O'Laughlin
/s/ Tony Luetkemeyer
/s/ Nick Schroer
/s/ Jason Bean
/s/ Jamie Burger
/s/ Adam Schnelting
/s/ Brad Hudson
/s/ Jill Carter
/s/ Rusty Black
/s/ Mike Henderson
/s/ Sandy Crawford
/s/ Travis Fitzwater

/s/ Rick Brattin
/s/ David Gregory
/s/ Ben Brown
/s/ Mary Elizabeth Coleman
/s/ Mike Bersnkoetter
/s/ Curtis Trent

The motion to move the previous question was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Henderson	Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon
Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer	Trent—19		

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Cierpiot	Coleman	Gregory (21)	Hough	Lewis	May
McCreery	Mosley	Nurrenbern	Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—14

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

SS No. 2 for **HCS No. 2** for **HBs 567**, **546**, **758**, and **958** was taken up by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer
Trent—22						

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Hough	Lewis	May	McCreery	Mosley	Nurrenbern
Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—11			

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

At the request of Senator Bernskoetter, **SS No. 2** for **HCS No. 2** for **HBs 567**, **546**, **758**, and **958** was withdrawn.

Senator Bernskoetter moved that **HCS No. 2** for **HBs 567**, **546**, **758**, and **958** be read the 3rd time and finally passed and submitted the following privileged motion:

Motion for the Previous Question – Pursuant to Rule 84 of the Missouri Senate:

Shall the Main question be now put?

Signed:

/s/ Cindy O'Laughlin
/s/ Tony Luetkemeyer
/s/ Nick Schroer
/s/ Jason Bean
/s/ Jamie Burger
/s/ Adam Schnelting

/s/ Brad Hudson
/s/ Jill Carter
/s/ Rusty Black
/s/ Mike Henderson
/s/ Sandy Crawford
/s/ Travis Fitzwater
/s/ Rick Brattin
/s/ David Gregory
/s/ Ben Brown
/s/ Mary Elizabeth Coleman
/s/ Mike Bernskoetter
/s/ Curtis Trent

The motion to move the previous question was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Henderson	Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon
Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer	Trent—19		

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Cierpiot	Coleman	Gregory (21)	Hough	Lewis	May
McCreery	Mosley	Nurrenbern	Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—14

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

On motion of Senator Bernskoetter, **HCS No. 2** for **HBs 567**, **546**, **758**, and **958** was read the 3rd time and finally passed by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer
Trent—22						

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Hough	Lewis	May	McCreery	Mosley	Nurrenbern
Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—11			

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

The President declared the bill passed.

Senator Bernskoetter moved that the title to the bill be agreed to and submitted the following privileged motion:

Motion for the Previous Question – Pursuant to Rule 84 of the Missouri Senate:

Shall the Main question be now put?

Signed:

/s/ Cindy O'Laughlin
/s/ Tony Luetkemeyer
/s/ Nick Schroer
/s/ Jason Bean

/s/ Jamie Burger
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/s/ Jill Carter
/s/ Rusty Black
/s/ Mike Henderson
/s/ Sandy Crawford
/s/ Travis Fitzwater
/s/ Rick Brattin
/s/ David Gregory
/s/ Ben Brown
/s/ Mary Elizabeth Coleman
/s/ Mike Bersnkoetter
/s/ Curtis Trent

The motion to move the previous question was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Henderson	Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon
Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer	Trent—19		

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Cierpiot	Coleman	Gregory (21)	Lewis	May	McCreery
Mosley	Nurrenbern	Roberts	Washington	Webber	Williams—13	

Absent—Senator Hough—1

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

On motion of Senator Bernskoetter, the title to the bill was agreed to by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bean	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (26)	Burger	Carter
Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)	Gregory (21)	Henderson
Hudson	Luetkemeyer	Moon	Nicola	O'Laughlin	Schnelting	Schroer
Trent—22						

NAYS—Senators

Beck	Lewis	May	McCreery	Mosley	Nurrenbern	Roberts
Washington	Webber	Williams—10				

Absent—Senator Hough—1

Absent with leave—Senator Brown (16)—1

Vacancies—None

Senator Bernskoetter moved that the vote by which the bill passed be reconsidered.

Senator Schroer moved that motion lay on the table, which motion prevailed.

On motion of Senator Luetkemeyer, the Senate adjourned until 12:00 p.m., Thursday, May 22, 2025.

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