



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 4, 2023

Senate Public Health and Welfare Chair Won't Return to the Kansas Legislature – New Committee Leadership Announced

Yesterday, it was announced the chair of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, Senator Richard Hilderbrand (R-Baxter Springs), resigned from the state Senate effective Jan. 8. Senator Hilderbrand served since 2017, representing state Senate District 13, which covers Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee counties.

This announcement ensures the state senate will have at least three new faces when they return on Jan. 9. Senator Gene Suellentrop (R-Wichita) will be replaced by incoming Senator Chase Blasi (R-Wichita). Senator Tom Hawk (D-Manhattan) also has announced his upcoming retirement. The process to select a replacement to serve out the terms includes special elections held by precinct committee leaders within 21 days. The special election for Senator Hawk is set for Jan. 5. No date has been announced for the special election in Senate District 13.

These resignations have already prompted some changes in committee chairmanships and may change more committee assignments in the Senate.

The Senate has announced that the new chair of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee will now be Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora) and the vice-chair will now be Senator Renee Erickson (R-Wichita).

The Kansas Hospital Association will continue to keep you posted as the rest of the committee assignments are announced.

New Legislative Contact Information Is Available

Each year, the [Kansas legislative website](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/) is updated with contact information for state legislators. The updated 2023-2024 session website is now live. You can find updated photos, contact information for home and legislative offices, as well as committee assignments for the legislators by visiting <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>.