

# HOUSE JOURNAL

**Second Regular Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature**

**of the State of Oklahoma**

**Twenty-sixth Legislative Day, Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

The House was called to order by Speaker Pro Tempore Denney.

The roll was called with 86 Members present.

The following Members were excused: Calvey, Cooksey, Cox, Derby, Dunnington, Fisher, Lockhart, Moore, Ritze, Sherrer, Stone, Virgin, Walker, Wesselhoft, Williams.—15.

The Speaker Pro Tempore declared a quorum present.

Prayer was offered by Representative Cockroft.

The Journal for the last legislative day was approved.

## **SECOND READING**

The following were read for the second time and referred to committee:

**HJR 1070** – Direct To Calendar

**HJR 1071** – Direct To Calendar

## **MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Advising the Honorable House of Representatives pursuant to Article V, Section 30 of the Oklahoma Constitution that the Senate grants the request of the House to adjourn for more than three (3) days beginning Thursday, March 17, 2016, and ending Monday, March 21, 2016.

### Adjournment Consent Request

Pursuant to Article V, Section 30 of the Oklahoma Constitution, the Senate requests the Honorable House of Representatives to consent to the adjournment of the Senate for more than three (3) days beginning Thursday, March 17, 2016, and ending on Monday, March 21, 2016.

### Transmitting engrossed measures

As approved by the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget, advising passage and transmitting for consideration Engrossed **SBs 1571** and **1572**. The measures were introduced and read for the first time.

**SB 1571** – By Jolley, Treat, Shortey, Fry, Jech, Shaw, Brown, Fields, Barrington, Anderson, Halligan, Allen, Justice, Yen, Griffin, David, Schulz, Ford, Simpson, Dahm, Brooks, Smalley, Boggs, Quinn, Standridge and Stanislawski of the Senate and Sears, Casey, Hoskin and Bennett of the House.

An Act relating to the Department of Corrections; making an appropriation; stating purpose; making appropriation nonfiscal; making appropriation exempt from certain agency category and budget limits; and declaring an emergency.

**SB 1572** – By Jolley, Treat, Shortey, Fry, Jech, Sykes, Shaw, Fields, Brown, Barrington, Anderson, Halligan, Allen, Justice, Yen, Griffin, David, Schulz, Ford, Simpson, Dahm, Smalley, Brooks, Quinn, Boggs, Standridge and Stanislawski of the Senate and Sears, Casey, Hoskin, Bennett and Inman of the House.

An Act relating to the State Board of Education; making an appropriation; stating purpose; making appropriation nonfiscal; making appropriation exempt from certain agency category and budget limits; and declaring an emergency.

### REMARKS

Upon unanimous consent request of Representative Kannady, the remarks made by Vicar Nathan Carr on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, are printed in full as follows:

“It started with Plato. He called it *poiesis*—human-making, or what we might call human flourishing. It assumed many things—the kinds of things that the Bible assumes: that humans have a nature—a nature that includes passions and reason and will and heart. Some call it a soul. It’s a soul that Aristotle would’ve described as incurably political, and one that Plato would’ve described as incurably religious. It’s a wildly unpredictable soul that is directed to the Good that ultimately is God, but that’s willing to betray its own self-interest by thinking that the best way to preserve the world’s oldest republic is by putting Trump or Clinton in office. It’s a soul whose only true desire is for the Beauty of God, but whose disordered condition leaves more viewers for the final episode of *Downton Abbey* than members who remain in many denominations. And the really insidious thing about it is that much of the soul’s formation is upstream from the agency of politics. One of my daughters’ formation is in process, and she’s 7—cutting the teeth of her moral imagination on the fairy tales of Andrew Lang. *Take the wrong fork in the road, and you’ll find a wolf instead of a grandmother*. The formation of one of my sons is more or less complete—he

turned 10 this week. His worldview is this: Evil is real. Realizing and achieving the Good might cost you everything. And it's worth it. He learned it from the Exodus. And he learned it from Harry Potter. I might add that the fertile soil in which these ideas grow is in the headwaters of a sleepy family, a smattering of Latin, and a lot of bike rides. It's in the pre-political waters of going to church, setting the table, saying your prayers, and finishing the dad-gum book report. All of this before they realize the crucial world of politics which attempts to govern our collective concerns in a God-honoring way.

And yet their training in politics has begun. Two nights ago my children were playing in the front yard in the dark with a flashlight. Is there greater joy than bare feet on cold wet grass playing Night in the Museum, while trying to balance on the perimeter of our flower bed? No! My oldest was presiding as Queen organizer. My next oldest was Prime Minister, whose friend, a loyal cabinet member, was attempting to control my 3-year-old daughter's dorky attempts at causing the statued player to laugh. Enter my 2-year-old son who interprets this confusing and lawless mess as an attempt to exclude him from the *world's greatest game ever*. So he knocks on the front door to find the Most Honorable Justice of our Home's Supreme Court—Father Daddy and says, 'Dad, I frustrate. Blah, blah...play.' So in good American fashion, I render immediate judicial legislation that adds a new law to a game whose very structure is to exclude such intrusions, and my son Ezra wanders back out into the freezing cold grass vindicated the political process has gained him a hearing. The due process of law has worked.

*And it's because Ezra has been wired to not only flourish, but to WANT to flourish in his humanity.*

Dear Distinguished Members of the House for whom I am grateful, it is not your job today to save the world today—God has that covered through Christ. It is not even your job today to give me stuff. It's not yours to give, nor mine to take. It IS your job to carve out the space for human flourishing that is true to the nature of humanity—a humanity who is made in the image of God, whose likeness is that of God, and whose ultimate purpose is to be in the delighted presence of the One who is True, Good, and Beautiful. You are the front door of our society, and at my house, the front door is not only a protective barrier to things that would disrupt the human flourishing of my home, but a portal through which grandeur might come, adventure might await, and the love of friends and family might pierce through and enter.

You have painful things with which to contend—stewardship issues with our state budget and how it will be allocated. *Remember that human flourishing is the end for which you strive.* ESA's, Blaine amendment stuff, and the opinions on both sides—*remember that human flourishing is the end for which you strive.*

Our founders called this capacity for flourishing 'unalienable rights,' and went on to say, 'that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and *Happiness*' *Eudaimonia*. Flourishing.

The Holy Scriptures call this 'blessedness.' And our Lord describes human flourishing as follows:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,*

*for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'*

Thank you for the labor of love which each of you perform on behalf of this state.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”

Representative Nelson moved that when the clerk's desk is clear, the House stand adjourned to reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 16, 2016, which was the order.

Pursuant to the motion of Representative Nelson, the House was adjourned at 9:15 a.m., to reconvene Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.