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Kobach Compelled by Legislative Inaction to Proceed in Federal Court

TOPEKA (May 16, 2012) – Secretary of State Kris Kobach announced at a press conference today that this morning he filed an answer to the complaint in the Essex vs Kobach case in federal district court concerning the failure of Kansas Legislators to complete their redrawing of congressional and state district lines.

Kobach said, “On April 23, I urged the Kansas Legislature to complete its task of redistricting as soon as possible, and no later than May 16, in order to avoid a constitutional crisis. Due to the Senate’s inability to reach consensus, the Legislature has failed to meet its obligations under the Kansas Constitution. Because of that failure, I have no choice but to proceed in federal court with the lawsuit that the plaintiff has filed.”