Kelly signs bill phasing out grocery sales tax

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly has signed a plan from Republican lawmakers into law to phase out the state's sales tax on groceries over three years.

Kelly had a ceremony Wednesday at a grocery store in Olathe to fulfill a promise to sign the bill even though it is not as aggressive in eliminating the tax as she and fellow Democrats want. They had hoped to eliminate the entire 6.5% tax as of July 1.

Only 13 states charge any sales tax on groceries. Kansas' rate is second only to Mississippi's 7%. The new law drops the tax to 4% in January, to 2% in 2024 and to zero in 2025.

**Associated Press**