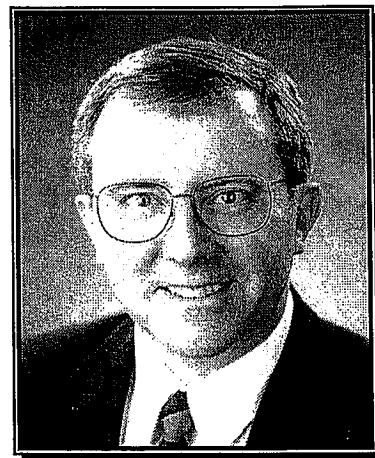


From The Desk Of...

Jay Scott Emler

Kansas Senate 35th District



~Week of February 6 - February 10, 2006~

This marks the end of the fifth week of the 2006 legislative session. We are getting closer to "turnaround" time, which is the time by which all non-exempt bills must be out of the house of origin. Next week will undoubtedly be a very busy week for Senate committees as they attempt to clear their calendars of the bills that originated in the Senate. The actual turnaround time will be February 22nd for committees. Anything that is not exempt will have to be out of committee by that date, or it will be too late for this legislative session.

- **Concealed Carry**

On Thursday, the Senate passed SB 418 on a vote of 29 in favor and 11 opposed. The bill permits qualified citizens to carry a concealed handgun. Citizens must pass a background check and take an eight-hour course in the safety and use of handguns before receiving their license to carry a concealed handgun.

- **Wine Sales**

Substitute for SB 370 passed 36-4 on Thursday. The bill will allow Kansas farm wineries to ship wine out of state, and would also permit out-of-state wineries to ship wine into Kansas.

- **Other Bills**

Several traffic-related bills also passed the Senate this week. SB 413 would allow cities to pass an ordinance permitting golf carts to be driven on their streets during daylight hours, as long as the cart displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem. SB 412 allows cities to pass an ordinance permitting motorized toy vehicles to be driven on sidewalks or streets, as long as the vehicle is equipped with a bicycle safety flag. Both bills are expected to be utilized by small communities, but not by large cities. SB 396 will allow military veteran license tags to be issued for travel trailers. Currently, veteran tags are only issued for cars, trucks and motorcycles. SB 347 prohibits TV-type equipment from being visible to the driver of any vehicle in operation. Speeding fines in school zones would be doubled by SB 346.

A pair of bills revising the Kansas Code for the Care of Children and the Kansas Juvenile Justice Code also passed on Thursday. HB 2352 (Care of Children) and SB 261 (Juvenile Justice) each made numerous adjustments to the respective codes.

SB 329, which would change the requirement for re-evaluating school curriculum standards from every three years to every seven years, also passed on Thursday.

SB 357, which would have allowed the Department of Revenue to collect a fee for tax refunds of late filers, was defeated by the Senate on Thursday. The fee would only have been imposed after several unsuccessful attempts had been made to get the taxpayer to file the return. The maximum penalty was \$250.00

- **Commerce Committee**

Major issues that were addressed in the Commerce Committee this week included eminent domain and statewide video franchising. The Statewide Video Franchise Bill had a hearing earlier this week and was scheduled for committee discussion today. Unfortunately, a hearing on another bill before the committee delayed further action on the franchise bill until next week. I have been working with the Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Farm Bureau to craft some language that they believe will be acceptable to membership regarding eminent domain. I do not believe there are sufficient votes to totally eliminate use of eminent domain, as has been suggested by some.

- **Utilities**

The Senate Utilities Committee continued to work on the deregulation of telecommunications bill. That bill is expected to receive final action by the committee next week.

Another bill which the Senate Utilities Committee held hearings on this past week was the Gas Pipeline Safety Act. It was anticipated that final action would occur on that bill on Thursday, but some issues arose which have delayed final action on that bill until next week.

- **TOLL FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE**

The State Library will continue its practice of operating the toll free hotline for Kansans to call their legislators and leave brief messages. The hotline number is 1-800-432-3924. If you are receiving this newsletter and really would like to be taken off my list, just let me know. My legislative district includes: Barton, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Lincoln, Marion, McPherson and Rice counties. If you know of others that would like to receive this newsletter, have them contact me and I will add them to my list. I prefer to send by e-mail since the cost is essentially free, but I do have a limited legislative postage allowance, which is largely reserved for distributing this letter.

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