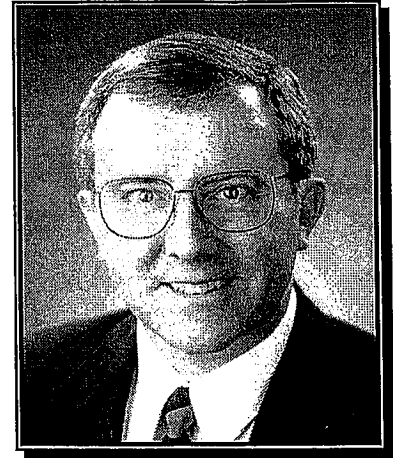


From The Desk Of...

Jay Scott Emler

Kansas Senate 35th District



~Week of March 20 - March 24, 2006~

- **Budget**

A trio of budget bills passed the Senate Thursday morning. SB 573, which provides funding for all state agencies in fiscal year 2007, passed 26-14. The bill recommends \$5.3 billion in expenditures from the state general fund, and \$11.7 billion in expenditures from all funds. SB 570, which contains supplemental appropriations for state agencies in fiscal year 2006, passed 32-8. SB 571 passed 33-7. It includes appropriations for capital improvements in fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Administration, School for the Deaf, School for the Blind, five state universities, KBI, KDWP, and KDOT.

- **Eminent Domain**

The Senate on Tuesday passed three bills relating to eminent domain. SB 319 requires any excess land acquired through eminent domain to be deeded back to the governmental entity from which it was acquired. SB 398 clarifies the appeals process for the amount awarded in an eminent domain case. Both SB 319 and SB 398 passed 40-0. Substitute for SB 323 passed 27-13. It will prohibit the use of eminent domain for economic development purposes unless the legislature approves of the specific taking. The bill will continue to allow eminent domain to be used for traditional public uses, such as roads and bridges.

- **Marriage Age**

HB 2541, which prohibits anyone under age 16 from getting married in Kansas, was debated on the Senate floor this week. Persons age 16 and 17 may marry with the permission of a combination of parents, legal guardians and district court judges. The bill passed 38-2 on Wednesday.

- **Special Education Teacher Scholarships**

The Senate also passed a bill that will provide scholarship money for some special education professionals and teachers to further their education. It will allow para-professionals to pursue a full-fledged special education teaching degree if they agree to meet certain requirements. HB 2578 was approved by a 38-2 vote on Thursday.

- **Wildlife and Parks Funding**

SB 583, which creates a dedicated source of funding for state and local parks, passed the Senate 37-3 Thursday. It authorizes the transfer of \$5 million annually from funds generated by the Kansas Lottery to KDWP, and will provide funding to maintain state parks and outdoor recreation grants to local governments.

- **Concealed Carry**

Wednesday, the Senate voted 30-10 to override the Governor's veto on Senate Bill 418. The House voted 91-33, on Thursday to override the veto. With both chambers voting to override the Governor's veto, Kansans who go through the process may now become licensed to carry concealed weapons.

- **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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