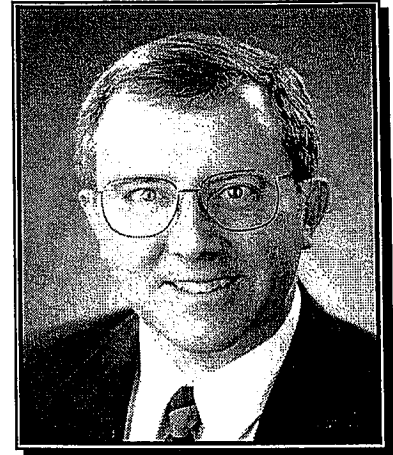


From The Desk Of...

Jay Scott Emler

Kansas Senate 35th District



~Week of April 24 - April 28, 2006~

- **Budget**

On March 31, 2006 the Senate adopted the conference committee report for SB 480 30-10. The bill now contains appropriations for fiscal year 2007, supplemental appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, appropriations for capital improvements, and special claims against the state. It now authorizes expenditures in the amount of \$16.5 million less from all funds than the Governor's recommendation for fiscal year 2007.

- **Cruelty to Animals**

The Senate adopted the conference committee report for SB 408 on March 31, 2006, 40-0. Better known as Scruffy's Law or Magnum's Law, the bill makes intentional and malicious animal cruelty a felony with a minimum sentence of 30 days in jail. The bill will now go to the Governor, as the conference committee report has been adopted by both the House and the Senate.

- **Deregulation Bills**

On March 31, 2006 the Senate adopted the conference committee reports for SB 350 and SB 449. SB 350 deregulates prices for telecommunications services. SB 449 is known as the video competition act, and makes it easier for phone companies to compete with cable companies for providing video services (like TV) to consumers. Both bills passed 40-0 and will now go to the Governor.

- **Eminent Domain**

Sub SB 323 remains in a conference committee, and negotiations will continue until an agreement is reached. The bill prohibits the use of eminent domain for economic development purposes, and contains an exemption for redevelopment districts already established.

- **Jessica's Law**

HB 2576, better known as Jessica's Law, also remains in a conference committee. The bill provides for harsher penalties for sex offenders, particularly those preying on children under age 14, and also authorizes the state to enter into contracts with private prisons.

- **School Finance**

Three school finance plans were defeated on the Senate floor, but SB 584 was reconsidered and then re-referred to the Education committee. Substitute SB 584 passed the Senate yesterday on a vote of 24-16.

- **Omnibus Budget**

The Senate is currently debating the omnibus budget bill, Senate Substitute for HB 2968. If it passes today, the conference committee will begin meeting either tomorrow or Monday.

- **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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