

**Senate President Steve Morris - Comments to Media**  
**on Feb. 23, 2007 - Turnaround Deadline**

**National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (SB 252)**

- SB 252 would deed 60 acres on the north side of the KSU campus to the US government contingent upon this site being chosen for the new facility.
- HB 2303 would create an interagency working group to support and assist the US Dept of Homeland Security in conducting an environmental impact statement on any Kansas site selected for location of the facility
- HCR 5009 pledges the Legislature's support for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility
- SB 252, HB 2303 and HCR 5009 all passed the Senate unanimously.

**Unemployment Taxes (SB 83)**

- Reduces the rate of unemployment tax paid by Kansas businesses.
- Because unemployment currently is low, there is much more money in the unemployment trust fund than is necessary to cover
- Helps Kansas businesses and ensures the security of the unemployment benefits system.
- The bill passed 40 - 0.

**Funeral Picketing (SB 320)**

- Creates the Kansas Funeral Picketing Act
- Prohibits picketing or protesting w/i 300 yds of cemetery, church, mortuary or other location where funerals are conducted
- the prohibition extends from 1 hr. before, during and 2 hrs after the service.
- Picketers prohibited from blocking public access while picketing or protesting.
- Bill permits estate of the deceased to file defamation lawsuits on behalf of the deceased or any living relative of the deceased.
- Will not be effective until the KS Supreme Ct. or a federal ct. upholds the constitutionality of the bill
- AG will seek judicial determination of the bill's constitutionality.
- SB 320 passed the Senate 40 - 0.

**K-12 Task Force**

- will recommend the creation of an Office of Early Childhood to coordinate all efforts for kids in that age group

### **Presidential Primary (SB 320)**

- Puts Kansas in a stronger position to say who will ultimately be the candidates for President
- Eliminates the first Tuesday in April '08 as the default date
- Gives Secy of State the latitude to select any date at least 3 other states hold a primary
- Changes filing deadlines accordingly
- Passed 40 - 0.

### **Extension of Lottery (SB 66)**

- Extends the lottery in perpetuity
- Does away with the sunset clause
- Eliminates the need to attain and display the lottery retail certificate because games are electronically connected to the Kansas Lottery.
- SB 66 passed the Senate 36 - 4.

### **Methamphetamine Registry (SB 14)**

- Requires certain offenders to register, including anyone convicted of  
unlawful manufacture or  
attempted manufacture or,  
distribution or trafficking or,  
possession of the chemicals used to produce with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine,
- Requires offenders to pay a registration fee; the money collected would remain in the sheriff's office in the county where it was collected to offset administrative costs.
- SB 14 passed the Senate 39 to 0.

### **SCR 1606 Designation of Animal Health Corridor:**

- 37 global or US animal health companies have their headquarters between Manhattan, KS and the Kansas City Metropolitan area
- an additional 120 have a presence in the corridor,
- designates the region as the KC Animal Health Corridor.
- SCR 1606 passed the Senate unanimously.

### **Deferred Maintenance**

This is a critical issue that remains to be addressed by the 2007 Legislature