

Senate Update

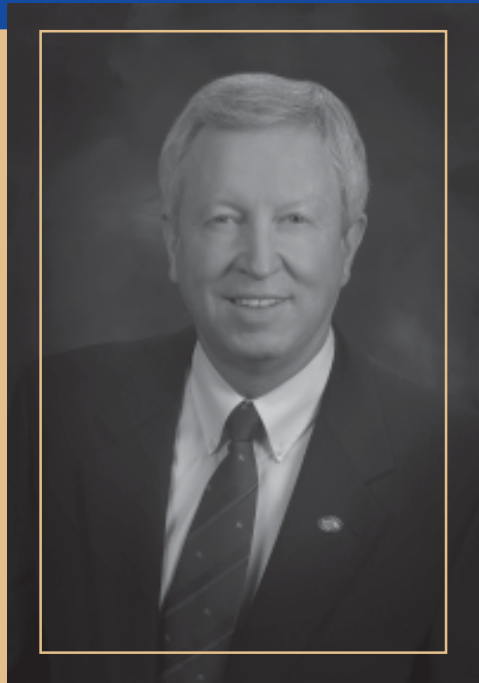
Senate President Stephen R. Morris

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February 23, 2007

Dear Friends,

This week we observe one of the major deadlines of the 2007 Legislative Session. It is known as “turnaround” -- the date by which legislation must be considered in its house of origin. (Basically, if a bill is introduced in the Senate, it must be considered, voted on and passed out to the House of Representatives if it is to progress any further this year.)

As with most rules, there are exceptions. For example, bills in the Senate Ways and Means Committee or Federal and State Affairs Committee are exempt from the deadline. The House Appropriations Committee and others are similarly exempt. It is also possible to have a bill from a non-exempt committee “blessed” by running it through one of the exempt committees.

In spite of the different ways of getting around it, this deadline serves to move the process along. I am pleased with the progress made so far this session, on the floor -- and in committees -- where the bulk of the work is still being done at this point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Stephen R. Morris".

Stephen R. Morris
Senate President

US Sen. Pat Roberts Calls on
Legislature for Decisive Action;
Both Chambers Happy to Comply

In response to US Senator Pat Roberts’ address to a rare joint session of the Kansas Legislature on Monday, Feb. 5, the Senate and House quickly and efficiently passed legislation to enhance Kansas’ standing in the race to secure the location of the **National Bio and Agrodefense Facility (NBAF)** in either Manhattan or Leavenworth.

NBAF is a \$450 million national research facility that could help establish Kansas as the epicenter of biosecurity research in the world. Scientists at the facility would study agricultural and biological threats to the nation’s food supply and public health.

NBAF represents the “most exciting scientific and economic development opportunities ever to come before the state of Kansas.”

-- US Senator
Pat Roberts

The proposed facility is being built to replace the aging and obsolete Plum Island facility off the coast of New York. The lab would study and develop countermeasures for animal diseases and poisons.

SB 252 would deed over 60 acres on the north side of the KSU campus to the US government contingent upon this site being chosen for the new facility.

Senate Updates Valuation of Wildlife

The Senate passed 40-0 a measure increasing the minimum value for certain wildlife, to be used in determining whether an illegal commercial act was committed and whether the act constitutes a felony.

The bill offers the following minimum value changes:

- Deer or antelope, from \$400 to \$1,000
- Elk or buffalo, from \$600 to \$1,500
- Bobcats, from \$25 to \$200
- Wild turkey, from \$75 to \$200
- Owls, hawks, falcons, kites, harriers, or ospreys, from \$200 to \$500
- Game birds, migratory game birds, resident and migratory non-game birds, game animals and non-game animals, from \$20 to \$50 unless a higher amount is specified above
- Turtles, from \$10 to \$25 each for unprocessed turtles or from \$8 to \$16 per pound or fraction of a pound for processed turtle parts
- Bullfrogs, from \$2 to \$4
- Any wildlife classified as threatened or endangered, from \$200 to \$500 unless a higher amount is specified above
- Other wildlife not listed above, from \$10 to \$25.

This bill was introduced at the request of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). At the hearing KDWP spokesman explained the felony/misdemeanor value threshold for certain crimes was raised last legislative session and noted that wildlife values were not increased correspondingly.

NBAF (con't from Page 1)

The House then sent over HB 2303 and HCR 5009. HCR 5009 pledges legislative support for the NBAF; HB 2303 would create an interagency working group to support and assist the US Department of Homeland Security in conducting an environmental impact statement on any site in Kansas selected for the location of a the facility.

All three measures were passed unanimously by the Senate.

This speedy action will allow Kansas to include these incentives in its formal bid for the facility, which was due in Washington last week.

Senate approves Breast Cancer Research & Outreach license plate

On Thursday, Feb. 15, the Kansas Senate passed on a vote of 39-1 a bill authorizing the development of a “Breast Cancer Research and Outreach” license tag. Revenue from the plates will be earmarked for the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC). The measure - Senate Bill 198 - now goes to the House for consideration.

For every tag sold, \$50 will go directly to the KUCC to support a statewide coordinator for the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA). MCA serves as a liaison between the KUCC, hospitals, physicians and clinics across the state. Such coordination will assist the KUCC’s statewide medical director in getting word out to Kansas breast cancer patients of prevention and early detection protocols, treatment choices and clinical studies available.

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women in Kansas and it is the second leading cause of cancer death among women in Kansas. In the next year, more than 2000 new breast cancer cases will be diagnosed in Kansas, and approximately 400 women will die.

It is estimated that as many as 20,000 breast cancer survivors live in Kansas and that many of them, their families and friends, will want to display the new plate.



Dr. Roy Jensen and State Senator Barbara Allen display the prototype for a new Breast Cancer Research and Outreach license plate; through a royalty fee, it will raise money for Breast Cancer Research.

Requiring Photo ID for Voting Passes Senate 28-12

SB 169 requires photo identification those voting in person, changes the list of acceptable I.D. for those voting by mail, requires all voters to provide identification at every election, exempts certain voters from the requirements to provide identification, and requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

The bill makes the following specific changes or additions to current law:

Requires all voters to provide identification at every election. Current law requires I.D. be provided only by those voting for the first time in the county who did not provide i.d. when registering to vote.

Revises what constitutes “acceptable” I.D.,” depending on whether one votes in person or by mail: Photo I.D. must be provided by every advance voter applying to vote in person and by every voter at the polls.

Acceptable “in person” photographic I.D. includes:

- Current Kansas driver’s license
- Current Kansas non-driver’s I.D. card
- United States passport
- Employee badge or I.D.
- Debit or credit card
- Student I.D.
- Public assistance I.D.

Requires an election board member to verify whether the photo I.D. provided by a voter at the polls bears a signature. If not, the voter must provide an additional form of I.D. that includes the **voter’s signature.**

Deletes “utility bill, bank statement, paycheck and government check” from the list of acceptable I.D. for anyone applying for an advance ballot that is to be mailed.

Ethanol Sales: Mandates or Incentives?

The Senate Ag committee heard testimony last week on a proposed mandate for all fuel sold to be E-10. At the same time, the Senate Tax committee heard testimony on a bill which attempts to do the same thing through financial incentives.

Proponents of the mandate claim Wall Street investment dollars are being lost due to a perceived lack of state support. Conferees point out that the investment structure of ethanol plants is evolving quickly, and what once was accomplished through local farmers’ dollars now requires major investors. Investors reportedly are funneling their support to states with an E-10 mandate. *(con’t on Pg. 4)*

The remaining acceptable I.D. would include:

- the voter’s current, valid KS driver’s license number, non-driver I.D. card number, or the last four digits of the Social Security number written on the ballot
- a copy of the voter’s current, valid Kansas driver’s license number, non-driver’s I.D. card number, or other government document containing the voter’s current name and address as indicated on the registration book enclosed with the ballot.

The following persons would be exempted from voter identification requirements:

- Persons aged 65 or older
- Persons with a temporary or permanent physical disability
- Members of the military on active duty, or their spouses, who because of their duty status are absent from the county on election day
- Members of the merchant marine, or their spouses, who are on assignment and absent from the county on election day
- Eligible voters currently residing outside the United States

Persons registering to vote would have to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. Acceptable proof would include:

- a United States passport,
- a birth certificate indicating the applicant was born in the United States,
- a federal government issued document indicating the applicant is a naturalized citizen.
- voters applying by mail would have to enclose with the application a copy of one of these documents.

Senate Pages



Anna Robinson, 7th Grader at Abe Hubert Middle School, with Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson and Senate President Steve Morris of Hugoton on her day in the Capitol.

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Ethanol: Mandates or Incentives, con't from Page 3

Another proposal would use tax credits to encourage oil companies to sell ethanol fuel. Because the incentive is based on a sliding percentage of biofuels sold, a retailer would have to offer E-85 as well as E-10 to continue receiving the credits in the second and subsequent years. The bill has a financial note to the state of \$1.5 to \$5 million but makes no guarantees that E-10 fuel will be offered for sale. Proponents urged the Senate to let the market place—not mandates—do the work.

Ultimately, this is a policy question for legislators. It boils down to passing a controversial mandate with no fiscal note or favoring a politically popular bill that can cost the state up to \$5 million per year. Doing nothing puts the state at risk of falling behind other states in ethanol expansion and production.

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