

REAP
Legislative Report April 18, 2007
By Tom Bruno

800 SW Jackson, Ste. 1118
Phone (785) 354-8172

Topeka, KS 66612
e-mail:kslobby@cox.net

Few REAP Agenda Items Remain for Consideration

The 2007 Kansas Legislature has approved most of REAP's agenda items. The few issues that remain appear, at this time, to be moving through the process.

National Institute of Aviation Research

The "mega" budget bill approved earlier in the session included \$2.5 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2008 that begins on July 1. The original request from WSU and the aviation industry was for \$5 million for FY 2008. The Governor in her budget presented to the legislature recommended \$2.5 million.

The House Education Budget Committee, a subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, has recommended adding in the additional \$2.5 million for next year.

The House Appropriations Committee will consider the budget committee's recommendation and take action later this week.

Gaming

The Legislature approved gaming bill has been signed and will become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register either this week or next. There were discussions before the first adjournment regarding a follow-up bill to correct some technical issues with the bill and make some changes to the original version. At this point there has been little discussion regarding the follow-up bill and it is unclear at this time whether anything additional will occur on gaming.

Issues that could Delay Final Adjournment

The number of issues the Legislature must work before adjournment are few. One is the budget as discussed above. Healthcare Reform is a hot button issue that the Legislature feels must have some action this session before they go home. The conference committee agreed-to Senate Bill 11 is the vehicle that is expected to be worked during the wrap-up. The other hold-out of should do's is the modification of the Star Bonds program.

A final report will be completed once the Legislature adjourns for the year.

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