

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Stephen R. Morris

President of the Kansas Senate
Senator, 39th District
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STATE OF KANSAS

Committee Assignments:

Chairman:
Interstate Cooperation Committee
Legislative Coordinating Council
Organization, Calendar and Rules
NCSL Chair of Standing Committees

Member:
Capitol Restoration Commission
Federal and State Affairs
Natural Resources
Pensions, Investments and Benefits
State Finance Council
CSG Executive Committee
The Energy Council Executive Committee

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Senate Republican Leadership Comment on Budget Proposal ***Senate committee cut \$535 million, offers balanced 2012 budget***

Topeka -- Senate Republican Leadership, at their regular media availability in the Senate President's Office today, offered statements in support of the budget bill that passed out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee yesterday. Ways and Means completed its work to balance the 2012 budget, paring \$535 million from the total and leaving the state with a positive ending balance.

Senate President Stephen R. Morris, R-Hugoton, stated, "I am extremely pleased with the results of the committee's work. Senators McGinn and Vratil did an excellent job of leading the committee through the complexities of crafting this budget, and I think the end product is exactly what we hoped for in this very difficult budget year."

"We have accomplished what we set out to do from the very first day: to balance the budget in a way that encourages innovation, promotes job growth, and limits the impact on schools," said Senator Carolyn McGinn, chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

Senate Vice President John Vratil, R-Leawood, who is vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee added, "The Senate Ways and Means Committee worked very hard to craft a responsible budget for fiscal year 2012. The Committee finished its work yesterday, March 17. We've created a budget that addresses many of the needs of our state and its citizens."

"Taxpayers sent us to Topeka to do one thing, and that is to balance the budget," commented Senate Majority Leader Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg. "It is critical that both the Senate and the House make an honest effort to cut spending and protect the things that matter most to our state. Anything less than that is a disservice to Kansas taxpayers."

The Senate's plan:

- Makes cuts to fill the \$500 million shortfall that existed for 2012
- Makes cuts to address the Governor's request for a \$35 million ending balance in 2011
- Minimizes the impact on K-12 education; meets the state's special education obligations
- Provides for services for the poor and elderly

The Governor, in his State of the State address, had asked the Legislature for a \$35 million ending balance in 2011. When 2011 budget negotiations failed earlier in the month, the Governor used his allotment powers to provide the state with a zero ending balance for 2011. Under state law, governors are not permitted to make allotments beyond a zero ending balance.