

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Stephen R. Morris

President of the Kansas Senate
Senator, 39th District
State Capitol, Room 333-E
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-2419



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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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patti Van Slyke 785.296.2419 (office)
785.215.9621 (cell)
Patti.vanslyke@senate.ks.gov (office email)

Senate President Steve Morris Reiterates Position on Senate Bill 1

Topeka – Senate President Stephen R. Morris, R-Hugoton, today offered a response to questions regarding the Senate’s intent to act on a tax bill – Senate Bill 1 -- that yesterday was ruled materially altered and referred to tax committee for further study.

“After consulting with the chair of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, I believe the appropriate action has been taken on the House-passed tax bill. Virtually the same language is in Senate Bill 232, and it has not yet advanced to the full Senate either. This is the normal and appropriate process for any major tax legislation. It should be fully vetted in committee.

In its original form, SB 1 simply required Kansas retailers to provide the current correct tax rate on printed receipts. In the House, it was expanded into a tax reform measure nicknamed MEGA bill, an acronym for March to Economic Growth Act. The bill would now require a reduction in corporate and individual income tax rates in the upcoming fiscal year at such time as the general state tax revenues rise above last year’s total.

“Some may argue,” Morris continued, “that it is, in fact, fiscally irresponsible and poor public policy to virtually wipe out any potential increase in state revenue, particularly at a time when we are making deep cuts to education, threatening to close KNI, proposing pay cuts to our state employees and making other extremely difficult budget cuts that have serious repercussions for our citizens.”

Morris pointed out the House amended language in SB 1 is similar to TABOR legislation passed in some states – including Colorado – that has crippled the state’s economy.

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