

Legislative Update No. 2 from Ron Highland, Representative of the 51st District

This week was shortened due to the Martin Luther King holiday, but committee meetings were longer to make up for the time lost. The Senate and House Education Committees are meeting jointly so all committee members hear the same information from the various individuals, groups and agencies associated with education in our state. This will help when legislation is crafted to better serve our children and their education experience.

The mail I am receiving of late generally falls into two categories. The first being the proposed bill (HB 2023). The bill would remove the State of Kansas from the responsibility of bookkeeping for public sector union political action committees (PACs). The second being gun ownership rights. The talk of placing some restrictions on the rights guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution by some is causing worry among many in our district.

I am studying HB 2023 carefully and will share my thoughts at a later date. I want to visit with both proponents and opponents of the bill. But, I also want to hear from teachers and you the voters in the 51st District. To view this bill or any other bill before the legislature you can go to www.kslegislature.org, click on the Bills and Laws tab to see for yourself the wording that is being considered. Firsthand knowledge is always better than secondhand hearsay.

The House also passed a rule that for any amendment to an appropriations bill on the House floor that seeks to increase spending, an equal amount of spending reductions must be presented for the amendment to be debated. The rule is commonly referred to as Pay Go and should speed the budget approval process.

If you have concerns, issues or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at Ron.Highland@house.ks.gov or 785-296-7310.