

Gov. signs bill, gives money to state colleges

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Date: Friday, April 25, 2008

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed the Mega Budget Bill Monday, using her line-item veto on a provision that would have unnecessarily tied up future gaming revenues, according to a press release from the governor's office. A provision that would have given money generated from gambling to the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy was included in the bill. "[The vetoed item] tried to put our gambling money into three categories that could never be spent for anything else," said Rep. Sydney Carlin, D-Manhattan. Carlin said Sebelius felt the restrictions of the bill would be too great and would not allow the money to be spent well. Carlin also said Sebelius wants the necessary funds for the school to be raised through bonds, not with gambling revenue. The three current uses for money generated through gambling are state debt reduction, property tax relief and infrastructure improvement. The bill also will give \$10 million to the Kansas Board of Regents. That is half the amount Sebelius asked for, but the university is hopeful that all \$20 million will be granted after the legislative session next week. "We are still hopeful we can achieve the governor's original recommendations," said Susan Peterson, director of governmental relations for K-State. Carlin said the budget bill needs to be passed by the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30, but she is confident the bill will be passed much sooner than that. "We are going to meet April 30 to discuss the omnibus bill," Carlin said. "We hope to get it all worked out then." Carlin said the omnibus bill is passed to cover costs of new legislation.