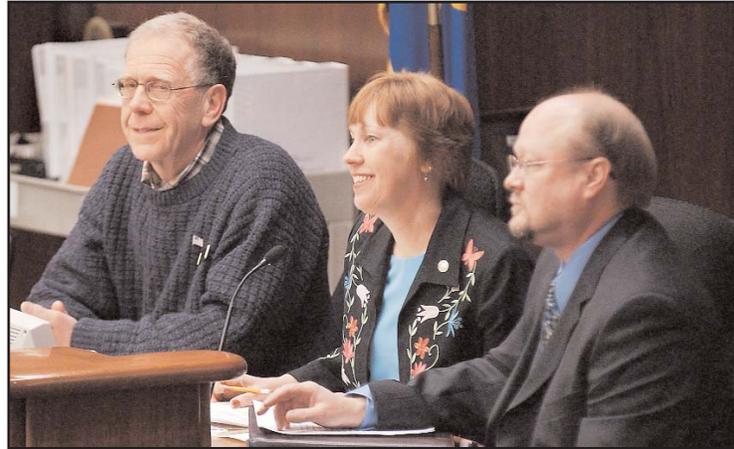




State Representative District 27B JEANNE POPPE

SESSION UPDATE

March 31, 2006



Dear Friends,

There was a flurry of activity this week as we met our first deadline. At this point, most of the bill proposals have been heard and either passed, defeated, or held over for inclusion in a larger omnibus bill.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you!

Jeanne Poppe

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Daryl Franklin, Director of Environmental Services for Mower County, and Craig Oscarson, Mower County Coordinator, joined me last week to testify for more dollars for Mower County's revolving loan fund for individual sewage treatment projects.

Gopher Stadium

This week, officials from the University of Minnesota presented an overview of their bill which seeks state assistance in the funding of a new on-campus stadium for the Golden Gophers. Testimony was presented on both sides of the issue and the bill was passed to the Finance Committee on unanimous voice votes.

Bill banning lead jewelry introduced

After a Minneapolis child died suddenly from lead poisoning caused by swallowing a charm bracelet made of lead, a group of DFL legislators introduced legislation that would reduce the threat of lead poisoning in Minnesota, including a ban of the sale of costume jewelry made with lead.

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat for children. Even very low levels of exposure can result in reduced IQ, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, behav-

ioral problems, stunted growth, impaired hearing, and kidney damage. At high levels of exposure, a child may become mentally retarded, fall into a coma and even die from lead poisoning.

Senate passes bonding bill

Last week, the Senate passed a \$990 million bonding bill. I understand the House Bonding Bill will be on the floor for our vote before Easter.

This week at the Capitol:

- Nurses from around the state rallied in support of health care for all Minnesotans.
- College students from the Minnesota State College Student Association visited to talk about their number one concern when it comes to higher education: the rising cost of tuition.
- Students from the Austin FFA visited to discuss ag education.