

**MIDWEST DIGEST**

**Neb. Lawmakers Move To Stop Gun Rule**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers want to force the city of Omaha to stop requiring those with concealed-carry gun permits to register their firearms with the city.

On Monday, they passed an amendment that would stop the practice in Omaha.

The approval of the amendment follows an opinion from Attorney General Jon Bruning's office on Friday that Omaha has been violating state law by forcing people who have permits to carry concealed guns to also register their guns.

The formal opinion said Omaha's rule isn't allowed under a law that bars cities from preventing concealed-carry permit holders from carrying concealed guns inside city limits.

Background checks, training and fingerprinting are required to get concealed-carry permits.

**Neb. Backs Plan To End College Money Fight**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers have given preliminary support to a plan to resolve the funding dispute between the state's six community colleges.

The Nebraska Legislature gave first-round approval Monday to the plan that senators and college officials announced in early March.

The bill (LB1072) lawmakers endorsed will eliminate the current funding formula for community colleges in July 2011. Between now and then, the colleges have agreed to work together to develop a new formula.

As part of the agreement between the colleges, Metropolitan Community College dropped its lawsuit against the other colleges.

**Neb. Senators Advance Teacher Pay Plan**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska may establish a special fund to help school districts create performance-based pay programs to supplement regular teacher pay.

Lawmakers gave first approval Monday to a bill (LB1014) that would earmark as much as \$10 million a year to help school districts afford performance-based pay programs starting in 2016.

But each district will have to create its own program to reward good performance through collective bargaining. And 75 percent of the state's districts must have a program in place before the new money would become available.

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**Lawmakers Uphold Deaf Education Bill Veto**

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers on Monday upheld Gov. Mike Rounds' veto of a bill that would have required the state Education Department to set up programs to promote the education of children who are deaf or have impaired hearing.

The Senate voted 30-4 to override the veto. But the measure failed on a 33-34 vote in the House, falling far short of the two-thirds, or 47 votes, needed to pass a bill over a governor's objections.

Supporters said the measure would have helped make sure children with hearing problems get the help they need in South Dakota's school districts.

"We have to remember that there's only one concern for us, a child's education," said Sen. Dan Ahlers, D-Dell Rapids, the bill's main sponsor.

In his veto message, the Republican governor said some of the bill's requirements already are included in federal law. Other provisions would be difficult for school districts to accomplish, he said.

Rounds also said the South Dakota Constitution gives the Board of Regents responsibility for many aspects of educating children with impaired hearing. The bill would have placed additional requirements on the Education Department, which does not have the necessary money or staff, he said.

In addition, state officials already are working to accomplish the goals set out in the bill, the governor said.

Ahlers said schools could get money from at least three sources to pay for programs that help children with hearing problems. It is not acceptable for a student with hearing problems to leave high school with only a fourth-grade reading ability, he said.

In the House debate, opponents said the bill is not needed.

**Neb. Lawmakers Work On Hospital Compromise**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Debate on bill that could severely hinder plans for a physician-owned hospital in Kearney has stalled as different parties work on a compromise.

Speaker of the legislature Mike Flood said Monday that the bill won't come back this week and that there have been negotiations.

Flood did not indicate what, if any, agreements have been reached in the talks.

The postponed bill (LB999) would bar the construction of new hospitals for two years. There is a disagreement in Kearney over whether doctors there should be able to build a new hospital.

S.D. LEGISLATURE

**Rounds Veto On Insurance Bill Stands**

Senate Falls Three Votes Short — Bill Would Have Given Injured Full Compensation

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — Gov. Mike Rounds has succeeded in blocking a bill that sought to change South Dakota's insurance law to give some injured people a better chance of receiving full compensation for their losses.

The Senate fell three votes short of the two-thirds majority of 24 needed to override the governor's veto. The vote to override failed 21-13.

The bill dealt with situations in which people are injured as a result of someone else's fault. An injured person's own insurance company typically pays the medical bills until compensation is received from the person at fault. South Dakota law now allows the insurance company to be first in line to get money from that compensation to recover its expenses on those medical bills.

The measure would have required that injured people be fully compensated for all other losses, such as loss of income or property damage, before their own insurance companies could receive any of the money paid by the person at fault.

In his veto message, the governor said he agrees that the current system is unfair to some

injured people but believes the bill goes too far in limiting the interests of insurance companies.

Rounds also suggested that the State Bar come up a compromise for consideration in next year's legislative session.

The bill's main sponsor, Sen. Nancy Turbak Berry, D-Watertown, said most people do not learn about the law until they are injured and a settlement does not provide enough money to cover all damages.

"If there's not enough money to go around, your insurance

company gets paid back first," Turbak Berry said. "Then you're the one who loses out."

Turbak Berry said insurance rates have not increased in the other states that have passed similar bills.

In his veto message, Rounds said he believes damages paid before an insurance company can recover anything should be limited to actual past and future expenses. Disputes will arise if injured people can recover all damages, including those for pain and suffering and loss of

enjoyment of life, he said. Turbak Berry said those other damages, which cannot easily be assigned a price tag, are often the most serious damages. For example, people need to be compensated when accidents cause them to lose eyesight or the ability to walk, she said.

Senate Republican Leader Dave Knudson of Sioux Falls urged the Senate to agree with the governor's veto. Insurance companies have made it clear that premiums would rise if such a bill passed, he said.

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