



What's Up in the Legislature

(March 16, 2008)

Again, there is little to report for the last week at the Legislature.

The good news, at least for some, is the Governor's veto of two bills.

HB2043 (air quality; idling; study committee) (NOW: FY 2007-2008 state hiring; moratorium)
By Speaker Pro Tempore ROBSON

The Governor vetoed on March 14, as unneeded since agencies commenced freeze on her executive order in February.

HB2857 (fiscal year 2007-2008; budget adjustments By Majority Leader Boone

This substitute for SB 1300, the Senate budget bill, was vetoed by the Governor on March 11 because she said it constituted piecemeal budgeting and she wants a comprehensive budget.

The other good news is the announcement by Rep. Boone, House Majority Leader, that the House is ready to consider some aspects of bonding for school construction. The Governor and Legislative leadership is scheduled to meet on St. Patrick's Day to work the budget.

The bad news is that the deficit is growing and that is the reason the House and Senate are now willing to discuss bonding. The worse news is that even with bonding there will be heavy cuts in many programs that affect the SVdP constituency.