

# Lawmakers approve bill on sale of two-state hospital system

TOPEKA (AP) — Acting with unusual speed, legislators approved a bill intended to protect what state officials said was Kansas' rightful share of the proceeds from the sale of a two-state hospital system.

The House passed the measure Thursday on a 114-5 vote about an hour after the Senate approved, 37-1. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius was expected to sign it Friday.

Legislative action followed Wednesday's announcement by Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon of a legal settlement with nonprofit Health Midwest over the proposed \$1.13 billion sale of its 13 hospitals and clinics to Tennessee-based HCA Inc.

The bill would create a separate Kansas foundation to hold assets from the sale, with an 18-member board appointed by the governor, attorney general and legislative leaders.

Most of the hospitals are on the Missouri side of the Kansas City metropolitan area, but there are two

in suburban Johnson County, Kan., and one in Iola, Kan.

Nixon's settlement would establish a joint foundation that would distribute about \$700 million in proceeds to charities in the two states — with at least 10 percent, or \$70 million, guaranteed to Kansas.

But Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline said the state's share should be 15 percent to 25 percent of the proceeds, or between \$105 million and \$175 million.

"The attorney general of Mis-

souri has said through his actions that he has the right to spend your money," Kline told legislators Thursday. "This money is in trust with the people of the state of Kansas."

But Sen. David Adkins, who cast the only vote against the bill in his chamber, said legislators were moving too quickly and hadn't considered the implications of what they were doing.

"I don't believe this bill is worthy of our support, even with a gun to our head," said Adkins, R-Leawood, who lost last year's GOP

primary for attorney general to Kline.

Nixon, in a telephone interview Thursday, said the critical issue was meeting health care needs of people in the Kansas City area, regardless of whether they live in Missouri or Kansas. He noted that under the settlement, six of the 25 directors of the Missouri foundation would be from Kansas.

"I am convinced that posturing about this is not what we need to do," Nixon said from his office in Jefferson City, Mo. "I've done what's right and what the law calls

for."

Kline said setting up the Kansas foundation would conclusively establish the state's authority over Health Midwest assets.

But Nixon said Kansas lawmakers' actions only proved his point that Kansas had no control over a Missouri non-profit organization.

Both states filed lawsuits in their respective state courts over the sale, arguing that they were due proceeds from the sale.

## Family flees when husband shares

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this for those female readers who wish the men in their lives would share their feelings with them. What I have to say to them is this: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

My husband shares all his feelings and thoughts (mostly negative ones) with me all the time. Every night I am forced to sit for hours listening to him verbalize his thoughts and feelings. He has no time to do yard work or household repairs because he's either too busy thinking and feeling or verbalizing his endless criticisms.

He does hold down a steady (sedentary) job, and some of the ways he gets in touch with his feelings — through music and poetry — are positive. However, when I was in a car accident last year and should have been resting and recuperating, my husband "didn't have time" to help with housework because his piano had to be played and his novels had to be read.

When we were first married, we moved to a small rural town hundreds of miles away from our friends and families. It has been hard to make friends in this closed community.

Once every few years a family member or friend is willing to come and visit us, but my husband almost always finds a way to alienate our visitors.

He will start arguments, tell them what he didn't like about the Christmas presents they gave us, complain about how much money we spend on food while they're at our house, etc.

I'm afraid that soon I'm going to have no one left. I've talked to my husband about this several times, but he doesn't see it as a problem. Help!

— TALKED TO DEATH IN MINNESOTA



Abigail Van Buren  
• Dear Abby

**family. It's important that you give this some thought and not allow yourself to be his scapegoat. Also, I hope you have a job outside the home, because it may be your only way to have meaningful contact with others.**

attire for the wedding. (Consider a different headpiece and veil, adding or deleting gloves or other accessories, adding or subtracting a train.)

And remember, although imitation may be irritating, it's also the sincerest form of flattery. Your sister-in-law is "family," so pleased don't let this cause a permanent rift. And in the future, don't show her any more pictures.

DEAR ABBY: I bought my wedding dress two months ago. I showed a picture of it to my sister-in-law who is being married a few weeks before me. Yesterday she went out and purchased the exact same dress. Although she is having a small wedding, my fiance and I are still very upset. She and her fiance insist we are being selfish and inconsiderate of their feelings. Do you think we are wrong to be angry?

— P.O. IN N.J.

DEAR P.O.: No, I do not. You are entitled to your feelings. That said, there is still time for you to return to the shop where you purchased your bridal gown and discuss how to individualize your

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BY RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE CO., INC.

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Jewell	\$2,050	Sheridan	\$19,437
Logan	\$2,654	Smith	\$56,797
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Ness	\$54	Trego	\$138,802
Norton	\$499,047	Wallace	\$73
Osborne	\$60,539	TOTAL	\$1,417,340

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