

By JOHN HANNA • AP Political Writer TOPEKA — A state legislator from western Kansas announced Thursday that he's resigning later this month because he wants to spend more time with his family and can't juggle legislative duties with a growing family business.

Rep. Brian Weber said Thursday that he'll step down immediately after the Legislature's formal adjournment ceremony June 20. The Dodge City Republican is chairman of a House Appropriations subcommittee on social services and vice chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee. The 30-year-old Weber is the co-owner of a family heating and air conditioning business. He and his wife, Alicia, have a daughter, Alise, who will be a year old June 16. "I've got too much on my plate," Weber said in a telephone interview. "I've been trying to juggle everything, and I just can't."

Weber said his business is growing and that he plans to move to Garden City, where it has its main offices. He said he hopes to return to public service.

Republicans in his 119th House District will pick someone to fill Weber's seat for the balance of his two-year term, which expires in January 2015.

Weber previously served as a city commissioner in Dodge City and was appointed to the House in December 2010 after then-Rep. Pat George resigned to become the state's commerce secretary. Weber retained the seat by winning 69 percent of the vote in the November 2012 general election.