

State Senator

David Pearce

District 31



2009 Legislative Session Accomplishments

House Bill 191 – Economic Development

- Expands the Quality Jobs program by increasing the program cap from \$60 to \$80 million. Quality Jobs provides tax incentives to businesses that create jobs paying above county average wages and at least half of their employees' health care.
- Helps small businesses by removing any state licensing fees for the next four years.
- Modifies the tax credit reporting process by requiring tax credit recipients to reveal any job creation resulting from the use of tax credits.
- Improves transparency and accountability by requiring that tax credit information be made available to the public through the Missouri Accountability Portal.

House Bill 883 – “Invest in Missouri” (handled by Sen. Pearce)

- Reinvests \$1 billion in Missouri communities, helps create and retain jobs, and comes at no expense to taxpayers.
- Expands the Missouri Linked Deposit Program, which authorizes banks to offer discounted loans to eligible participants by increasing eligibility for the program and streamlining the application process.
- Gradually removes the restrictive cap on the rate of return the state can receive when it invests taxpayers' dollars in Missouri banks.

Senate Bill 44 – Regulates Private Jails (sponsored by Sen. Pearce)

- Requires privately owned jails to meet the same safety standards as public jails.
- Requires private jails to immediately notify law enforcement if a prisoner escapes.
- Creates the crime of escaping from a private jail.
- Requires private jails to arrange for any necessary health care for inmates; separate prisoners by gender and type of cause for imprisonment (civil versus criminal); and provide adequate clothing, food and bedding to prisoners.

House Bills 427 and 82 – Military and Veterans (handled by Sen. Pearce)

House Bill 427

- Allows dependents of active military members stationed in Missouri to receive in-state tuition at

public colleges and universities, regardless if the military member is re-assigned outside the state.

- Adds lawmakers to the Missouri Veterans Commission (Sen. Pearce was appointed to serve on the commission).
- Establishes an interstate interchange designation program to honor fallen Missouri military heroes.
- Allows certain veterans to park for free in metered parking spaces upon the approval of the local governing entity.

House Bill 82

- Creates a state income tax exemption for any military retirement income, regardless of the retiree's age. It begins with a 15 percent exemption on a veteran's military pension in 2010 and gradually increases until it becomes a 100 percent exemption in 2016.

Senate Bill 291 – Education

- Provides that all revenue collected from the repeal of the casino loss limits be appropriately distributed to schools.
- Creates the Missouri Senior Cadets Program, which will provide opportunities for 12th graders in public schools to mentor kindergarten through eighth grade students.
- Requires each public school to develop standards for teaching by June 30, 2010.
- Allows school boards to establish a four-day school week instead of a five-day school week by a majority vote of board members.

House Bill 17 – Morrow-Garrison Funding

- Provides \$12.4 million in funding through the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative Fund to complete the Morrow-Garrison Complex expansion project at the University of Central Missouri.
- Morrow-Garrison is a \$15 million project that will provide classrooms, labs and faculty office space for the university's Department of Health and Human Performance.

Contact Senator Pearce

State Senator David Pearce

201 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 419

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone (toll-free): 866-277-0882

Website: www.senate.mo.gov/pearce