



# NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



Room 433 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 - Phone: (573) 751-2306

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 11, 2003**

**For additional information contact:**  
**Barbara Mustoe**  
**(573) 751-2306**

## **IN AN HISTORIC DAY, LAWMAKERS SUCCESSFULLY OVERRIDE THREE OF THE GOVERNOR'S VETOS**

JEFFERSON CITY -- The Missouri Senate today successfully voted to override three of Gov. Bob Holden's vetoes, an unprecedented move in Missouri history. Previously, lawmakers have only been able to override seven vetoes by a governor.

"This is truly an historic day for the State of Missouri and for the General Assembly," said Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, who voted in favor of overriding all three bills. "No other legislature has been successful in overriding three vetoes in one day and no other governor has had three of his vetoes struck down."

In a 23-10 vote, the Senate voted in favor of concealed weapons bill, a measure that has had strong support in Southwest Missouri for many years. The new law will take effect in 30 days.

To qualify for permits, applicants must be least 23-years-old, successfully complete a training course and pass a detailed criminal background check. Anyone with a felony conviction, violent misdemeanor conviction or who was subject to a protection order would not qualify. The measure also addresses the issue of applicants with a history of mental illness.

"In telephone calls, e-mails and letters to me, the people of the 32<sup>nd</sup> District expressed their outrage at the governor's veto of this bill," said Nodler. "There are many law abiding citizens who feel they need to protect themselves and their families in this manner. In all of the states that have this law, crime has fallen."

With a vote of 25-8 lawmakers struck down the governor's veto of a bill requiring a 24-hour waiting period for all abortions.

"The decision to have an abortion is the most serious a woman can make," Nodler said. "I think with another 24 hours, we might see the number of abortions drop dramatically."

The Missouri House of Representatives overrode both of these measures on Wednesday by a substantial margin.

Finally in a 23-10 vote, the Senate overrode the governor's veto of a bill that would restrict the ability of governments to sue gun manufacturers.

This legislation would prohibit cities, counties and the state from suing gun manufacturers.

In addition, it would place into state law an assertion that the "lawful design, marketing, manufacture, distribution or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public is not an abnormally dangerous activity and does not constitute a public or private nuisance."

The House is expected to vote on this override on Friday.

Two bills co-sponsored by Nodler failed to receive enough votes to be overridden.

Legislation that would have reformed Missouri's tort laws received a 21-12 vote. While a bill that would have set up a Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board received an 18-12 vote. A total of 23 votes are needed to override a veto.

"I think both of these measures would have helped Missouri rebound from its current economic problems," said Nodler. "These votes were along party lines, and it's a tragedy that lawmakers allowed politics to get in the way of good legislation."

-end-