

Weekly Report
January 8, 2004

By: Sen. John Griesheimer
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LAWMAKERS CONVENE 2004 SESSION, SEN. JOHN GRIESHEIMER INTRODUCES NEW LEGISLATION

The Missouri General Assembly opened its 2004 Legislative Session on Wednesday and this is shaping up to be a tough session, with a lot of challenges ahead. The old saying goes that no real legislation gets passed in election year, but I hope to prove them wrong this year.

The budget is once again going to be tough to put together. Some experts have said that there will be as much as a \$1 billion deficit. There are a lot of demands and not enough money to go around, so we lawmakers will have to begin setting our priorities and make certain that all of the needs of the people of Missouri are adequately met.

School funding will be a big issue, and I assure you I will fight to make certain that our schools receive adequate funding. Education should always be our top priority.

I have already filed several bills this session, and several more are in the works.

The following is a list of bills I have filed:

SB 758 – This bill would authorize the governing bodies of the cities of Pacific, St. Clair, Sullivan and Union to submit a tourism tax proposal to a vote of the people. The tax proposal would be for at least two percent but not more than five percent.

SB 759 – Would extend the waste tire collection fee from 2004 to 2009.

SB 824 – Allows peace officers the option as to whether they will or will not seize a motor vehicle that has a missing or illegible identification number and relieves the courts of the responsibility of storing a vehicle that does not have the proper identification number. The responsibility of storing the vehicle would be placed with the police agency investigating the circumstances surrounding the motor vehicle in question. Current law mandates law enforcement officers to seize any motor vehicle with an altered or missing public vehicle identification number despite any identifiable criminal intent.

SB 825 – Under current law, a person who avoids stopping at a weigh station must also be found to be overweight in order to be penalized for evading the weigh station. This bill would remove this qualification and simply penalize a person for evading a weigh station, regardless of the reason.

SB 950 – Would limit the class-by-class rollback provisions in the property tax law to only to St. Louis County. Current law (HB 1150 passed in 2002) provides that in 2005 and after property tax rates statewide will be rolled back separately for each subclass of real property (residential, agricultural and commercial) and personal property. This bill limits those provisions to apply to political subdivisions in St. Louis County.

SB 951 – Under this bill, the requirement that political subdivisions file a copy of their contracts with certain offices would be eliminated.

SB 999 – Would create compensation agreements between franchisers and franchisees.

SB 1009 – This bill regulates the sale of motor vehicle extended service contracts.

So far, I am co-sponsoring two bills:

SB 761 – Would rename Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield as Missouri State University.

SB 817 – Creates the Board of Counselors and Therapists.

Lawmakers will get down to serious work on Monday, Jan. 12, and I will continue to keep you updated on all of our activities in Jefferson City.

If you are in Jefferson City, please feel free to stop by my office in Room 226 at the State Capitol. You may call me anytime at (800) 247-6102 or (573) 751-3678, or you may call my home at 239-2521 or 239-2523. My cell phone number is (314) 650-5777.