

Weekly Report
February 19, 2004

By: Sen. John Griesheimer
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MISSOURI SENATE GIVES FIRST-ROUND APPROVAL TO A BILL THAT REFORMS STATE'S MAP TESTS

The Missouri Senate gave first-round approval to an education reform bill that would make a variety of changes to the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), and bring Missouri's educational standards into line with the new requirements established by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

I am co-sponsoring this legislation because I believe we need to lessen some of the unfunded mandates we have placed on our schools.

Passed in 2001 as part of President Bush's education reform plan, the No Child Left Behind Act brought new accountability measures to schools and expanded student-testing requirements.

Senate Bill 1080 would require that by June 30, 2006, the State Board of Education align the performance standards of the MAP test so that the performance standards meet, but do not exceed, the performance standards of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam.

Right now, Missouri's testing system is out of whack with national standards and it's caused nothing but confusion for our teachers. We want a test that aids education, not one that serves as an obstacle.

Other changes made under this bill:

- Institute yearly examination of students in the required subject area as established by federal standards.
- Administer any other adjustments necessary in order to aid the state in conforming to federal standards.

This measure has been endorsed by virtually all of Missouri's educational organizations including the Missouri State Teacher's Association, Missouri Schools Board's Association and the Missouri National Education Association.

Two bills I sponsored were passed by the Senate and sent over to the House of Representatives:

- SB 951 – Would eliminate the requirement that political subdivisions file a copy of their contracts with the Missouri Secretary of State and the recorder of deeds in the county where each contracting political subdivision is located.
- SB 1062 – Under this legislation, caterers could obtain special licenses to sell liquor at certain functions. Two special licenses would be available: one valid for 50 days at a fee of \$500; and the other could be used for unlimited number of times and would be valid for one year, with a fee of \$1,000.

In other business, I presented the following bills in committee this week:

- SB 824 – Would allow 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 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 1040 – This bill would extend the waste tire fee until 2009, extend the hazardous waste generator fee until 2010, and extend the hazardous waste storage fee until 2010.
- SB 1200 – Under this legislation, motorists could obtain special Lewis and Clark license plates. After paying an annual contribution of \$10 to the Missouri Travel Council, a \$15 special license plate fee, and regular registration fees, a set of special license plates depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition would be issued. The license plates will be based on the artwork of local artist Gary Lucy.
- SB 1215 – Public entities would be allowed to acquire subrogation rights under a self-insurance plan.

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.