

Weekly Report
April 1, 2004

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WITH 2004 SESSION HALFWAY OVER, LEGISLATION WORKS IT'S WAY THROUGH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

This week lawmakers returned from the General Assembly's annual Spring Break and immediately got down to business. With only six weeks left in session there is still a great deal of work to be done.

The House of Representatives still hasn't sent a budget over to the Senate, and rumor has it that we won't see one until April 15. That doesn't leave much time for the two bodies to reach an agreement on next year's spending.

However, one of the bright spots of the session thus far is the rapid progress of the Homestead Preservation Act, which would offer Missouri's senior citizens with some property tax relief. Senate Bill 730 was passed in the Senate on Feb 24, and sent to the House of Representatives where some changes were made. A conference committee made up of Senate and House members will soon be appointed and will attempt to work out any differences.

I want to give you an update on how some of my legislation is proceeding. I have several bills that passed the Senate and have been sent over to the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 758 – This bill would allow the governing bodies of the cities of Pacific, Riverside, Sullivan and Union to submit a transient guest tax proposal to a vote of the people. The tax proposal would be at least 2 percent but not more than 5 percent. Having passed the Senate, this bill has been referred to the House Tax Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 824 – Would modify the law regarding the seizure of motor vehicles that have missing or illegible identification numbers. The Senate has passed this bill and sent it to the House where it has been first read.

Senate Bill 951 – The requirement that political subdivisions file a copy of their contracts with certain offices would be eliminated. This bill has been referred to the House Local Government Committee.

Senate Bill 1040 – This bill would create a joint committee appointed by the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem of the Senate to examine the present hazardous waste fee structure and ultimately make recommendations to the governor and the General Assembly regarding how to more fairly apportion the cost of services provided among those that benefit from the services. The House has first read this legislation.

Senate Bill 1062 – Would create and modify special licenses available to caterers to serve alcohol at certain functions. A hearing on this bill was held on March 18 in the House Local Government Committee.

Senate Bill 1240 – Certain counties would be allowed to use law library funds for courtroom renovation and to pay bonds for such projects under this bill. This bill has been first read in the House.

Senate Bill 1304 – As part of this legislation, districts providing emergency services would be entitled to reimbursement of at least 50 percent from a special allocation fund. The House has first read this bill.

Senate Bill 1329 – This bill which would modify provisions concerning Emergency Services Boards. SB 1329 has been first read in the House.

To check on the progress of these or any other bill I have sponsored or co-sponsored, you can go to my Senate webpage at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/04INFO/members/mem26.htm>.

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.