

December 1, 2004
For Immediate Release

December 1st

The first day of December sets several milestones for our year. Thoughts of Christmas and the festivities associated with this special Holiday fill our surroundings. For others, the realization that the first day of the last month has started can send panic through our veins. For some it may be fun to focus on a new beginning that a new year can bring. However, from a legislative stand point, it marks the first day that legislation can be filed for the next legislative session.

This milestone in itself gives us a hint that January is coming and a new season is near. January 5th will mark the 1st day of session and the beginning of countless hours of hearings, give and take, public testimony, research, debate and voting to determine the outcome of bills hoping to become law. The prefiling date of December 1st simply marks the beginning of the numbering of each piece of legislation filed. This numbering process is critical to the tracking of each proposal and goes through a similar process in the Missouri House and Senate.

Some of these bills are brand new and yet others will be new renditions of older themes. Many of these ideas are the product of your suggestions. Others will come from individual departments of government or specific interest groups. Regardless of the source, the process to become law is a slow and difficult trail. Of the estimated twelve-hundred to fifteen-hundred bills to be filed in each chamber, typically only one-hundred to one-hundred and fifty will become law.

This is as our founders of this great state envisioned. New state statutes should be thoroughly reviewed and challenged before becoming law. Perhaps your December 1st will be uneventful, but understanding the legislative process is important to the governance of our state. Have a great December.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-8793 or by email at delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us.