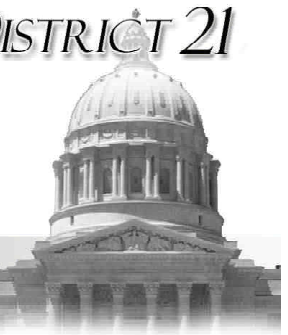


DISTRICT 21

# BILL STOUFFER

**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW - 2005**



Dear Friends,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be your voice in the Missouri Senate. The work has been both challenging and rewarding as the legislature has fought for rural Missourians. We have made it easier for doctors to practice in Missouri, reformed worker's compensation and Medicaid, and made the state a better place to work and live.

I appreciate everyone calling, writing, or emailing my office with your suggestions for legislation and reforms to Missouri government. Your participation in the legislative process has made this year much more effective.

Best Wishes,

Bill Stouffer



*Sen. Stouffer shares a moment with U.S. Representative Ike Skelton at a public appearance in the district. Photo by Cynthia Hiles, Bates City.*

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# Budget *How big is a billion dollars?*

- A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate the United States government spends it.
- Missouri's budget is \$19.2 billion.

By constitution, the public debt must be taken care of before the rest of the budget. House Bill 1 will pay \$855 million towards the debt. After the debt is paid, 25 percent of the budget goes to education. Education will receive a \$113 million increase, which will go into the new foundation formula. First Steps will be fully funded and Sheltered Workshops will see a reduction in services, because the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education predicted it will cost less to provide the same services.

In House Bill 3, different versions from the House and Senate has caused a lot of discussion for the higher education budget. The House is funding higher education at the same level as last year and the Senate reduced funding by five percent and grants by 10 percent. University extension will not be affected, which many of my constituents were worried about. The higher education budget will receive the same funding as last year.

House Bill 6 funds the Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Conservation. The Department of Agriculture's budget had some conflict. The House wants to increase ethanol subsidies by \$5 million and the Senate only wants to increase the subsidies by \$1.1 million. A compromise was reached during conference to increase the subsidies by \$2.6 million.

House Bills No. 1 through 13 are dedicated to the budget. For the length of this article we have only highlighted the most important bills.



# Medicaid **+** Facts

*There will always be Medicaid.*

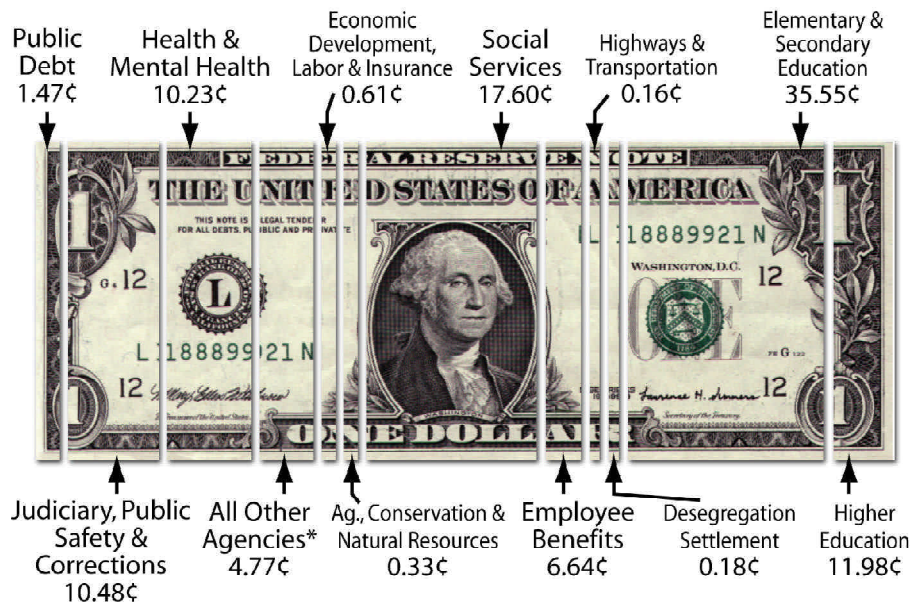
The Legislature will replace the current Medicaid program by mid-2008 by creating a legislative commission to recommend reforms by Jan. 1, 2006.

- The program helps those who really need Medicaid and adds accountability and ownership to the program.
- No qualifying child or expectant mother will be cut off Medicaid.
- If you add the population of Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, that is how many people are on Medicaid.
- Only ten percent of recipients will be removed from Medicaid, while the state will continue to increase Medicaid spending in '06.
- The program continues to allow consumers to "spend down" income on medical needs to meet income limits.
- Only one other state, Tennessee, ranks higher than Missouri in Medicaid spending as a percent of state budget.

## Distribution of Each General Revenue Tax Dollar

FY 2006 Missouri Operating Appropriations

General Revenue \$7.159 Billion



\* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Leasing



# Stouffer Joins 'Bridge Club'

## Ike Skelton Bridge:

After Ray and Lafayette County citizens decided to name a new bridge in Lexington after Congressman Ike Skelton, Representative Bob Nance and myself took on this challenging piece of legislation. We believed it would sail right through the Senate and House, but we were wrong.

A representative took a stance to not allow namings for people who were alive, especially if they were continually running for office. After both naming bills stalled, I amended it on to HB 53. After many compromises, SB 233 did make its way off the house floor and to the conference. SB 233 was sent to the governor in time for the bridge opening ceremony.

Ike Skelton has always been a model in constituent work and his service for our military. He has been serving the fourth congressional district since 1977 which covers Ray, Lafayette and Saline counties.

The bridge will be four-lane and run parallel to the aging two-lane iron bridge that was ferrying Highway 13 traffic over the Missouri River from Lafayette to Ray County since the 1920s.

It has been an honor and privilege to facilitate this project.



*Above: The historic Boonville bridge showing the bridge house. Photo courtesy of Theresa Krebs.*

## Historic MKT Boonville Bridge:

Boonville MKT Bridge is coming down, coming down! Not if the people of Boonville and myself can help it. A steering committee has been working hard to keep the historic MKT Bridge between Cooper and Howard county. After the Department of Natural Resources and the governor gave their blessing for the MKT Bridge to be moved to the Osage River, the push for the bridge to remain has grown even more.

This bridge would connect the entire Katy Trail, and will bring economic growth to Boonville because of its historic significance.

Over one hundred people called my office in a single day to say they support the bridge staying in Boonville. The steering committee for the bridge would take over all responsibilities of fund-raising, restoration and maintenance to the MKT Bridge, if Union Pacific and state officials allow the bridge to remain intact.



*Left: This stunning sequence of photos, taken by Pat Larkin of L & L Photography, shows the Waverly bridge in its last moments as a demolition crew brought it down to make way for a new span.*

# Legislation May Help Reduce Meth

Senate Bill 10 will require pseudoephedrine products to be purchased by a pharmacist or technician. A person will not need a prescription to purchase pseudoephedrine, but they will be required to show a photo ID with his or her date of birth, and sign a written log or receipt showing the date of the transaction, name of the person and the amount purchased. This bill does exclude gel caps, liquids and children's medications.

Oklahoma put this bill into affect in March of 2004. The Oklahoma version was named in honor of several troopers who were all killed in the line of duty by meth dealers. From March through November, the state's epic report showed an 80 percent decrease in meth cases. Psuedoephedrine is the main ingredient in meth and making it more difficult to obtain decreases the making and distribution of the substance.

Meth is considered a schedule II narcotic under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning it has a high potential for abuse. It can be injected, snorted, smoked or taken orally. A batch can costs as little as \$100 to make and can be sold for as much as \$1000.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol there is an increase in activity in rural areas due to large open areas, reduced element of surprise, limited law enforcement and odors not as noticeable.

We have a methamphetamine problem in the state of Missouri. This is one step to take to help control the problem.



## Smoother, Safer, Sooner

With the passage of Amendment 3, MoDot has devised a plan that will help Missouri's roads become safer and more accommodating to the public. "Smoother, Safer, Sooner" has three elements that will be completed within the next three years.

The first element is the smoother roads initiative. There will be 2,200 miles of repaved road. The cost of the initiative includes almost \$8 million for the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

The second element includes acceleration projects. These 55 projects were scheduled to begin within the next five years, but will be starting much sooner. This element includes a little over \$19 million to the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

The last element of the plan is an additional \$1.3 billion in additional bond-financed funding. The projects will be decided soon after planning meetings with local communities, legislators, and MoDot officials.

## Education: Foundation Formula



While many would agree the state's foundation formula would be adequate if fully funded, it is rarely described as sustainable. Our current formula is a fast-growing budget buster and needs to be fixed before the courts decide what is best for schools.

One of this year's legislative missions is to improve equality between schools spending almost \$10,000 less per student than others. The new foundation formula is an example of a political compromise to do what is best for students.

After speaking with many school officials throughout the state, it was clear that they no longer wanted a tax driven formula but one based on student needs. Performance schools were identified and it was estimated that schools could effectively educate students at an artificial target of \$6,117 per pupil.

The House initially voted against the formula in committee, but in order to avoid the time and expense of a special session, the bill's proponents ensured its consideration on the floor. Many compromises were made between the House and Senate and rural and urban areas. The urban areas wanted the state of Missouri to change assessment practices. Instead, two "dollar modifiers" were added to reflect higher costs of living in the urban area. For example, a dollar in Macon, Higginsville, or Fayette equals \$1.15 in St. Louis. I do not agree with this method. A \$15 million grant will help in districts with less than 350 students on an average daily attendance and has a higher tax levy.

This formula is far from perfect, but it is a compromise and a start to fairly and adequately fund our schools.





## Tort Reform

I made a campaign promise to keep doctors from leaving the state especially rural areas. The legislature quickly passed tort reform to help with doctors' medical malpractice insurance.

The *Scott Decision* was overturned. Mo. will again have non-economic caps of \$350,000. Joint and several liability changed, only if a person/company is more than 51 percent at fault will they have to pay the full settlement. If they are less than 51 percent at fault then they only pay their portion.

Changing the place where a person sues "venue" becomes more restricted. This keeps people from taking a case to St. Louis City where rewards are known for being higher. It also establishes and limits many other court proceeding.

Doctors in the last few years have left our great state quickly because they cannot pay their insurance. The insurance providers went from 54 to 12 since 2001. This is the beginning to keeping doctors in our state.

# Workers' Compensation

Do you think someone should receive money if they are drunk on the job and get hurt?

Senate Bill 1, already signed by the governor, tightens the definition of work related claim. It states work should be the "prevailing factor" not just the "substantial factor" in the injury. The law also reduces the amount a person can claim if they are in violation of safety regulations. If an injury happens while driving to and from work, or the person was legally drunk they will no longer receive compensation.

## In Brief

### Bills Passed:

**Adult Entertainment**—HB 972 restricts adult-orientated businesses.

**Defense**—SB 252 creates Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission.

**Early Education**—SB 500 retains "First Steps."

**Soils Tax**—SJR 1 resubmits parks and soils tax to voters every ten years.

**Voting**—HB 353 requires proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote.

### Bills Failed:

**Abortion**—SB 2 would make civilly liable anyone transporting a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion without informed consent.

**Agribusiness**—SB 187 would limit oversight on certain CAFOs.

**Gambling**—SB 195 & 560—would remove loss limits, increase admission fees, and limit state casino licenses to 13.

**Safety**—SB 221 allows police to stop vehicles for seat belt violations; would allow those over 21 to ride motorcycles without helmets.

This is only a partial listing. For complete information on the status of legislation, visit our web site: [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

# A Day at the Capitol



**Casework:** Our office can act as a liaison between the citizens of Missouri and the state government.

It is important to know that neither I, nor my staff, can approve a claim or appeal, or compel any agency to act in your favor. Those types of decisions by law are made by the state agency involved based on the facts of the case. However, I am glad to obtain answers to your questions, to make the appropriate officials aware of your concerns, and to cut through “red tape” you might be experiencing. This may include arranging meetings, writing letters of recommendation, or a simple inquiring into your case.

**Tours:** The Capitol receives thousands of visitors each year. Many school groups, organizations, churches, scouting groups, and clubs such as FFA and 4-H come to the Capitol to learn about the Missouri Legislature and issues facing lawmakers.

If you would like to visit your state capitol, please contact our office to schedule a tour. This would include visiting both chambers of the Senate and the House, the House Lounge featuring the infamous Thomas Hart Benton Murals, the “whispering gallery” above the halls of the capitol, and a hike to the top of the Capitol dome overlooking Jefferson City. Other visits in Jefferson City, including the Governor’s Mansion, Highway Patrol, and Runge Nature Center can also be arranged.

**Resolutions:** Each week we honor constituents with courtesy resolutions for their accomplishments including birthdays, anniversaries, and retirements. If you would like to honor someone special with a resolution, please call toll free at (866) 768-3987 or click the Courtesy Resolution link online: [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer).

*The most important component of public service is the commitment to constituents. While in office, I have dedicated my staff and myself to constituent service and constant contact to the 160,000 Missouri-ans in the 21<sup>st</sup> District.*

Students are provided the opportunity to be a part of state government through the Missouri Internship Program. Each year, interns from the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District will be selected to serve and nominations are always welcome.

Nathan White, from Norborne, shown here with the senator, recently graduated from Mizzou with a degree in agricultural economics and served as an intern on Monday and Wednesday during this legislative session. He will be working for Farm Credit in Sedalia. While spending time in our office, Nathan handled constituent concerns, assisted with drafting legislation, and fulfilled other duties. A valuable asset to the office, Nathan always had a smile on his face while he learned how the legislative process worked.





## By The Numbers... 2002-2005

(January through May)

160,000

The approximate number of constituents in the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

2156

constituents, who have called, emailed, written, visited or received correspondence from our office.

1196

photos from the newspaper clipped and sent.

321

courtesy Resolutions have been dispatched.

52

people have been helped with problems in different state departments.

33

school groups have visited.

11

grants and tax credits have been awarded, including over \$10 million in authorized state funding.

## Sen. Stouffer's Legislation

The Excelsior Springs Museum board will be allowed to put a tax levy on the ballot in order to restore its historic museum. (SB 361)

**Cooper County** and other fire protection districts will now charge individuals residing outside of the district who receive services within the boundaries of the district. (SB 484)

**Lafayette and Ray counties:** The bridge spanning Highway 13 will be renamed in honor of Congressman Ike Skelton. (SB 233)

**Seniors:** This act provides more living options for seniors. The bill passed out of committee, but was not finally read by the legislature because of time restraints and will need to be reintroduced next session. (SB 393)

**Ethanol by-products,** including but not limited to dry distilled grain, will be added to the list of items exempt from sales and use tax. (SB 264)

**Animal identification:** The act ensures any information related to animal registration be kept confidential; to be shared only with state and federal animal health officials. (Amended onto and passed with SB 355)

**Rural Doctors:** A Joint Interim committee was created with a Missouri Health Care Stabilization fund to keep medical malpractice insurance costs down. (SCR 19)

**Protecting Children:** This act would have created an income tax credit for donations made to foster homes, child placement agencies or residential care facilities. The bill died in the House, but will be reintroduced next session. This would have helped agencies like Baptist Childrens Homes and Butterfield Youth Services. (SB 362)



*Sen. Stouffer is shown here with Jim Strodman, Lafayette County presiding commissioner testifying for the Ike Skelton Bridge.*

## Services

- Schedule Capitol Tours through our office.
- Medicaid coverage inquiries will continue to be answered.
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, Eagle Scout, or any other special event please let us know ahead of time so we can get a senate resolution to you for that day.
- Sign up for an e-newsletter emailed to you weekly.

## Contact

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Toll Free: 866-768-3987

On the Web: [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer)

## STATE OFFICIALS CONTACT INFORMATION

Unless otherwise noted, the mailing address for the following officials is:  
State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Governor Matt Blunt - Room 216.....(573) 751-3222  
Lt. Governor Peter Kinder - Room 121.....(573) 751-4727  
Secretary of State Robin Carnahan - Room 208.....(573) 751-4936  
State Auditor Claire McCaskill - Room 224.....(573) 751-4824  
State Treasurer Sarah Steelman - Room 229 .....(573) 751-2411  
Attorney General Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon.....(573) 751-3321  
Supreme Court Building, 207 W. High Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101

## STATE DEPARTMENTS

All departments can be accessed through  
MISSOURI'S STATE GOVERNMENT HOME PAGE  
on the World Wide Web: <http://www.state.mo.gov>

Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-4211  
Department of Conservation P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-4115  
Department of Corrections P.O. Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-2389  
Department of Economic Development P.O. Box 1157, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-4962  
Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-4212  
Department of Health P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-6001 or (573) 751-6420  
Department of Higher Education 3515 Amazonas Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109.....(573) 751-2361  
Department of Insurance P.O. Box 690, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0690.....(573) 751-4126  
Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations 3315 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109.....(573) 751-9691  
Department of Mental Health P.O. Box 687, 1706 E. Elm, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....1-800-364-9687  
Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-3443  
Department of Public Safety P.O. Box 749, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....1-888-FYI-MDPS  
Department of Revenue P.O. Box 311, Jefferson City, MO 65105.....(573) 751-4450  
Department of Social Services P.O. Box 1527, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-4815  
Department of Transportation P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102.....(573) 751-2551

## FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

### UNITED STATES SENATORS

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274 Russell Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.....(202) 224-5721; Fax (202) 224-8149

**Jim Talent**

493 Russell Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.....(202) 224-6154; Fax (202) 228-1518

## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

**Ike Skelton - Dist. 4** - 2206 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.....(202) 225-2876

**Sedalia** - 908 Thompson Blvd., Sedalia, MO 65301-4593..... (660)826-2675

**Sam Graves -District 6** - 1407 Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515.....(202) 225-7041; Fax (202) 225-8221

**Liberty** 113 Blue Jay Drive, Suite 200, Liberty, MO 64068.....(816) 792-3976; Fax (816) 792-0694

**Kenny Hulshof - District 9** - 412 Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515..... (202) 225-2956; Fax (202) 225-5712

**Hannibal** 201 N. Third Street, Suite 240, Hannibal, MO 63401.....(573) 221-1200; Fax (573) 221-5349