

Column from Sen. Matt Bartle for
week of **May 09**, 2005

2005 Legislative Session Closes

By the time you read this column, the 2005 session of the Missouri General Assembly will have come to a close. As of this moment the hours are steadily ticking away towards Friday's constitutional deadline of 6:00 p.m.

The last week of session is very hectic as scores of bills compete for priority before the clock runs out. Several of the major items of the session have already been sent to the governor for his signature like tort reform, workman's comp reform and the state's \$19 billion budget. Just this week the legislature finished rewriting an updated school funding formula that will determine how millions of state education dollars will be spent.

Still remaining to be completed is the large omnibus crime bill I discussed last week. This bill contains my language that would impose common sense regulations on smut shops across the state. The bill would help protect our communities from the harmful effects of these businesses such as decreasing property values, increased crime rates and generally contributing to the decline in morality.

As the hours tick away we continue to work to pass a long list of bills that still await their turn to be debated. In the coming weeks I will continue to update you on the final outcome of these hectic final moments of the session.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.state.mo.us. Thank you again for making it possible for me to serve in the Missouri Senate.

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