



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Budget Sent to the Governor's Desk

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JEFFERSON CITY – This week at the Capitol was met with conversation and compromises on issues that will be making changes to counties and municipalities. Senate Bill 58 and House Bill 210 are huge bills. In each chamber, because of the broad title, these bills were loaded up with amendments. Once again this is the classic example of having a bill that starts out with most of it being acceptable and growing into something that is not. It's frustrating when you see the items that will help your community and that you can support turn completely around and make you vote to oppose the bill.

Later in the week we were rushed to complete the budget, which will now go to the Governor for approval, or to line item veto specific areas. We will have to wait and see what the ultimate outcome will be. The Governor cannot add money to the budget but he can make reductions.

One of the bright points was on an issue I wrote about last week. The cut of 5 percent to higher education was replaced. This should mean no major reductions to Extension or its programs and no significant increases to tuition rates on students.

As your Senator but also as a Missouri resident, I am still concerned with what the impact will be in future years because of what has taken place this year. I say this only as a cautious person, seeing an economy that is presently struggling and I am in hopes that we wouldn't create more undo pressure on a fragile system. It's our duty to insure opportunities to our future generations.

Call or e-mail with your thoughts or concerns. Remember my door is always open to you and your thoughts. My Capitol Office is: Room 425, phone: 573-751-2108, and e-mail: [Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov).

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