



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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The Cauthorn Report

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – It was another challenging but productive and successful week at the capitol for Senator Cauthorn.

Senator Cauthorn's Senate Bill 10 that targets methamphetamine production was combined with Senate Bill 27 and voted "do pass" 8-1 out of the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday night with Senator Graham, a democrat from Columbia the only no vote.

Senate Bill 10 & 27 is now waiting to receive the full Senate's approval before it goes over to the House of Representatives for their consideration and approval.

"This bill is an important piece of the puzzle for our law enforcement," said Cauthorn. "I believe that by restricting access to products that contain pseudoephedrine you can crack down on methamphetamine production at the source.

Introduced this week in both chambers are bills to revise Missouri's civil liability or "tort" litigation environment, which some believe spurs doctors and businesses to move out of state due to malpractice insurance premiums driven increasingly higher to cover large jury awards. Among several provisions, HB 394 and SB 271 prohibit "venue shopping," a practice where trials are moved to jurisdictions known for consistently higher-than-average jury awards. The measures also limit awards for non-economic damages (pain, suffering, etc.) to \$250,000 in medical malpractice cases. The legislation also eliminates "joint and several liability," a current practice where one defendant is held liable for the payments of other defendants who are unable to pay or because they have deeper pockets.

"As a co-sponsor of this legislation and similar legislation in each of the last two sessions, I look forward to having a Governor that will sign this bill that will help keep good doctors practicing in Missouri," stated Cauthorn. "Rural Missourians cannot afford the loss of security that having good health care provides."

It was quite fitting that Tuesday was transportation day at the capitol. I had the opportunity to visit with citizens throughout the district that rode to Jefferson City on an OATS bus. They voiced their concerns on numerous issues important to them including the progress of Hwy 63, better health care and economic development. It is always nice to visit with citizens from the district and I want to encourage others to come visit their state capitol.

Members of the Senate and the House met in a joint session this week to hear Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Director Pete Rahn's State of Transportation address. The delivery of this address began last year after legislation was passed in 2003 to make MoDOT more accountable to the legislature and to help restore credibility with the citizens of the state. Director Rahn, the former New Mexico Director of Transportation, in his remarks to the General Assembly summarized the positive impact that MoDOT's "Smoother, Safer, Sooner" road improvement plan will have on local communities and the state as a whole.

"Director Rahn should be applauded for his work to rebuild the accountability and credibility of MoDOT with many of Missouri's citizens," said Cauthorn. "The Smoother, Safer, Sooner Plan was the right reaction to the resounding public support of ending fuel tax diversion to other agencies by immediately spending that money on road upkeep and construction."

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri's 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6858. You can also visit his webpage by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.

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