

Legislation May Help Reduce Meth

There is a lot of important legislation in the senate this year, but I believe this will be one of the most important with helping reduce the crime rate in the area. Methamphetamine is a problem in rural areas and I have co-sponsored a bill that would help reduce this problem.

The following is from the Missouri State Highway Patrol on the meth labs seized for the past few years:

	2003	2004
<b>Carroll County</b>	6	5
<b>Chariton County</b>	5	8
<b>Clay</b>	20	7
<b>Cooper</b>	12	24
<b>Howard</b>	5	30
<b>Lafayette</b>	25	9
<b>Macon</b>	15	32
<b>Ray</b>	21	12
<b>Saline</b>	35	9

2004 data is incomplete. It only reflects the first half of the year. The complete totals should be available through the Missouri Highway Patrol in February.

Senate Bill 10 will require psuedoephedrine products to be purchased by a pharmacist or technician. A person will not need a prescription to purchase psuedoephedrine, 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, which Senate Bill 10 is modeled after. The Oklahoma version was named in honor of several troopers who were all killed in the line of duty by meth dealers. 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 meth.

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 cost 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.

If you have questions or comments on this issue or any other issue please feel free to contact me by phone (866) 768-3987 or by email at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

