

Senator Stouffer on Senate Bill 32, Adult Orientated Businesses

As a person drives along I-70 many adult orientated businesses can be seen along the road. People who drive this stretch of highway everyday have probably become oblivious or use to the fact there are about a dozen adult orientated businesses in the 21st Senate District along I-70.

Senate Bill 32 was perfected March 7, and will soon be third read and finally passed. What does SB 32 contain? If the legislation passes it would require all sexually oriented businesses to pay a \$5 admission tax for each person entering. All employees and customers would have to be 21-years-old. Employees would be required to maintain a dress code of no less than semi-nude, and may not solicit a pay or gratuity from a customer or for a customer to pay an employee while he or she is in a semi-nude state.

The bill also states the businesses will be closed between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m. on weekdays and Saturdays. The businesses will be closed on state and federal holidays and Sundays. Any adult orientated business is not allowed to receive a liquor licenses.

Why do we need this legislation? Many of the businesses within the district are unwanted. The counties do not have the money to zone the businesses out of the area therefore the businesses decide to prosper in those counties. In the 21st Senate District there are two counties that were unable to zone the businesses, and I have received many phone calls, emails and letters from the counties in support of the legislation.

The passing of this legislation will limit several secondary effects of adult entertainment centers. This legislation is meant to limit juvenile delinquency; reduce

prostitution, STD's, crime, deterioration in property values, and help in neighborhood improvement efforts.

The controversy with this bill is regarding the first amendment. I am sure the owners of the businesses will take this matter to court, but I assure you there is precedent for each section of the bill. To name a few cases, *Barnes v. Glen Theatre* helps define semi-nude, *Jake v. City of Coates* addresses the tipping fees, *Hang On v. City of Arlington* concerns with touching, and *Mitchell v Commission on Adult Entertainment* deals with the time the facility is opened and closed.

If you have questions or comments on this issue or any other issue please feel free to call the office toll free at 866-768-3987 or email at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.