

Sen. Stouffer's Legislation

Much of what the Senate has been working on up to this point has been the major issues that are always in the news—cloning, Medicaid, school funding. More goes on at the capitol than the few bills that are picked up by the news. A few pieces of legislation I have introduced this session will help raise money for nonprofit facilities, make more options for seniors, and protect farmers' privacy.

Senate Bill 362 uses private resources to help pay the state's bills. This act creates an income tax credit for donations made to residential treatment agencies. Brought to my attention by the Mo. Baptist Children's Home, this is meant to also help the Butterfield Children's Ranch in Marshall and Mo. Boys and Girls' Clubs. The tax credit allows agencies to return the money they receive from the state, in exchange for tax credits in the same amount. This allows the agency to increase fundraising, and will double their income without costing the state. SB 362 is on the senate's formal calendar waiting for debate on the floor.

Too often we limit the living options for seniors. SB 393 changes "residential care facilities" to "assisted living facilities." It also defines activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. With these few changes it will allow seniors to have more options beside their own home or nursing home. These changes would affect facilities such as Bristol Manor, and allow seniors the opportunity to live with dignity and pride in an arrangement appropriate to their needs.

A few requirements were listed in the bill. Residents must not require hospitalization or skilled nursing. The staff must be large enough and skilled enough to

handle twenty-four hour care. This is an effort to bring facilities and their clients to the table to create an individualized plan for their needs. The bill was passed out the same day it was heard in committee, which is rare.

In the age of BSE and modernization of the livestock industry, it is important to track livestock to ensure we continue to have the safest food supply in the world. SB 432 makes information related to electronic premise identification for livestock confidential to only state and federal health officials. Supported by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association and the Farm Bureau, this bill is still in committee.

If you have questions about these issues or any other issues please feel free to call toll free 866-768-3987 or email [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).