



MISSOURI SENATE

Rob Mayer
25th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 331
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Sept. 15, 2005

Contact: Irene Murray
(573) 751-3859

Special and Veto Sessions Successfully Conclude in Jefferson City

Abortion, workers' comp and Missouri River measures passed by Legislature

JEFFERSON CITY – The 2005 special and veto sessions came to a close this week. After just two weeks, the General Assembly has passed important pro-life legislation and saved Missouri's workers' compensation system.

The House and Senate gave final approval to legislation I co-sponsored allowing lawsuits to be filed against people who help minors cross the state line to receive abortions. Senate Bill 1 enforces Missouri's parental consent law, which requires anyone under age 18 to receive parental approval before getting an abortion. SB 1 will ensure that young people and their parents work together to make the best possible decision when the life of an unborn child is at stake.

This legislation also affects abortion providers. SB 1 requires abortion clinics to have privileges to provide obstetric and gynecological care at hospitals within 30 miles of the clinic. These measures will work together to protect our children, born and unborn, by promoting parental involvement and requiring top-rate facilities during one of the most troubling times a Missouri family could ever face.

A drafting error in workers' compensation legislation was corrected by the General Assembly. The wording error would have detrimentally affected the workers' compensation system itself, but lawmakers worked hard to pass the legislation over the protests of some legislators. The General Assembly made the wording revision and ensured that Missouri workers will have proper coverage.

-MORE-

Lawmakers also approved a resolution declaring opposition to a planned “spring rise” of the Missouri River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release more water from a South Dakota dam during springtime in an attempt to increase reproduction among some species of birds and fish. However, downstream farmers have opposed the plan because of the increased risk of flooding. Commercial carriers and hydroelectric plants have also expressed concern because of the spring rise will result in low water levels in following seasons.

Other legislation passed during the special session:

- A provision that strictly prohibited the posting of public officials’ addresses and phone numbers online has been modified. House Bill 3 forbids the posting of this information with the intent to cause bodily harm or death.
- Three pieces of legislation creating new crimes for adults who allow minors to drink on their property had inconsistent language and was remedied with House Bill 2.
- Two pieces of legislation prohibiting the distribution of prescription drugs on school property by minors had inconsistent legislation. HB 2 corrected the problem.
- Conflicting language concerning drunk-driving laws has also been resolved by HB 2.

Lawmakers also completed a veto session that began on Wednesday. The General Assembly considered two bills vetoed by the governor that would restrict the public’s access to information about lobbyists. House Bills 524 and 525 would have repealed the requirement that lobbyists must report twice each year to the Missouri Ethics Commission what legislation they supported or opposed. Legislators chose to let the governor’s vetoes stand.

It has been a pleasure to once again serve in Jefferson City. I would like to thank everyone in the 25th District for their support. I will see you in the district.

-END-

Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.