



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Lawmakers Wrap Up Extraordinary, Veto Sessions

JEFFERSON CITY – The 1st Extraordinary Session of the 93rd General Assembly continued this week with abortion and workers' compensation bills as top priorities. Lawmakers also took part in a brief veto session to review several measures struck down by the governor.

Senate Bill 1, which makes changes to state abortion law, passed both chambers of the Legislature this week and is on its way to the governor for final approval. SB 1 allows lawsuits to be filed against people who help minors cross state lines to receive abortions. The measure is designed to support Missouri's law requiring anyone under age 18 to prove parental consent to their doctor before receiving an abortion. SB 1 also requires physicians at abortion clinics to receive privileges to provide obstetric and gynecological care at hospitals within 30 miles of the clinic. The bill has an emergency clause, which means it will be enacted immediately upon the governor's signature.

Senate legislation making minor wording changes to Missouri workers' compensation law was also approved this week and sent to the governor. Senate Bill 4 removes language from a workers' comp bill passed earlier this year. SB 4 was approved by the Senate last week and moved to the House. However, a proposed emergency clause failed to pass. Therefore, it will not be instituted until 90 days after the governor's signature. Two informational pamphlets about Missouri's workers' compensation law are available at my office at the Capitol or through the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (800-775-2667).

The General Assembly has passed a Senate resolution declaring opposition to a federal call for higher Missouri River water levels during the spring. Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 contests a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release more water from a dam in South Dakota each spring. Missouri farmers will be under a greater threat of flooding due to the higher water levels and river commerce will suffer. SCR 1 acts as a declaration by the General Assembly against the federal plan.

Lawmakers also revised legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the governor earlier this year. A provision in Senate Bill 420 prohibits the posting of certain public officials' addresses, phone numbers and Social Security numbers on the Internet without permission of the officials. Although Gov. Blunt signed the large bill into law, he said this particular part should be revised by the Legislature. House Bill 3 changes the language to forbid the posting of this information with the intent to cause bodily harm or death. Both chambers approved the legislation, with an emergency clause, and it has been forwarded to the governor.

Differing language in three underage-drinking bills that passed earlier this year required new legislation. Under House Bill 2, adults who knowingly allow or fail to stop minors other than their own children from drinking or possessing alcohol on their property are guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

Two bills passed during the regular session had differing language concerning the distribution of prescription drugs at Missouri schools. House Bill 2 prohibits the distribution on school grounds of prescription medications by individuals younger than age 21 to individuals who are not prescribed for that medicine. House Bill 353 outlaws such distribution by those under age 18. House Bill 2 essentially blocks the provision from HB 353 and institutes the language from SB 254.

Lawmakers also completed a veto session that began Wednesday. The governor vetoed two House bills and made several line-item vetoes to budget bills. However, the General Assembly chose not to vote to overturn the measures.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.