



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Placing Limits on Gambling

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JEFFERSON CITY – Although I personally oppose gambling, I recognize the right of legitimate gambling operators to function in our state, following a successful constitutional amendment in 1992 that allows riverboat gambling. However, I do not believe the state should allow these gambling facilities to continue to proliferate along our rivers.

Currently, the gambling industry holds 12 licenses at 11 casino properties. I plan to introduce legislation during the 2006 session which would cap the number of gambling licenses at 13.

Senate Bill 577 also limits any new gambling license granted by the Missouri Gaming Commission to the counties of Jackson, Clay, Platte, St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Charles and the City of St. Louis, where most of the state's gambling facilities are located.

Furthermore, if any existing license expires, is forfeited, revoked, surrendered, or becomes invalid, the gaming commission may only replace the license with a licensee located in the same city or county as the former licensee.

According to the most recent report from the Missouri Gaming Commission to the legislature, nearly 9,000 people have voluntarily excluded themselves from the state's casinos after admitting they are problem gamblers. That represents an increase of 1,200 from the previous year.

Studies cited by the commission find at least one-percent of the adult population suffers from symptoms of pathological gambling, and an additional three to five-percent experience problems related to their gambling.

For many people, gambling is an occasional recreational activity in which they participate responsibly. But for a growing number of Missourians, excessive gambling is leading to problems at work, problems at home, and may have negative social, physical and psychological effects.

By limiting the number of gambling facilities in our state, I believe we can better control the detrimental impact these casinos have on the quality of life in Missouri.

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](mailto: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.*