



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Norma Champion
30th Senate District

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Sen. Champion to Pre-file Bills Dealing with Children Issues

JEFFERSON CITY—Senator Norma Champion will focus on issues relating to children when she pre-files several bills on Thursday, December 1. A stronger policy on obtaining and retaining a school bus endorsement for commercial drivers is Senator Champion's top priority for her fourth legislation session. An established process for appointing the Board of Governors at Missouri State University also will be filed.

"As chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, Families, Mental & Public Health, I am obviously very involved in matters relating to children. I was especially concerned earlier this school year when I discovered that we have very little distinction between those possessing a school bus endorsement and those with the standard commercial driver's license. My legislation will address some of these concerns," Champion said.

Other legislation relating to children will include:

- clarifying adoption tax credits for special needs children,
- streamlining verification of child support for college-aged students,
- finding new funding resources for the Court Appointed Special Advocates program for foster children,
- clarifying the closing of investigations when a child's death has occurred.

Due to the controversy surrounding the SMSU name change earlier this year, Senator Champion purposely avoided making any changes to the bill once it left the Senate Education Committee. The new statute requires that the Board of Governors be comprised of one member from each congressional district. This bill will provide specific procedures in the naming of governors based on the geographic requirements.

Legislation will also be filed requiring the removal of the term "lunatic asylum" from Missouri statutes.

"My legislative package has many origins, including a response to concerned citizens and organizations, an increased public awareness of an issue due to a tragedy, as well as my personal research on issues," said Champion.

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