



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
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Senate Business Well Underway

New Opportunities Expected With New Governor

JEFFERSON CITY – Having opened for the year’s legislative session and sworn in new and returning members last week, the Missouri Senate began the session’s second week by joining members of the House of Representatives to witness the inauguration of Governor Matt Blunt. Also sworn into office were the state’s new lieutenant governor, treasurer, secretary of state and the returning attorney general.

I believe the installation of Matt Blunt as Missouri’s 54th governor will quickly translate into direct and tangible benefits for the people of Missouri. In southwest Missouri specifically, I know I have a much stronger advocate in our new governor, who is committed to working with me on securing funding on projects important to our part of the state like the regional crime lab in Joplin and the alternative energy program at Crowder College.

With lawmakers and executive branch leaders installed, the state senate began in earnest the year’s legislative work, including committee work, where much of a bill’s language is ironed out before reaching the Senate floor for debate by the whole body.

After a bill is filed, it is referred to a Senate committee whose title (education, transportation, appropriations, etc.) meshes with the legislation’s intent. Bills successfully passing out of their respective committees travel back to the Senate floor where they are debated, and often amended by the full body. Members of the Missouri Senate’s 16 bi-partisan committees now collectively already have more than 100 bills to take under consideration in public hearings.

As in years past, I have a full slate of committee duties this session as chairman of the education committee, vice-chair of the appropriations committee and a member of six other Senate and joint panels.

Ultimately, some 1,500 Senate and House bills will move through committees in both chambers by the mid-May end of the year's regular legislative session. Bills earning committee approval must then earn passage by a majority of the full Senate. All bills passed by the Senate must then be approved by the House (and vice versa). The progress of all bills in the legislature can be tracked online at: www.senate.state.mo.us.

The Missouri Senate will stand adjourned on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, Monday, Jan. 17, and will reconvene on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

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