



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Session Successfully Concluded

JEFFERSON CITY—State lawmakers Thursday adjourned the First Special Session of the 93rd General Assembly after having successfully addressed the issues that Gov. Matt Blunt wanted us to focus on. Two of our top priorities these past two weeks were to strengthen the state abortion laws and fix a minor drafting error in a bill that makes sweeping changes to Missouri's workers' compensation laws.

Senate Bill 1, which passed both chambers of the Legislature this week and is on its way to the governor for final approval, is a step forward for the pro-life movement because it protects the safety of young women and the lives of the unborn. Under this legislation, lawsuits can 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 have parental consent before receiving an abortion. SB 1 also requires physicians at abortion clinics to have privileges to provide obstetric and gynecological care at hospitals within 30 miles of the clinic.

Senate legislation making minor wording changes to Missouri workers' compensation law was also approved this week. Senate Bill 4 removes language from a workers' comp bill passed earlier this year that inadvertently included a provision that disallowed injured workers from qualifying for workers' compensation. Because that drafting error negates the very purpose of the system, we tweaked the language so that the workers' compensation system continues to provide injured workers with basic compensation while protecting employers from outrageous lawsuits for work-related injuries.

We also revised Senate Bill 420, which among its many provisions 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 omnibus bill into law earlier this session, 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 and it has been forwarded to the governor.

Due to conflicting language between several bills dealing with crime that we passed during the 2005 regular session, we sent to the governor House Bill 2, which I handled in the Senate. HB 2 remedies inconsistencies concerning the following issues:

- 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.
- Inconsistent definitions of “aggravated offender” were listed in Senate and House legislation concerning drunk drivers. HB 2 provides a final definition.
- Three inconsistent measures concerning the placement of juvenile abusers have also been addressed. Under HB 2, when a child has abused another child, the abuser is not allowed to be placed in a home or facility within 1,000 feet from the abused child’s home, school or child-care facility. The requirement would be dropped only when a jurisdiction deems that the abuse did not occur or when the abused child reaches the age of 18.

The First Extraordinary Session of the 93rd General Assembly has ended. Lawmakers are scheduled to convene again in Jefferson City on January 4, 2006, for the Second Regular Session.

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*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*