



# SENATOR MATT BARTLE

**District 8 – Capitol Building, Room 431 Jefferson City, MO 65101**

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## **Legislation from Sen. Bartle Eliminates Outdated and Sometimes Humorous State Statutes**

While it is still winter in the Show Me State, the Legislature is getting a jump on a little spring cleaning. State lawmakers are charged with the responsibility of writing and enacting legislation, but it is also our duty to ensure Missouri's laws are up-to-date and effective. From time to time it is necessary for the Legislature to get rid of the "deadwood" that collects in the statute books and is outdated and unnecessary. That is why I am sponsoring Senate Revision Bill 848 to clean out some of the obsolete measures cluttering our collection of state statutes.

Several of the statutes that need to be removed simply have expired. Funding initiatives and other measures with sunset provisions remain in Missouri's code of revised statutes even when they no longer apply to our current situation. Several sections of the Missouri Revised Statutes I am seeking to eliminate expired many years ago. For example, there is a property-tax extension from the 1993 floods still on the books. Another applies only to court proceedings that took place in 1973.

Other outdated sections seem humorous to us now. One provision allows cities with populations of 300,000 or more to have the exclusive right to regulate their streetcars. While I'm sure this law was useful years ago, Missouri no longer has any operable streetcars. This one is relic and should be removed.

Still other provisions are representative of values that are now considered antiquated. There is one statute that prohibits Missouri women from insuring the lives of their husbands. A similar measure disallows unmarried women from insuring their brothers or fathers. While these laws most certainly are no longer enforced, they are discriminatory and should not be a part of our legal framework.

Outdated state laws such as these deserve to be reexamined and updated or deleted. We are all expected to live in compliance with the law so it is important that it be as clear and current as possible. Periodically getting rid of the deadwood in our statutes is a necessary part of making the law more concise and readable.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at [matt\\_bartle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov) or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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