



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

**Senator Bill Stouffer**  
Senate District 21

**Capitol Building, Room 332**  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**For the Week of:**  
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## **Respecting Seniors and Improving Road Safety**

In accordance with a federal mandate issued following Sept. 11, 2001, Missouri created the Show-Me Proof program in July 2005 to ensure that everyone with a state-issued identification card has a legal reason to be in the United States. Under the Show-Me Proof program, residents must show they are here legally. To do that, Missouri citizens have to show their birth certificates in order to obtain a state-issued ID.

The Show-Me Proof law's aim is to stop potential terrorists from obtaining state-issued IDs to further their anti-American causes. However, the requirement has unintentionally made the license-renewal process a nightmare for law-abiding senior citizens.

The problem is many seniors do not have birth certificates because they were born at home, in other states, or before birth certificates were issued. Even if seniors have a certificate, many are laced with inaccuracies, which further bogs down the license-renewal process.

To correct this, the Legislature in 2006 passed Senate Bill 1001, which was signed into law this week. The measure exempts Missouri citizens who are currently 65 or older from having to show a birth certificate when renewing their driver's licenses. Under the legislation, seniors would be able to use a previously issued Missouri driver's license, instruction permit or non-driver's license as proof of lawful presence. The legislation also provides that those younger than 65 who have had a driver's license for at least 15 years, but do not have the necessary documents to prove lawful presence, can apply for a one-year extension.

With this measure, we will prevent honest Missouri citizens — many of whom have fought for their country in time of war, worked diligently in this state for years, and led notable lives — from being treated like possible terrorists.

SB 1001 also will improve safety on Missouri roads by increasing the amount of behind-the-wheel instruction that teen drivers must receive before they can obtain an instruction permit. Teen drivers must have 40 hours, rather than 20, of driving instruction, including at least 10 hours of nighttime driving. To decrease the chances of teen drivers with intermediate driver's licenses being distracted while driving, the measure also establishes passenger limitations. For the first six months after acquiring an intermediate driver's license, drivers cannot have in their vehicle more than one passenger who is under the age of 19 and not a member of their immediate family. After that, the intermediate driver is limited to three such passengers.

This legislation will make it easier on seniors to get a driver's license and make Missouri roads safer. The measure was signed into law June 14. Because it contains an emergency clause, it is currently in effect.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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