



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Promoting Small Business in Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY – Small business is big business in Missouri. Small businesses employ more than half of the country's private workforce, create three of four new jobs, and generate a majority of American innovation, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. As a state government, we need to foster growth of these businesses instead of making it more difficult for them.

This week I introduced Senate Bill 1134, which creates the Small Business Advocacy Program in the Lt. Governor's office. The program will serve as a hub for providing assistance to Missourians and the government for collecting, coordinating, and sharing information relating to small business issues.

Specifically, the Small Business Advocacy Program will serve as a clearing house for providing small business information to Missourians. It will be accessible to the public through one telephone number to field questions or complaints about state government by small business owners. It will ensure attendance at all legislative committee hearings that affect small businesses or deal with regulatory fairness. It will serve as an information resource for the Missouri small business development centers, the Missouri enterprise center, and the Missouri innovation centers. Program staffers will work with the small business advocate at the Small Business Administration to share information about state and federal issues. Finally, the Small Business Advocacy Program will coordinate small business activities and issues with various business associations.

Entrepreneurs are the driving force of our state and national economy. The Small Business Advocacy Program created by SB 1134 will help ensure that the state recognizes and promotes these entrepreneurs, help ensure they are not unfairly burdened with government red tape, and serve as a one-stop shop for information and services available to Missouri's small business owners.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us)

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*