



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Overhauling Campaign Finance Laws

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate this week debated legislation sponsored by Majority Floor Leader Charlie Shields of St. Joseph which would reform state ethics and campaign finance laws. This important legislation would take some of the money out of the political process and remove the public perception of undue influence by lobbyists.

Senate Bill 1254 would bar campaign contributions during the legislative session, except for candidates in special elections. The bill would prohibit lobbyist-paid entertainment, travel and lodging, unless the items are approved by a legislative committee. It would also ban contributions from legislative district committees, which are allowed to donate more than individuals.

The legislation also promotes transparency in state government by requiring candidates for the House, Senate, or any statewide office to file campaign disclosure reports at the end of each month during an election year and quarterly during a non-election year.

Under SB 1254, those who lobby local elected officials in governments with an annual operating budget over two million dollars would also have to conform to the same reporting requirements as those who lobby state officials.

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

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