



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of July 17, 2006**

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# Work Continues After Conclusion of Legislative Session

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JEFFERSON CITY – A fair number of Missourians probably assume that once the annual legislative session ends in May, lawmakers return to the private sector for the rest of the year. While it is true that many lawmakers return to their “second” jobs as doctors, lawyers, farmers, or in my case, managing the family hardware store in Lowry City, the duties and responsibilities of Missouri legislators continue throughout the year.

In the Missouri Senate, most members serve on one or more interim committees, which meet during the summer and fall to gather public input and draft legislation to be considered in the next session. The Senate Interim Committee on the Cost of a College Education, for example, will meet this summer to consider the role of the state in funding a college education for Missouri students. Committee members will examine how higher education is funded in this state and consider alternative funding structures, they will examine the mechanism by which tuition rates are set at Missouri institutions of higher learning, and they will study student indebtedness resulting from funding a college education. Other Senate interim committees will examine adoption promotion and child support enforcement, wellness promotion in healthcare, and pandemic preparedness.

I serve on the Senate Interim Committee on Certificate of Need, which will hold a public hearing at the state Capitol building August 1<sup>st</sup>. Certificate of Need is an effort to contain costs, improve quality and increase access for many of Missouri’s major health care services.

The interim committee is tasked with a number of duties, including:

- evaluating options that would limit or repeal the application of certificate of need requirements for hospitals and other healthcare facilities
- evaluate the impact of physician ownership and self-referral in healthcare
- examine the effect of the current certificate of need law on consumer choice
- evaluate the effect of the certificate of need law on flexibility in developing alternative healthcare delivery systems that are sufficient to meet the needs of the expanding elderly population, and
- explore the impact of various changes to the certificate of need law on competition in the healthcare market.

The Senate Interim Committee on Certificate of Need also will meet August 30 and September 12 to gather testimony from witnesses. The committee must issue a report and make recommendations for legislation by January 26, 2007.

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.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).

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