



# State Senator Harry Kennedy

Room 226 - State Capitol - Jefferson City, MO - Phone 573 - 751 - 2126

## PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2007

## Sen. Kennedy Moves Important Legislation During Recently-Completed Session

*Working Together Key to Getting Priorities Passed*

Missouri State Senator Harry Kennedy (District 1) successfully moved several key pieces of legislation through this past legislative session. Bills sent to the governor include more money to help uninsured women, a tourist-industry-fueling sales tax exemption on aviation fuel, and measures to help police and public safety officials in St. Louis, among the many passed this year.

Sen. Kennedy helped 90,000 women get better healthcare by extending coverage for women earning up to \$18,889 seeking counseling on issues such as sexually transmitted diseases and birth control and testing. Under his provisions inserted in the [MO HealthNet bill](#), cancer screening procedures like pelvic exams and PAP tests would also be covered.

A measure enabling the state's tourism industry to take advantage of soon-to-be completed international trade negotiations between the United States and the European Union cleared the legislature this year as part of [House Bill 327](#), the Economic Development bill. The "Open Skies Trade Agreement" between the U.S. and the European Union will open airports and flight routes between European cities and American destinations. Sen. Kennedy, knowing this could enhance Missouri's tourism industry, pushed through an exemption for aviation fuel purchased for transoceanic flights directly connecting to points across the Atlantic or Pacific

Ocean. The Denver International Airport commissioned a study that indicated *just one* additional daily flight from Europe had an annual economic impact of \$90,577,704. (The study, *Economic Impact of International Flights on Denver's Economy* is available online at: <http://www.metrodenver.org/documents/Economic%20Impact%20of%20Intl%20Flights.pdf> )

[House Bill 327](#) also provides Sen. Kennedy's reform language that allows Transportation Development Districts to pass taxes for preliminarily approved road construction projects, and further requires these districts to give estimated revenues and costs in those project plans. Parts of that bill and [House Bill 741](#) also provide a tax credit for modifying a home for a disabled person, an initiative Sen. Kennedy introduced early in the session.

[Senate Bill 22](#) and [House Bill 795](#) contain Sen. Kennedy's provisions addressing the needs of the St. Louis Police Department. The measures will allow a public vote on a local sales tax of up to half a percent to pay for police salaries, pensions, and their healthcare. The St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners will be able to delegate some of its powers to hearing officers (also contained in [House Bill 41](#) and [HB 574](#)). [Senate Bill 22](#) and [HB 795](#) also give the Department of Natural Resources more oversight on non-profit water and sewer districts.

Finally, Sen. Kennedy's bills addressing a couple of license issues cleared the legislature. Lawmakers agreed with Kennedy's proposal to eliminate the three-day waiting period for marriage licenses. And parts of [Senate Bill 308](#) and [House Bill 780](#) have enacted license requirements for private investigators working in Missouri.

"While we didn't get done everything I would like to see done, I'm proud of what was accomplished this past session," said Sen. Kennedy. "Making sure people have the healthcare they need, fueling our economic engines, and eliminating some of red tape municipalities and citizens have to deal with are always signs of a successful legislative session."

###

***Senator Harry Kennedy can be contacted at the State Capitol – Phone: 573-751-2126.***