



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Wes Shoemyer  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 434  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of Dec. 03, 2007**

**Contact: Kathy Armstrong  
(573) 751-7852**

# Getting Ready for Session

---

JEFFERSON CITY – Everybody seems so busy this time of the year, hopping about from store to store trying to find the perfect gift, decorating the house for the holidays, and getting together with family and friends to celebrate the season.

It's a busy time of the year for legislators, too, as we pre-file bills for the upcoming legislative session and wrap up interim committee hearings so we can present our findings to our fellow lawmakers. This week I wanted to tell you about some of the bills I'll be sponsoring during the 2008 legislative session.

Senate Bill 823 creates a state and local sales and use tax exemption for the purchase of weather radios. All of us in the rural parts of the state join together with folks in the cities to pay for the weather warning system, and it's only right that folks in rural areas have the necessary tools to minimize the loss of life. Last October, two people were killed near Paris when a tornado touched down on a farm and destroyed a mobile home. Although the National Weather Service did not issue a tornado warning that night, having a weather radio might have alerted the two to the dangerous weather conditions that were developing and given them time to seek shelter. Folks in the country don't always hear the sirens that go off in nearby towns, but having a weather radio can help minimize the loss of life when dangerous weather approaches.

Senate Bill 821 modifies the membership of the MO HealthNet Oversight Committee by adding a representative from a rural health clinic as well as specifying that as to the two different categories of physicians represented on the committee, there needs to be a doctor of

osteopathy represented in each category. Most primary care in rural Missouri is provided by doctors of osteopathy, and they should be represented on the oversight committee.

Senate Bill 822 allows counties to levy a property tax of no more than one fourth of one cent per one hundred dollars assessed valuation on all taxable property in the county. The money would be placed in a County Cemetery Maintenance Fund to help maintain small cemeteries, many of which have been neglected over the years. These small cemeteries are the final resting places of our ancestors, our veterans, and our historical figures. We need to make sure counties have the ability to restore and maintain the dignity of these sacred places.

Senate Bill 774 would exempt utility vehicles or “mini-trucks” from having to be titled and registered. Utility vehicles are typically used in farming, lawn care, landscaping services or as maintenance vehicles and are generally used off-road. My bill gives cities or counties the ability to issue special permits if someone needs to operate a utility vehicle on a highway or county road. Some folks at the Kiwanis Club meeting in Palmyra talked to me about this, and it makes a lot of sense in an era of \$3 gas and given the wide open spaces of rural Missouri.

Earlier this year I found out that seniors living in the 18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District were being sold insurance that do not meet or cover their needs. In response, I filed Senate Bill 773, which regulates insurance agents selling Medicare Advantage plans. This bill creates a two-day waiting period before an insurance agent can complete the sale, it requires a statement that Medicare Advantage plans are not Medigap supplement plans, and it requires a statement advising the applicant to confirm with his or her health care providers whether or not the provider has contracted with the Medicare Advantage plan to provide medical services. It doesn't do any good to have health insurance if you cannot get healthcare services.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.