



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Protecting the Jobs of Our Military Personnel

JEFFERSON CITY – Thousands of Missouri citizens have answered our nation's call to duty and are honorably performing those duties in the Global War on Terror in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Too often, though, these veterans return home to their civilian lives only to find they no longer have jobs waiting for them. Those who worked hard to earn professional licenses before joining the military often find those licenses have expired when they return home.

In response to this problem, I filed legislation this year that allows certain licensed professionals to renew a license that expires while they are serving in the military, within 60 days of completing their service. The legislation would benefit licensed professionals such as interpreters, clinical perfusionists, dieticians, massage therapists, interior designers, acupuncturists, occupational therapists, and occupational therapy assistants.

The brave men and women in uniform who sacrifice so much so we may continue to live in freedom should not have to worry about losing their jobs while serving our country.

Closer to the home front, I am sponsoring legislation to increase the pool of eligible applicants to the Missouri Highway Patrol as well as local police and sheriff's departments. The measure modifies the educational requirements for Highway Patrol members and radio personnel. It also requires the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission to establish these same educational requirements as part of the minimum standards for basic training of peace officers.

Basically, this measure changes state law to allow students who have been home-schooled or who attended a private religious school the same opportunities to work in law enforcement. Applicants who have obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate also are eligible to work in law enforcement. Missouri citizens who did not attend or complete their education at a public high school should not be prohibited from serving their communities or their state as peace officers, as long as they obtain equivalent educational certification.

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.