



"Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong." — Daniel O'Connell

MISSOURI SENATE



Senator Rita Heard Days

Serving
constituents
of St. Louis
County

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Dear Friends,

During the 2008 legislative session, my colleagues and I worked diligently to make Missouri a better and brighter place to live, work, and visit. This year, the Senate filed more than 578 pieces of legislation. However, few bills actually make it through the entire legislative process to become law. Bills not receiving approval by both chambers may be revisited in 2009. At the conclusion of this year's legislative session, 139 measures were passed by the Legislature, 62 of which were Senate bills — some of which addressed illegal immigration, property taxes, and the safety of our children.

In an effort to make an impact on illegal immigration, comprehensive measures were passed tackling this issue on several fronts, including restricting access to driver's licenses, higher education at public universities, and employment throughout our state.

Rising property taxes caused some homeowners to question their county's policy on rolling back property tax levies. This concern led lawmakers to pass legislation that offers relief from high property taxes caused by reassessment and puts an end to "backdoor tax increases."

National coverage of the tragic suicide of a Missouri teenager was a horrific reminder for those in the General Assembly about the importance of monitoring Internet usage among our youth. Legislation was sent to the governor that places penalties on those who use the Internet to bully others, also known as cyberbullying.

In this end-of-session report, I'll touch on some of the noteworthy measures passed this session, let you know what I will be working on for the citizens of the 14th Senatorial District in 2009, and tell you how to contact me about legislative issues that are important to you. It is my honor and privilege to serve you and represent your interests in the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Heard Days".

Senator Rita Heard Days — District 14

Serving constituents of St. Louis County in the Missouri Senate

General Assembly Addresses Health Issues Affecting Missourians

The issue of health care and addressing particular health-related needs for citizens in our state is one of the top priorities for lawmakers from both sides of the aisle in the General Assembly. The 2008 legislative session passed several key measures that will benefit Missourians across our state.

Far too often, we have to wait to get in to see our doctors when we are under the weather. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to visit your doctor's office and have another licensed health care professional prescribe medication that usually only your doctor can prescribe, instead of waiting while you're sick to see your personal health care physician?

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy pieces of legislation passed by the Legislature and signed into law this year deals with prescriptive authority for nurse practitioners. Senate Bill 724 gives qualified advanced practice registered nurses the authority to prescribe certain controlled substances while operating under a collaborative practice agreement — a formal written statement between the nurse and physician establishing detailed information regarding the patient's care.

Senate Bill 724 also contains a provision that will help combat meth in our state by further limiting the sale of products that contain pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient used to make meth. A law passed in 2005 requires pharmacies to maintain a written log to document any transactions where the customer purchases pseudoephedrine products. The new law enacted by the passage of Senate Bill 724 requires pharmacies to upgrade to an electronic, rather than written log to record these purchases. Maintaining an updated paper log has been a challenge for pharmacists as well as law enforcement officers in our state. Now, thanks to this legislation, Missouri will have another tool to help fight the war on meth.

Other health-related issues passed and signed into law include:

Senate Bill 768 — creates the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Senate Bill 1105 — creates an income tax check-off for contributions to the breast cancer awareness fund.

Senate Bill 1139 — revises the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act by creating a first person consent organ and tissue donor registry.



Other Legislation Passed In 2008

Agriculture - SB 931 keeps the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) a voluntary program in Missouri.

Alcohol, Boating, Public Safety - HB 1715 changes the legal blood alcohol content (BAC) for operating a watercraft from .10 to .08.

Banking - SB 1059 creates the crime of mortgage fraud.

Bonds (Fees) - SB 944 caps fees for registering bonds with the state auditor.

Budget - HBs 2014, 2015, and 2019-2022 appropriates supplemental funding for state programs and services for FY 2008.

Budget - HBs 2001-2013 appropriates \$22.4 billion for state programs and services for FY 2009. HB 2010 provides \$2.2 million for mental health services to family members of veterans and transitional housing assistance to homeless veterans.

Bullying, Cyber Harassment - SB 818 requires school districts to report instances of harassment or stalking.

Campaign Finance - SB 1038 repeals the campaign contribution limits for certain candidates running for office, and requires individuals and committees to electronically file campaign disclosure reports for contributions exceeding \$5,000 within 48 hours.

Capital Improvements - HB 2023 appropriates money for capital improvements for several departments of state government.

Child Pornography - SB 714 specifies and expands situations where one can be charged with promoting or possessing child pornography.

Consumer Protection - HB 2188 criminalizes residential mortgage fraud and makes committing the crime a Class C felony.

Copper Theft, Recycling - SB 1034 modifies record-keeping requirements for purchases of scrap metal and creates penalties for unlawful purchases of copper and other industrial metals.

Credit - HB 1384 allows credit holders to "freeze" their account histories.

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Economic Development, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - SB 718 expands the Neighborhood Assistance Act, Enhanced Enterprise Zone Tax Benefit Act, and Rebuilding Communities Tax Credit Program. Also requires municipalities located within the counties of Jefferson, St. Louis and St. Charles to create county-wide TIF commissions for approval of projects.

Education - SB 1066 allows established professionals to become certified to teach elementary or secondary education.

Education (Higher) - SB 967 allows the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) to originate federally guaranteed student loans.

Education (Higher), Veterans - SB 830 known as the "Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act," limits tuition at state higher education institutions to \$50 per credit hour for veterans who served in combat after September 11, 2001.

Energy - SB 1181 encourages energy conservation through tax deductions for consumers and mandates for the state.

Intellectual Property - HB 2058 creates the Entrepreneurial Development Council to help provide financial assistance to members defending their patents in court.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety - HB 2224 generates an added \$10 process serving fee for use to supplement deputy sheriff pay.

Local Government, Villages - SB 765 repeals a law allowing an individual to form a village in an alternative way other than a petition approved by the county commission.

Mental Health - SB 1081 develops quality standards and protections for the developmentally and mentally disabled.

Military, Patriotism - SB 806 requires all government buildings to fly the U.S. and Missouri flags at half-staff when a Missouri resident is killed in combat.

Public Safety - SB 930 enacts tougher DWI laws.

Public Safety - HB 1341 requires liability insurance at all water parks.

Seniors, Tax (Property) - SB 711 expands and increases the state's property tax relief program. Also requires taxing entities to roll back tax rates to counter reassessment increases, regardless of whether the entity is at its taxing ceiling, and modifies the timeline for assessments and appeal of property taxes.

Tax (Credit) - HB 2393 creates mega-projects under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone tax benefit act.

Tax (Property) - SB 748 allows property tax deductions for non-residents if the state the non-resident resides in reciprocates the policy for Missouri residents.

Tax (Sales) - SB 1181 creates the annual "Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday" beginning on April 19 and ending April 25 in 2009 and each subsequent year.

Weather (Hot) - SB 720 prohibits disconnection of utilities in extreme heat and/or humidity conditions.

Workers Compensation - HB 1883 clarifies duration benefits are to be paid for injuries.

Housing Crisis Continues, But Help May Be On The Way

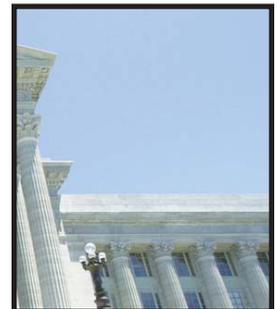
Our nation is experiencing an emotional and financial strain with the turbulent housing market this year. The number of homes facing foreclosure was up by 65 percent in April 2008, with 243,353 homes receiving at least one foreclosure-related filing, as opposed to April 2007 with 147,708 homes receiving the same type of filing. These numbers may be alarming to many, but optimists say that the worst of the credit crisis has passed.

This year the U.S. House of Representatives passed a significant homeowner rescue plan to provide government-backed mortgage loans to half a million debt-ridden borrowers. These loans will be more affordable and are expected to boost an economy crippled by the housing crisis.

The plan, also known as the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, is projected to cost \$2.7 billion over the next five years, and targets homeowners facing default, including many who owe more than their houses are worth. Through this legislation, the Federal Housing Administration will be allowed to accept up to \$300 billion in new mortgages so that indebted homeowners facing foreclosure may be able to refinance.

As of this printing, the measure must receive approval from both the Senate and House, as amendments have been added to the initial act — all routine procedures a bill must go through on its legislative route to become law.

While homeowners wait for this rescue plan to be implemented, help may be found through the HOPE NOW hotline. This hotline is a valuable resource to homeowners facing foreclosure, those who are concerned about rising mortgage rates, or whose homes are now worth less than the mortgage owed. The HOPE NOW hotline is staffed by federally-approved credit counselors. This helpful government resource can be accessed through the MyMoney.gov Web site or by calling 1-888-995-HOPE.



Senator Rita Heard

Serving constituents of St. Louis



Lawmakers passed a \$22.4 billion budget



2009 Fiscal Year budget went into effect July 1



St. Louis area will receive more than \$971 million from 2009 operating budget



General Assembly Passes Fiscal Year 2009 State Budget:

With a constitutionally mandated budget deadline of May 9, 2008, the General Assembly worked to pass a fiscally responsible budget that reached the governor's desk ahead of schedule. The final budget included increased funding for K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, transportation, agriculture, health care and life sciences, among other areas.

Education

House Bills 2002 through 2013, along with House Bill 2001 (passed in April 2008), comprise the state budget for fiscal year 2009 (that began July 1, 2008) and each of these House bills allocate funds to specific state programs

and departments. For instance, House Bill 2002 appropriates money to elementary and secondary education, and provides a \$121.3 million increase to fully fund the state's Foundation Formula. The bill also increases funding for the A+ Schools Program by \$3.5 million. House Bill 2003, the higher education budget bill, allocates an additional \$48.7 million increase for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.

Our state's 2009 operating budget includes approximately \$844.5 million set aside for education in the St. Louis area, including \$754.7 million for K-12 schools, \$50.2 million for St. Louis Community College, and \$10.9 million for Harris-Stowe State University.

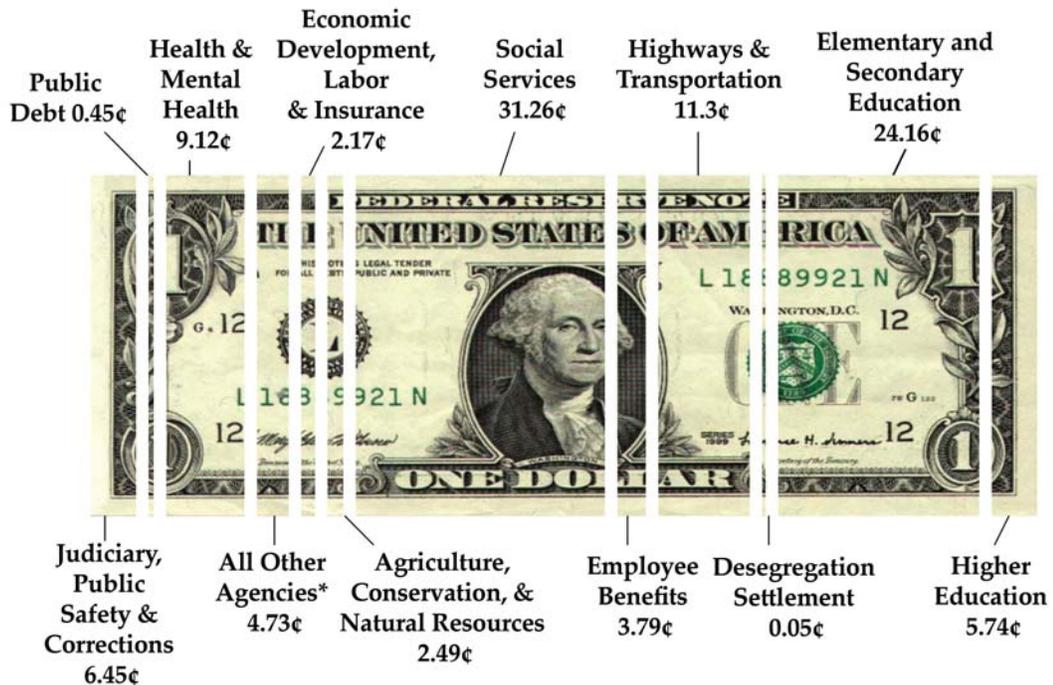
Days — District 14

County in the Missouri Senate



Distribution of Each Tax Dollar

FY 2009 Missouri Operating Budget
All Funds: \$22.4 Billion



*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate

Source: Senate Appropriation Committee

Health Care

Funding for health care services, such as an additional \$7.4 million for autism services and \$13 million to provide better access to health care for low-income women, was also included in the overall budget.

A portion of the 2009 operating budget for the St. Louis area for health care services includes \$19.9 million for the St. Louis Developmental Disabilities Treatment Center, \$16.8 million for the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, and \$15.6 million for the St. Louis Veterans Home.

Roads, State Parks, and Additional Highlights

The Department of Transportation's construction program received a \$483.3 million increase in funding to maintain our state's roads and infrastructure.

State parks and historical societies in the St. Louis

area also received funding from the 2009 state operating budget, including \$686,216 for Babler State Park, \$579,671 for Cuivre River State Park, and \$219,818 for the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site.

Other highlights of this year's budget include a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for state employees, a \$7.5 million increase in spending for biodiesel subsidies, and a \$21 million increase for life sciences research.



For more information on allocated funds for each budget bill (House Bills 2001-2013), please visit www.senate.mo.gov, click on "Session Information," and select "Truly Agreed Bills."

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Remain Alert: Protect Yourself From Identity Theft and Credit Theft

Here are some helpful tips one corporate attorney offered his employees, and we now pass them along to you:

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED."
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four digits.
3. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone number. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks.
4. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those numbers where you can find them.
4. Photocopy the contents of your wallet. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Also, carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel either here or abroad.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen.
7. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number at 1-800-269-0271.

Failed Legislation From 2008

Alcohol - SB 747 would have prohibited the use or possession of alcoholic beverage vaporizers and changed provisions regarding underage drinking.

Alternative Fuels - SB 759 would have required all diesel fuel sold at retail in Missouri after April 1, 2010, to be a biodiesel-blended fuel.

Capital Punishment - SB 835 would have eliminated the death penalty in Missouri.

Dairies - SB 1279 would have specified criteria for when non-organic dairy products would be considered misbranded.

Disabilities - SB 756 would have changed the name of the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

DNA - SB 754 would have required juveniles adjudicated of offenses that would constitute certain felonies or any sexual offense if committed by an adult, to have a biological sample (DNA) collected for the purposes of DNA profiling analysis.

Education (Employees) - SB 713 would have granted protections to school districts and their employees who discuss employee performance when making decisions about student safety.

Education (K-12) - SB 715 would have established the Safe Schools Fund, and allowed local school districts to utilize money from the fund for a variety of safety-related expenses.

Education (K-12), Special Needs - SB 993 would have established the Missouri Special Needs Scholarship Tax Credit Program to provide grants to elementary and secondary education students through scholarships to cover the costs at a qualified public or non-public school.

Education (Teachers) - SB 1092 would have created the Minimum Salary Fund for Teachers to provide minimum salary supplements to public school teachers.

Elections - SB 1245 would have barred all felons in Missouri from holding public office.

Environment - SB 738 would have created penalties for animal part recycling plants or other companies that persistently violate and state air, water, or odor pollution standards.

Fraud - SB 889 would have created mandatory minimum penalties of a fine of at least \$50,000 and sentence of at least five years for those who commit criminal securities fraud against elderly and disabled persons.

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Health Care, Insurance (Health) - SB 1283 would have established the Missouri Health Transformation Act of 2008, which would have allowed the state to subsidize health care premiums for low income families.

Helmet Law - SB 1067 would have exempted persons 21 years or older from wearing protective headgear except when riding motorcycles on interstate highways.

Immunizations - SB 778 would have provided that female students enrolling in sixth grade at a public school may receive, at the option of a parent or guardian, an immunization for the human papilloma virus (HPV).

Lobbying - SB 807 would have barred public officials from receiving gifts (meals, game tickets, etc.) from lobbyists.

Methamphetamine - SB 1063 would have increased methamphetamine education, treatment, prevention, and enforcement.

Health Care - SB 855 would have added counseling services for emotional disorders or conditions provided by licensed psychologists, licensed professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed marital and family therapists to the state-sponsored health care plan.

Retirement - SB 1042 would have modified teacher and school employee retirement plans to increase payments for those who are age 75 or older and have received the maximum cost of living increases.

Retirement, Tax Cut - SB 1125 would have exempted military retirement benefits from income tax.

Seatbelts - SB 884 would have required all drivers and passengers in cars or trucks to wear a seatbelt and allowed primary enforcement of that law.

Sex Crimes - SB 1159 would have modified provisions relating to forensic examinations of sexual offense victims, including creating the Sexual Offense Forensic Examination Compensation Fund to pay the cost of forensic exams.

Sexual Offender Registry - SJR 34 would have allowed the sexual offender registry laws to be applied retrospectively.

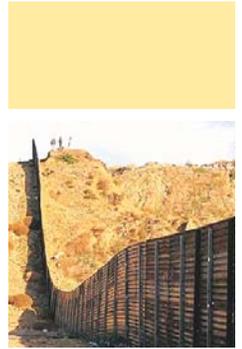
Telemarketing - SB 840 would have modified the state's do-not-call list to include political automated phone calls, and creates "paid for by" requirements for political phone calls.

Voter ID - HJR 48 would have proposed a constitutional amendment requiring voters to provide a valid government ID to vote.

Weather (Cold) - SB 721 would have extended the current cold weather rule so gas and electric service would not be discontinued to residential customers on any day when the temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit during the following 72 hours.

Tackling Illegal Immigration

Lawmakers worked on a bill during the 2008 legislative session, which has since been signed by the governor into law, that approaches the issue of illegal immigration from a variety of directions. However, the goal of House Bill 1549 is the same for all legislators — controlling the costs and benefits of illegal immigrants living in our state.



The comprehensive illegal immigration reform package includes:

- Restricting illegal immigrants from attending state colleges and universities.
- Prohibiting cities from adopting "sanctuary" policies.
- Criminalizing the transport or harboring of illegal immigrants.
- Increasing penalties for employers who hire illegal immigrants.
- Requiring applicants for certain public benefits to provide proof of citizenship, residency, or lawful presence.



What You Need To Know About DTV

On February 17, 2009, television will undergo the biggest change since color was introduced in the 1950s — analog broadcasting will end for full-power TV stations. Currently, most stations are broadcasting in two formats — digital and analog. If you watch free over-the-air TV with a broadcast antenna and don't have a digital TV, you'll have to get a digital-to-analog converter box for your analog TV.

There are low-cost converter boxes to change the digital signal to one that your current analog set can receive. For more information on the digital television transition, including information on a government coupon program for converter boxes, go to www.dtv.gov, or call 1-888-CALL-FCC.

Big changes are coming to the way we watch broadcast television. Make sure you're ready for the digital transition.

Senator Rita Heard Days — District 14

Serving constituents of St. Louis County in the Missouri Senate

Contact Senator Days

My staff and I are always ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the Missouri Legislature. Feel free to contact my Capitol office at **573-751-4106** or my district office at **314-877-2650** to let us know how we can help you. We are located on the second floor of the Capitol in Room 220. You can also visit my Senate Web site: www.senate.mo.gov/days

Thank you!



Rita Heard Days



Bernadine
Klebba



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Sen. Rita
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State Senator Rita Heard Days

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