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Sen. Kevin Engler Applauds Successes of 2008 Legislative Session

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today applauded the accomplishments of the second regular session of the 94th General Assembly. The session officially ended at 6 p.m. today (5/16).

“Every legislative session is full of both challenges, but what is really important is that we pass legislation that will positively impact the citizens of Missouri,” said Sen. Engler. “I am pleased with our accomplishments and know they address the interests of the people in the 3rd District.”

This session, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 1549](#) to fight the problem of illegal immigration in Missouri. The bill sends a clear message that the state will not tolerate undocumented workers by cracking down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants with stiffer fines and penalties. The bill also bans illegal immigrants from attending public universities and junior colleges and prohibits illegal immigrants from receiving driver’s licenses. The legislation also includes a provision drafted by Sen. Engler blocking illegal residents from receiving state or local public benefits.

[House Bill 2034](#) is an omnibus bill ensuring Missourians’ right to carry. The bill contains several provisions, including a measure originally introduced by Sen. Engler ([Senate Bill 1076](#)) protecting firearm range owners from noise violation suits. House Bill 2034 also removes residency requirements for certain concealed carry permit holders and closes the records of those who filed with their county sheriff to receive a concealed carry permit.

The Legislature also passed [Senate Bill 711](#), a sweeping property tax reform bill to end back door tax increases. The measure mandates that all taxing jurisdictions, regardless of whether they are operating at or below their tax rate ceiling, must roll back their tax rate to counter reassessment increases. Currently, only taxing jurisdictions operating at their tax rate ceiling are required by Missouri’s Constitution to roll back to protect taxpayers, leaving taxing jurisdictions operating below their ceiling to approve tax increases with no legal recourse. Another provision in the bill requires earlier notice and more information for taxpayers.

Today, House Bill 2224 also received final approval. The bill will help to more fairly compensate Missouri’s sheriff’s deputies. The bill allows departments to charge an additional \$10 fee for serving any civil subpoena or other court order. This funding will help to raise the salaries of deputies, whose average salary in Missouri is \$22,000.

“We passed a number of items that I believe help the district and hold true with our conservative values,” said Sen. Engler. “I am proud that we were able to help keep property taxes low, fight illegal immigration, protect the 2nd amendment, and help law enforcement. I commend my colleagues, both democrat and republican, for working together to take this state forward.”

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