



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. John Loudon's Business Reforms Signed into Law *Legislation Reverses Workers' Comp Ruling, Reinstates Federal Overtime Standards & Prevents Employers from Requiring Microchips*

JEFFERSON CITY – A business reform package forwarded by Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, which will make positive changes to the state's economy and prevent employers from requiring employees to be implanted with microchips was signed into law by Gov. Matt Blunt today at the Waller Truck Company in Excelsior Springs.

House Bill 1883 overturns a state ruling regarding workers' compensation death benefits, reinstates federal overtime standards for certain occupations, and makes it a crime for employers to require microchips be implanted in employees.

"By fixing one of the problems threatening to bankrupt the Second Injury Fund and by correcting overtime laws that prohibited flexibility in determining when to pay overtime for certain occupations, we found solutions to safeguard our economic resources and to ensure employees are fairly compensated," Sen. Loudon said. "Both decisions make good economic sense for Missouri."

Changing the workers' compensation ruling was a priority issue for Sen. Loudon. House Bill 1883 reverses the 2007 *Schoemehl v. Treasurer of the State of Missouri* decision that allowed death benefits from the state's Second Injury Fund to be paid to dependents for the duration of their lives following the death of a covered worker. The workers' compensation measure takes effect immediately upon the governor's signature.

HB 1883 also reinstates federal overtime standards for certain occupations such as hospital workers and high commission sales people whose jobs traditionally require longer hours.

Under the new law, Missouri now becomes the fourth state to bar employees from attempting to force employees to use microchips for detection. Employers found guilty of violating the law will be charged with a misdemeanor and could face fines of up to \$1,000.

"This may sound like science fiction, but it has already occurred in other places and had to be prevented from happening here," Sen. Loudon said. "A person should never have his or her privacy invaded in this manner."

The bill also protects public and private employees from being fired when activated for volunteer emergency service by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"This will protect those who selflessly answer the call to assist FEMA during national disasters," Sen. Loudon said. "Protecting jobs in these instances is the right thing to do for employees who drop everything to help others."

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