



SENATOR MATT BARTLE

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Column for Week of:
September 8, 2008

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Lawmakers Return to Capitol for Veto Session

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, lawmakers reconvened in Jefferson City for a mandatory veto session. The state constitution requires the General Assembly to come together in September if the governor vetoes any of the bills passed during the year's legislative session. With four bills (three Senate bills and one House bill) and line items in five budget bills receiving a governor's veto, lawmakers had the opportunity to discuss these bills and override any of the vetoes with a two-thirds majority vote from both chambers.

It is an unlikely event for the Legislature to vote to overturn a governor's veto — the last time it did was under a previous administration back in 2003, when lawmakers voted to allow Missourians to carry concealed weapons, bar certain lawsuits against gun manufacturers and require a waiting period for abortions. However, this year was more typical, as the Legislature did not vote to overturn any of the current governor's vetoes.

Nevertheless, it remains important that we have an opportunity to meet and discuss any of the governor's actions on bills passed during the regular session because it ensures that the Legislature — which represents the people's interests — has a final say in how laws are crafted. This helps preserve the critical balance of power established by the framers of our United States Constitution and wisely followed by the 50 states as they crafted their own constitutions.

The three Senate bills vetoed by the governor this year include [Senate Bill 873](#), which would have allowed a voting student curator to sit on the University of Missouri Board of Curators — if Missouri loses a congressional district based on the 2010 census. Another measure, [Senate Bill 1061](#), would have required county coroners and their assistants to register with the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association.

The third bill, [Senate Bill 1190](#), was vetoed because it contained unnecessary and confusing statutory language relating to the division of professional registration. The veto process is often used to quickly dispose of duplicative or contradictory language that would only serve to clutter up the statute books.

The governor also vetoed [House Bill 1689](#), which would have provided all legislators with a key to access the Capitol dome. In addition, the governor exercised his line item veto authority to remove several thousand dollars in spending authority from this year's budget.

If you have any comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

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