



Column For Week of: March 5, 2008

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Legislation to Improve Missouri

During the first part of a legislative session, a lot of the focus is placed on introducing new bills. Last week marked the final period for lawmakers to introduce legislation in the Senate. There is still much work to be done on many of these measures and, as is the nature of the legislative process, much of the legislation passed this year will likely be a combination of several different bills.

Business Friendly Policy

[Senate Bill 1062](#) is also known as the Red Tape Reduction Act because the bill lessens the amount of paperwork that businesses are required to deal with while doing business in the state. One aspect of SB 1062 would allow businesses to file their corporate registration reports once every two years. Missourians are currently able to register their LLC online, and a provision of the legislation would offer reduced fees for businesses to file this way so that less paperwork is involved. Another aspect of SB 1062 would allow businesses to pay an additional fee for guaranteed, expedited turnaround on their filings.

Personal Protection

In 2003, Missouri expanded its citizens' second amendment rights by adopting laws allowing residents to receive conceal and carry permits. The law allows for Missourians to exercise their second amendment rights and protect themselves and their families. This session, I filed [SB 1176](#), which would allow those with conceal and carry permits to keep them for six years. Currently, the permits must be renewed every three years.

Personal Property Rights

[Senate Bill 1178](#) would change provisions in place for those wanting to prohibit trespassers from their private property. Currently, property owners may post purple marks on trees or posts around an area in order to delineate their property. My legislation would

also allow property owners to cap fence posts, giving property owners another way to let others know which area is their land. Provisions in the legislation make sure that these marks will be visible and noticeable to individuals approaching the area.

Taking Care of Children and Families

Another bill I sponsored this session works to improve the foster care system in our state. One provision of [Senate Bill 1242](#) allows employees of the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services to choose to become an emergency placement provider, a respite care provider, or a licensed foster home. The bill would also establish an online application and training process for those wanting to become a licensed foster or pre-adoptive home (approximately one half of all training and education would be available online). Another stipulation of the legislation allows children of appropriate age to express their feelings about potential foster care placement or adoption to their guardian, and requires those wishes to be considered when deciding placement. Senate Bill 1242 also includes provisions that stipulate the actions that need to be taken if an employee of the children's division or an employee of a licensed child placement agency knowingly provides incorrect information to a foster parent or prospective adoptive parent.

We still have a lot of work to do this session, and I will continue to let you know about bills that are successfully making it through the legislative process. For more information on my legislation, check out my website at www.senate.mo.gov/barnitz. I have recently added new information for constituents including a photo gallery and audio clips.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to call me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2108. You can also write to at the address listed below.

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