



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Veto Session

JEFFERSON CITY – On September 10 Missouri lawmakers will return to the Capitol for the annual Veto Session. The state constitution requires the legislature to reconvene in September if the governor vetoes any of the bills passed by the House and Senate. In order to override the governor's veto, two-thirds of the members of both chambers must vote in favor of the override. That does not happen very often, and I doubt legislators will overturn any of the governor's four vetoes this year. The last time the legislature overrode a bill vetoed by the governor was 2003, when lawmakers voted to allow Missourians to carry concealed weapons.

This year the governor vetoed three bills that originated in the Senate and one bill that originated in the House. The three Senate bills rejected by the governor include SB 873, which provides for a voting student curator on the University of Missouri Board of Curators, *if* Missouri loses a congressional district based on the 2010 census. Senate Bill 1061 would have required county coroners and their assistants to register with the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association, and SB 1190 would have authorized the division of professional registration to reduce license fees by emergency rule under certain circumstances. The governor also vetoed House Bill 1689, which would have transferred the Governor's Council on Disability from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Office of Administration. It also would have provided all legislators with a key to access the Capitol dome.

Vetoed bills return to the chamber where they originated and must receive a two-thirds vote before moving to the other chamber for a vote, but like I said, I don't anticipate any veto overrides this year.

Since the constitution requires us to meet each September to consider the governor's vetoes, we take advantage of the opportunity to say goodbye to our retiring members. This year we will hold a retirement ceremony for seven retired or retiring senators: President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, Senate Minority Floor Leader Maida Coleman, Sen. Bill Alter, Sen. Chuck Gross, Sen. Chris Koster, Sen. John Loudon and Sen. Harry Kennedy. I serve on the committee that is putting together the retirement ceremony and look forward to seeing my colleagues one last time before they begin the next chapter in their careers.

Most of the bills passed by the legislature and signed by the governor took effect August 28th, including a bill I worked on that allows utility vehicles or "mini-trucks" to be operated on the roadways. These utility vehicles are typically used in farming, lawn care, landscaping services or as maintenance vehicles and are generally used off-road. These vehicles are very economical to purchase and operate, and will give folks the chance to be fuel efficient. Many times when I get in my pickup, I'm really overusing my truck, and it makes more sense to have something that will do the job and be much more efficient. This is really about helping our farmers be more efficient in their operations.

We have had a lot of calls about this issue since the Highway Patrol has erroneously determined that utility vehicles can only be operated during the day, but they can be operated at night as long as they are properly equipped with lights. County governments can charge a small fee to register these vehicles now that they are street legal.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.