



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Capitol Building, Room 332

Senate District 21
Jefferson City, MO 65101

For the Week of:
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Legislation Working for Rural Missouri Before Session Begins

At times, passing legislation through the Missouri General Assembly can be a long and difficult process, emphasizing how important and serious it is to create new laws. However, prefiling bills allows lawmakers from both the Senate and House of Representatives to get a head start in the legislative process.

To prepare for the legislative session in January, Missouri Senate rules allow bills to be prefiled on December 1. Typically each member of the Senate, usually beginning with the most senior member, picks several of their top priority bills. These prefiled measures are numbered and available to the public by the beginning of December. But the prefiling process starts way before December 1, with some lawmakers finalizing measures for the next legislative session before their current legislative session even ends.

So far more than [200 bills](#) have been prefiled with the Secretary of the Senate's office. It is thought that bills that are prefiled and receive a low number are more likely to pass through both chambers and make it to the governor's desk (the first bill that was prefiled this session was [SB 711](#)). However, many of us know first-hand that there is no guarantee.

This year, I have prefiled several bills that would benefit the residents of the 21st Senatorial District as well as individuals throughout our state. [Senate Bill 761](#) modifies various laws relating to transportation and the regulation of motor vehicles. Several provisions in this bill were included in a measure (HB 744) that was introduced in 2007. There are more than ten acts in SB 761. One such act penalizes drivers who receive an intoxication-related traffic offense while operating a school bus and also sets fines for operating a school bus with a revoked license.

Senate Bill 761 also deals with restricted license plates. Any person whose driver's license has been suspended, revoked, or disqualified for more than 60 days would immediately have to surrender their current license plates and would be issued a set of restricted plates. It is important to note that these restricted plates are coded for the highway patrol and other law enforcement officers. Everyday citizens would not be able to tell the differences between a regular and a restricted license plate.

Another bill that I have prefiled is [SB 810](#) (similar to [SB 759](#)). Beginning January 1, 2010, this measure states that gas stations in Missouri that sell diesel fuel would sell biodiesel, conventional diesel fuel, and biodiesel-blended fuel that contain five percent biodiesel by volume. However, it would not be a violation for a station to sell biodiesel-blended fuel that contains more than five percent by volume as long as the sale adheres to specific requirements regulated by the [Department of Agriculture](#). Anyone who manufactures biodiesel that does not meet the requirements set by the Department of Agriculture could be subject to a penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation as well as subject to a cease and desist order.

The 2008 legislative session begins Wednesday, January 9. As your state senator, I will keep you updated on the legislation in the General Assembly, as well as the events occurring in your state capitol throughout the year. For more information about the start of the 2008 legislative session or any of my prefiled bills, please visit www.senate.mo.gov. And if you have questions or comments about any other issue, please call my office toll free (866) 768-3987 or send me an e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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