



Senator
Bill Stouffer

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Wrapping up the Session

Some are calling it a “do-nothing” session. Others say the right bills made it through. Either way, the Second Regular Session of the 94th General Assembly is over.

There are several bills I am pleased to see are now on the governor’s desk. [Senate Bill 930](#) is the first major transportation bill that has been passed in four years. Senate Bill 930 requires folks convicted of a second DWI offense to have an ignition interlock device. This is the thing you have to blow into in order to get your car to start. Right now, judges determine second offense and enforcement of the interlock. This bill would shift the responsibility to the Missouri Department of Revenue.

Senate Bill 930 also expands the aircraft sales tax exemption to include replacement parts and materials for airplanes, increases the aviation trust fund cap to \$10 million, and redefines “commercial aircraft” to include planes fully equipped for flight starting at 3,000 pounds.

Relief may finally be on the way for what you are paying in property taxes. [Senate Bill 711](#) requires tax rate rollbacks in reassessment years and changes the timeline for assessment and appeal of property taxes. Senate Bill 711 includes a change to the definition of “agricultural and horticultural property” to include real property used for showing horses. Charter counties and the City of St. Louis will have to implement the new policies in 2009. The rest of the state will begin in 2011.

Another bill getting a lot of attention is [House Bill 1549](#). This bill addresses different aspects of illegal immigration. This allows the Highway Patrol to take over enforcement of immigration laws, through the federal Department of Homeland Security.

[House Bill 2393](#) provides tax credits for mega-projects. The first recipient of these tax credits could be Bombardier of Montreal, Canada. The company plans to make an announcement later this year regarding where they will build a new manufacturing plant. If they choose Kansas City, they would bring 2,100 new jobs, paying an average salary of \$60,000. The announcement is expected sometime this summer.

A bill I had the pleasure of sponsoring that sits on the governor's desk is [Senate Bill 939](#). This bill allows the board of supervisors of a levee district or a drainage district to ask for a maximum \$8 tax instead of the current \$1 limit. This rule has not changed for nearly 50 years. The expenses involved with levee and drainage districts are growing almost every day. Senate Bill 939 could help these districts get the funding they need to build new levees and consolidate existing levee districts.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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