



Senator  
*Bill Stouffer*

**DISTRICT 21**

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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## The Stouffer Report: New Laws Take Effect in Missouri

Several bills the legislature passed this year are now law. August 28<sup>th</sup> marked the date when most bills the governor signed went on the books in Missouri.

[Senate Bill 930](#) makes some changes in the area of transportation. I fought hard to get this comprehensive bill through the Senate. Our bill focuses on aspects of transportation that may have been ignored for a few years. Probably one aspect of the bill that has received the most attention addresses ignition devices, which are required for repeat drunk driving offenders. They have to blow into the device before they can start their car. Enforcing usage will shift from the courts to the [Missouri Department of Revenue](#).

Senate Bill 930 also exempts sales tax on certain parts and materials used on commercial aircraft, allows two or more counties to form a Transportation Development District, keeps trucks over 48,000 pounds out of the far left-hand lane of interstates with three or more lanes, and makes it easier for first-class counties to change the speed limits on certain roads.

Another bill I consider to be a priority is [Senate Bill 931](#), which is the first comprehensive agriculture bill to pass through the Senate in some time. Among the provisions of Senate Bill 931 are tax exemptions for fencing supplies, fuel, and equipment, which will help small farmers in rural Missouri the most. These are the items that are essential for day-to-day operations and have risen the most in cost in a short period of time.

Missouri will get tougher on stalking and harassment. [Senate Bill 818](#) requires school districts to create rules addressing harassment and stalking that occurs on school grounds. It also toughens penalties on people who "cyberbully," or harass people over the Internet or any

electronic means. This addresses an area where prosecutors had no laws before.

I helped support [House Bill 1678](#) in the Senate. The measure makes it easier for school kids to continue their education after their families transfer to Missouri. It also eases some restrictions for people getting background checks before being certified to teach after a similar test was already done in another state.

[House Bill 1549](#) was another major bill I was proud to see make it through the General Assembly and be signed by the governor. House Bill 1549 allows Missouri to enforce the immigration laws that are already on the books, but have essentially been ignored by the federal government. This means no more benefits and driver's licenses for illegal immigrants and no more letting employers skate by claiming illegals as contract workers.

This is only a partial list of bills that were signed this year. You can see a complete list by logging onto [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov), clicking on the "session information" tab, and then clicking "truly agreed bills."

I believe we had a very successful session. I am even starting to talk to folks and get some ideas for legislation we can introduce in 2009.

*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](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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