



Senator
Bill Stouffer

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: New Laws Take Effect in Missouri, Part 2

In my most recent column, I highlighted some of the bigger bills that have become law in Missouri. There are others that may not carry the same weight, but are still important.

Among these bills is [Senate Bill 806](#). I was proud to get behind this measure, which requires all government buildings to fly the U.S. and state flags at half-staff for one day when a Missouri resident is killed in combat.

A bill related to Senate Bill 806 is [House Bill 1784](#), which is a one-sentence bill that simply requires any Missouri or American flag flown on state property to be manufactured in the United States. This is another one of those "common sense" bills. Can you believe American flags are made in China? Well, those flags will not be used in Missouri anymore. At least, not on state property.

Another great bill will help folks who either have autism or have kids with autism. [Senate Bill 768](#) creates the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Office of Autism Services. The number of children with autism has increased dramatically over the past decade. Doctors, parents of children with autism, and other experts came together to talk about solutions to this challenge. From those discussions came this legislation. I am pleased to see this bill become law and pray it helps those who are affected by autism.

[Senate Bill 967](#) addresses paying for college. The bill allows the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) to originate federally-guaranteed student loans under certain conditions. This actually meets a federal law that has been around for the past year or two and helps MOHELA to issue some of their loans faster than they

could before.

Another bill that will benefit rural Missouri is [Senate Bill 1034](#). Thefts of scrap metal and copper wire from construction sites have been growing at an alarming rate. It is nearly impossible to “lock up” everything at a construction site. With so many things left unattended outside, thieves are able to easily slip in, take scrap metals, leave, and sell those items for cash. Senate Bill 1034 improves record keeping requirements for those who sell scrap metal. It also makes stealing any of these items a Class C felony.

[House Bill 1715](#) is another piece of legislation that deals with our state’s waterways. As of August 28th, the legal blood-alcohol level on rivers, lakes, and streams dropped from .10 to .08 — the same level as it has been on the state’s roads since 2001. With more folks staying closer to home this year because of gas prices, our lakes have been seeing more people on them. The hope is people will be safer when on the water and NOT drink and boat. At the same time, the limit on the number of officers the Water Patrol has will be lifted. House Bill 1715 will let the Water Patrol hire additional officers to keep an eye on all of the waterways throughout the Show-Me State. They had been limited to 99 members.

There are other bills that have become law in Missouri. You can see a complete list by logging onto www.senate.mo.gov, clicking on the “session information” tab, and then clicking “truly agreed bills.”

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.

Contact Information

Capitol Office State Capitol Room 332 Jefferson City, MO 65101	Website: http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer	Phone Number: 573.751.1507
	Toll-Free Phone Number: 866.768.3987	Fax: 573.751.9764

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