



Senator
Bill Stouffer

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Pre-filing Bills for the 2009 Legislative Session Starts

It is that time of year again. Time for the Legislature to go back to work in Jefferson City. That is where you will be able to find me and 196 other legislators between now and the middle of May.

I have pre-filed just over a dozen bills for the 2009 session. Lawmakers can pre-file bills as early as July, but most wait until December 1, when bills receive their official numbers for the upcoming General Assembly.

[Senate Bill 29](#) is one of my priority bills for 2009. Senate Bill 29 would make all diesel sold in Missouri, after a certain date, be a biodiesel blend. This would be similar to the current ethanol law. My proposal would allow a 5 percent biodiesel blend to be sold if biodiesel has cost the same or less than regular diesel for one year. The determination would be made by the [Missouri Department of Agriculture](#). I have introduced similar measures the past two sessions. Hopefully the idea will do better the third time around.

Another of my priority bills this year is [Senate Bill 30](#). This bill would require a person with a suspended or revoked license to have restricted license plates on their vehicles. If someone has had a revoked license for at least a year, Senate Bill 30 would require the [Missouri Department of Revenue](#) to issue that person a special set of plates. Law enforcement officials would know the plates belong to a revoked driver, based on a special numbering system, but no one else would be able to tell. This way, there would be no stigma attached to the plates.

[Senate Bill 31](#) would eliminate the position of Transportation Inspector General contained within the [Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight](#). Frankly, this is a job already being taken care of by the [Missouri Department of Transportation](#), and they send us annual

reports, so I do not see a need to keep an Inspector General on a committee.

I have introduced [Senate Bill 57](#) before. The bill would impose certain billboard standards along Interstates 70 and 44 during construction. Simply put, Senate Bill 57 would ease billboard restrictions when there is long term road work being done on those interstates. Once a project is complete, the current laws would again apply.

Some of the requirements in the law governing motor vehicle regulation would be changed under [Senate Bill 58](#). My main focus is commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) for folks in the military and farmers. I just want to clean up some outdated and confusing parts of the law.

[Senate Bill 59](#) addresses something many folks find to be quite dangerous, and that is the shipping of radioactive waste across Missouri. My proposal would assess a fee on those haulers. How much we would charge is one of those questions that will be answered as the bill works its way through the Capitol.

These are only about half of the bills I have pre-filed. I will go through the remaining bills next week. You can also take a look at all of the Senate bills that have been pre-filed by logging onto <http://www.senate.mo.gov/> and clicking the Session Information tab. The first item you will see is a [list of 2009 pre-filed 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>

Toll-Free Phone Number:
866.768.3987

Phone Number:
573.751.1507
Fax:
573.751.9764

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