



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of December 31, 2007**

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Preparing for the 2008 Legislative Session

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate will begin a new legislative session on Wednesday, January 9 and I am looking forward to going back to Jefferson City to work on your behalf. One of the first items on our agenda will be welcoming our newest colleague, Sen. Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles, who replaces former Sen. Chuck Gross of St. Charles, who left the Senate for a job in the private sector last spring.

The first week of the Second Regular Session of the 94th Missouri General Assembly will be filled with procedural matters, including the introductory remarks of Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, who will outline his goals for the five-month session. The first week also includes the first reading of pre-filed bills. Senators have pre-filed more than 200 bills and resolutions for the session, with more to come as the session gets underway.

As I mentioned in previous columns, I plan to sponsor legislation this session to give advance practice nurses more authority to dispense medications, to modify the educational requirements for Highway Patrol members, and to prohibit the setting of fires during times of extreme drought.

The Missouri Senate will likely address topics including illegal immigration, autism, and property taxes during the 2008 session. We also will spend much time crafting the Fiscal Year 2008 budget.

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For more information on the Missouri Senate, visit www.senate.mo.gov. Visitors can track legislation as it passes through the General Assembly, learn more about their Senate district, or listen to streaming audio of legislative debate as it happens.

The Missouri Senate will convene at noon on January 9, and the session will wrap up on Friday, May 16.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov