



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Mid-Session Report for the 28th Senatorial District — Part 1

The middle of March marked the General Assembly's annual spring recess. The session started in early January and several pieces of my legislation have already been voted out of the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives. Other important pieces of legislation are also making headway in the General Assembly.

The Missouri Senate has advanced a bill to the House that would end back door tax increases, close tax increase loopholes, make sure taxpayers are informed earlier, and expand tax relief for low-income seniors and the disabled. Senate Bill 711, sponsored by Sen. Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, would require taxing jurisdictions that are levying below their tax rate ceiling to lower rates after reassessment to cancel out inflationary gains that otherwise would have been reaped. The bill would also expand communication with the taxpayer by requiring assessors to notify taxpayers of assessment increases earlier.

Currently, nurse practitioners (APRNs) who have a written agreement with a physician can prescribe any medication which is not addictive. However, many common medications fall into the category of "controlled substances," and under Missouri law can only be prescribed by physicians. Under my proposal, Senate Bill 724, Missouri would join 47 other states and allow Schedule III, IV, and V prescription drugs to be prescribed by advanced practice nurses. Particularly in rural areas, nurse practitioners are the "front door" to health care and a physician may not even be in the building. The bill includes additional safeguards and should make health care more rapidly accessible in the state.

Legislation is moving through the Senate and House that would short-circuit efforts of thieves who steal copper and aluminum in Missouri. Senate Bill 1034 would require stronger record-keeping by scrap dealers and make it a felony to steal or sell stolen copper or aluminum. If approved, the new law would require scrap dealers to obtain a driver's license and vehicle information from a person who wants to sell copper. Also, sales records must include the date, time and place of the transaction; be kept for two years after the date of purchase; and be available for inspection by any law enforcement officer. Scrap dealers who violate record-keeping requirements would face a class A misdemeanor charge and thieves who steal copper and aluminum scrap metal would be charged with a class D felony.

I am committed to hearing from and serving all of my constituents. I would like to invite you to visit our State Capitol anytime during the year. So far, we have had many special guests drop by and visit our office and I, as well as my office staff, welcome you to visit Jefferson City and see your Legislature in action. If you have questions or comments about the legislation mentioned in this column or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

