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**A Weekly Column for the
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**The Close of the 2008 Legislative Session
Brings Important Laws to Missourians**

The 2008 legislative session may be over, but our work serving Missourians across the state is far from complete. This year, the General Assembly sent more than 100 bills to the governor for his signature. These measures, passed by both the House and Senate, will become laws that affect law-abiding citizens in Missouri. Below are several Senate Bills that, upon the governor's signature, will become law.

[Senate Bill 724](#) (a bill I sponsored this session) gives qualified advanced practice registered nurses authority to prescribe controlled substances in schedules III, IV, and V while operating under a collaborate practice agreement. My legislation also contains anti-meth provisions that further limit the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in making meth. Under current law, pharmacies are required to maintain a paper log and document any transactions where the customer purchases pseudoephedrine products — [Senate Bill 724](#) requires pharmacies to upgrade to an electronic, rather than written log. The measure also specifies that the photo ID provided by the buyer of the pseudoephedrine products be issued by a state or the federal government and shown prior to the purchase.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a law that stopped tax breaks for non-residents who work in Missouri. Until then, non-residents were able to deduct the property taxes they pay on their out-of-state homes when they itemize their Missouri income taxes. [Senate Bill 748](#) narrows last year's law by allowing property tax deductions for non-residents, with one exception – the state of the non-resident must reciprocate for Missouri residents.

A bill designated to benefit Missourians living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families has also been sent to the governor for his signature. [Senate Bill 768](#) creates the Missouri

Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders. The newly created commission will advise the governor, members of the General Assembly, and state agencies in developing a statewide comprehensive plan for an integrated system of training, treatment and services for individuals of all ages with ASD.

[Senate Bill 806](#) requires the U.S. and Missouri state flags to be flown at half-staff for one full day whenever a Missouri resident is killed in the line of duty during military service.

[Senate Bill 830](#) limits the tuition a public Missouri university or college may charge to certain combat veterans to no more than \$50 per credit hour for programs that culminate in either the earning of a certificate, or an associate or bachelor's degree. For veterans to be eligible to participate in the program, they must have served in armed combat after Sept. 11, 2001, been Missouri residents when they first entered the military, and been discharged from their service under honorable conditions.

[Senate Bill 1105](#) creates a check-off box on the Missouri individual and corporate income tax forms for contributions to the breast cancer awareness trust fund.

[Senate Bill 1139](#) establishes a state organ and tissue donor registry. Any individual who agrees to have his or her name on the registry gives full legal consent to the donation of any of his or her organs or tissues upon death. Missourians are under no obligation to add their names to the registry and may withdraw their consent to donate at any time.

As I mentioned earlier, the session may be over, but our work continues in the timeframe between legislative sessions, known as the interim. Between now and July 14th, the governor will sign bills passed by the General Assembly, and lawmakers will be drafting important legislation for the 2009 legislative session. Many of us here that serve in Jefferson City also have jobs in our legislative districts that not only help us understand the needs of the constituents that we serve, but also help us support our families while we are working in the Capitol City.

I will update you weekly throughout the interim about bills that have become law, as well as other important issues that affect you in the 28th Senatorial District. If you have questions or comments, 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.

