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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of May 26, 2008**

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Additional Legislation Sent to the Governor to Become Law

I mentioned in a previous column that the General Assembly passed more than 100 pieces of legislation, which have already been sent to the governor. Each and every measure was drafted by lawmakers to better the lives of Missourians. Below are several House bills that, upon the governor's signature, will become law.

[House Bill 1384](#) allows consumers who suspect they are victims of identity theft to request a "security freeze" or lock on their credit file to prevent anyone from trying to receive credit, loans or services in their name. Consumers would then be able to temporarily lift, or "thaw," freezes when they want to make use of their own credit files, such as when applying for credit or loans. It also specifies that identity theft victims have the right to contact local law enforcement and request that an incident report regarding the identity theft be prepared and filed.

Comprehensive legislation relating to immigration was passed on the final day of session (5-16). [House Bill 1549](#) tackles illegal immigration on several fronts, primarily as it relates to employers who hire undocumented workers. Missouri employers are barred from hiring illegal immigrants and could lose permits or licenses if they knowingly employ illegal workers. To be eligible for state contracts, employers must participate in a federal work authorization program, including public employers. Employers who misclassify workers will be subject to penalties of \$50 per day for each misclassified worker and up to a maximum of \$50,000 in fines.

Omnibus legislation relating to weapons also received approval from the General Assembly. A primary component of [House Bill 2034](#) protects owners of firearm ranges by shielding them from civil and criminal liability for noise emission. Another major provision removes residency requirements for concealed carry permits. Under current law, new residents must live in Missouri for six months before they can receive a permit. [House Bill 2034](#) waives the six-month requirement for those who already have a valid permit from another state. It also closes the records of those who filed with their county sheriff to receive a concealed

carry permit, makes it a Class C felony for any felon to possess any firearm, and further defines “explosive weapons.”

Legislation penalizing mortgage fraud was also delivered to the governor this past session. [House Bill 2188](#) creates civil and criminal penalties for people who commit mortgage fraud, as well as imposes sanctions on certain licensed and unlicensed individuals found guilty of the crime.

County sheriff deputies will receive better pay under [House Bill 2224](#). The bill allows sheriffs to receive an additional \$10 fee for processing any civil summons, writ, subpoena or other court order. This money will go into the newly created “Deputy Sheriff Salary Supplementation Fund,” which will be used to bolster the pay of county deputy sheriffs. The average salary for county deputies is slightly more than \$22,000, with most taking home only about \$15,500 per year — putting those with families below the federal poverty line.

[House Bill 2393](#) was perhaps one of the most debated bills of the 2008 legislative session. The economic development measure creates a “mega-project” component under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone program, which provides tax credit incentives for companies to relocate to Missouri. Bombardier, a Montreal-based company, is considering building a \$400 million airplane assembly plant at Kansas City International Airport, which would employ approximately 2,100 workers paying an average annual wage of \$63,000. Companies that qualify as a mega-project, such as Bombardier, would be allowed an income tax credit equal to a percentage of its new annual payroll for employees. To qualify, the company’s investment must be projected to exceed \$300 million and create at least 1,000 new jobs over a period of eight years. The measure caps tax credits at \$240 million in an eight-year period and requires the company to repay any tax credits issued by the state.

To follow these and other issues affecting you, please visit www.senate.mo.gov. Here, you can track legislation that is important to you, as well as learn more about your Senate district. The governor has until July 14 to sign the bills I mentioned above, as well as other bills passed by the General Assembly this year. Those pieces of legislation that do not receive the governor’s signature automatically become law on the effective bill date (August 28), unless the measure contains an emergency clause, in which the bill becomes law immediately upon the governor’s signature.

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.mo.gov.

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

