



Delbert Scott  
28<sup>th</sup> Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Debbie Poire  
(573) 751-8793

## Lawmakers Reconvene for Veto Session

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We all know that if the governor signs a bill, it then becomes law. But what happens to the bills that the governor vetoes? Lawmakers recently returned to Jefferson City to address this very question in the annual veto session.

If the governor vetoes a bill, both chambers have the potential to discuss the bills that were vetoed by the governor, and may vote to overturn any or all of the vetoes.

Three Senate bills received a veto and were returned to the upper chamber with the governor's objections. One House bill was also vetoed along with five line item vetoes in various budget bills. A two-thirds vote is required by both the Senate and the House to override a governor's veto. Of the 578 Senate bills introduced during the 2008 legislative session, 61 were passed, and 58 received the governor's signature. Seventy-six House bills were signed into law.

On July 9, the governor vetoed [Senate Bill 873](#). The measure provided for a voting student curator on the University of Missouri board of curators if Missouri loses a congressional district based on the 2010 census. In a letter to the Secretary of State, the governor listed several reasons for the veto: the legislation would create "stakeholder" representatives with voting authority on the Board of Curators where currently none of the nine curators represent a specific group of university stakeholders; the bill as written would make it extremely difficult to find a student whose status of enrollment matches the student curator's term on the board; and student curator representatives are transitional members of the board and experience much greater turnover than its regular members. The governor also stated that the bill had received much opposition from members of the higher education community who agree with the governor's concerns.

MORE

Other bills vetoed by the governor included:

- [House Bill 1689](#), vetoed by the governor on July 10, which would have transferred the Governor's Council on Disability from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Office of Administration. It would have also provided all legislators with a key to access the Capitol dome.
- [Senate Bill 1190](#), vetoed by the governor on July 10, which would have authorized the division of professional registration to reduce license fees by emergency rule under certain circumstances.
- And [Senate Bill 1061](#), also vetoed by the governor on July 10, which would have required county coroners and their assistants to register with the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association.

During this year's veto session, an attempt was made to override the veto on [Senate Bill 873](#); however, the attempt was unsuccessful.

Lawmakers also took advantage of this time to say goodbye to our fellow senators retiring from the General Assembly. I pray for God's blessings for all my retiring friends and wish each and every one of my colleagues the best of luck in the future.

If you have questions or comments about the veto process or have any other questions about the Legislature, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.mo.gov](mailto: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.*

