



MISSOURI SENATE
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A Weekly Column for the
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Ring In the New Year and Looking Back at 2008

As I look back on 2008, I am reminded of the many successful measures passed by the General Assembly that made our state a better, brighter, and safer place for the people of the 28th Senate District. Laws were enacted this year ranging from property tax reform to constraints on illegal immigration.

Among the noteworthy measures passed in 2008 was a bill I sponsored, [Senate Bill 724](#). It is important to me to help provide access to health care to those Missourians living in rural areas of our state. The legislation gives qualified advanced practice registered nurses the authority to prescribe controlled substances in schedules III, IV, and V while operating under a collaborative practice agreement. My bill also contained anti-meth provisions that further limit the sale of pseudoephedrine products, a key ingredient for making meth.

Legislation was signed into law offering relief from high property taxes caused by reassessment. [Senate Bill 711](#) requires tax rate roll backs; closes a loophole in the law that allows taxing districts to apply new voter-approved levies to future and unknown assessments; requires that taxpayers receive a projected tax liability along with their reassessment notices; and increases the Senior Citizen Property Tax Credit award from \$750 to \$1,100 for homeowners as well as expanding eligibility.

Comprehensive legislation relating to illegal immigration tackles the issue on several fronts, primarily as it relates to employers who hire undocumented workers. [House Bill 1549](#) bars Missouri employers from hiring illegal immigrants, prohibits communities from adopting safe sanctuary policies for illegal immigrants, bars individuals from transporting or harboring any illegal immigrant, requires written tests for commercial licenses to be administered in English only, and issues penalties for individuals who use fraudulent means to assist illegal immigrants in obtaining driver's licenses.

[Senate Bill 768](#) created the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The commission (who already held their first meeting in October) will advise the governor, lawmakers, and state agencies, as well as develop a sweeping statewide plan for an integrated system of training, treatment, and services for people with all ages of ASD.

Flags are now ordered to fly at half-staff for Missouri service men and women who are killed in combat. [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.

The passage of [Senate Bill 830](#) lightens the financial burden of higher education for Missouri's combat veterans. The law 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 where the student earns a certificate, or an associate or bachelor's degree.

County sheriff deputies will receive better pay thanks to the passage of [House Bill 2224](#). The legislation 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.

A bill addressing industrial metal theft in Missouri was also passed this year. [Senate Bill 1034](#) strengthens record-keeping requirements for scrap metal dealers. The enhanced requirements apply to copper, brass, bronze, and certain types of aluminum.

Many of the bills passed in 2008 could not have been drafted without input from Missourians just like you. Your thoughts and your ideas matter, and I encourage you to share them with me. As the next legislative session begins on Jan. 7, rest assured my staff and I will do our best to communicate with you on legislative matters important to you.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the 28th Senate District. Representing you in the Missouri Senate in an honor and a privilege I hold in the highest regard. If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, 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.

