

For Immediate Release  
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# SHARING A VIEW OF THE STATE

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Issues and Comments – 33<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District

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*Senator*

## **Chuck Purgason**

This week the Senate passed Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 931. This bill works to make sure that the National Animal Identification System will remain a voluntary program where producers can make the decision on their own to participate in value added programs.

This is the entire text of SCS SB 931 as it was voted out of the Senate on a 28-3 vote.

267.168 1. The State of Missouri may support a voluntary animal identification program. The department of agriculture shall not mandate or otherwise force national animal identification system (NAIS) premises registration without specific statutory authorization from the general assembly.

2. Any person who participates in the national animal identification system may withdraw from the system at any time. All personal information relation to a participant shall be deleted from the system when the participant withdraws, unless the participant is part of an ongoing disease investigation.

This is the entire bill. It simply says that in order for the state to go from a voluntary to a mandatory program, they have to get permission from the general assembly. In other words, take the decision away from unelected state and federal bureaucrats and place this decision in the hands of your elected senators and representatives. The bill will now go to the Missouri House.

In other legislation this week, the Senate worked on proposed legislation that would repeal limits on campaign contributions given directly to candidates. The bill would also require campaigns accepting donations of \$5,000 or more to list the contribution online within 48 hours.

The legislation is in response to a Missouri Supreme Court ruling last year that said unlimited contributions were not permissible because another court had already thrown out a related provision banning fundraising during the legislative session. Both sides have criticized the existing system for encouraging large contributions that can be funneled through a series of party committees and third-party political action committees.

Current campaign limits are \$675 for the Senate and \$325 for the House. But other committees can give at least ten times that amount to a candidate. So many times, money can be laundered through several committees and on the candidates ethics report it will not show who or where a candidates donations really come from. By removing the limits, it will require the candidate to report all donations and the voter will be able to see where a candidate's money comes from rather than being funneled through an untraceable paper trail.

When this bill is done will it make campaigns more ethical? I think it will improve transparency in the system, but you will never get unethical politicians to become ethical by passing another law. The voter is still going to have to evaluate the candidate and determine if he/she is a person to be trusted. If a person cannot be trusted in private life, he/she certainly is not going to get into political office and transform into a pillar of justice.

One of our forefathers once said, you will only get out of government, who you put into government. Hopefully, voters will do their job of reviewing people they put into office and make sure they are representing their ideas of truth and integrity.

I welcome your opinions and suggestions. You may reach me at 573-751-1882, e-mail to [chuck.purgason@senate.mo.gov](mailto:chuck.purgason@senate.mo.gov), or write to me at the Missouri Senate, State Capitol, Room 420, Jefferson City, MO 65101. If you would like to receive these newsletters electronically, please call or e-mail my office.

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