



Senator Matt Bartle – Serving Jackson County

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New Bills Become Law

As mentioned in last week's column, August 28th marks the day that most bills passed during the 2009 session of the Legislature officially become law. Well over 100 bills are set to take effect this week. Many are technical in nature (e.g. bills that convey state-owned properties, name state highways or make minor fixes to existing statutes). Below is a brief sampling of bills set to go into effect that may be of some interest to residents of Jackson County.

- **FALSE CLAIMS** – Unsubstantiated complaints made against licensed social workers and physicians by certain sexually violent predators are to be removed from the respective licensing board's records. This will help protect the hard-earned careers of licensed professionals against unsupported claims by sex offenders. ([HB 866](#))
- **FEE OFFICES** – Competitive bidding will now be required for fee offices that issue driver's licenses. ([HB 381](#))
- **TRANSPORTATION** – Changes several laws relating to transportation, including delaying mandatory vehicle inspections for new cars. ([HB 683](#))
- **FUNERALS** – Strengthens state's oversight of the prepaid funeral industry. ([SB 1](#))
- **PATERNITY** – Men will now be able to protest a paternity judgment up to two years after claims of fatherhood are made. ([SB 141](#))

- **CRIME** – Prohibits drivers 21 and younger from texting while driving; expands the crime of cattle rustling; lengthens the time prosecutors can bring charges in arson cases; and adds penalties against owners of dangerous dogs. ([HB 62](#))
- **CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN** – In certain cases, makes the penalty for child rape life in prison without eligibility for probation, parole or conditional release. ([SB 36](#))
- **PRIVATE JAILS** – Subjects the state’s privately owned jails to the same regulations as public jails, including requiring such facilities to report escapes. ([SB 44](#))
- **COURTS** – Makes several changes to the Missouri courts system, including bringing Missouri law into compliance with the Uniform Child Custody and Jurisdiction Act; allowing judges to take reasonable steps to prevent international abductions in child custody cases; and correcting a law that unfairly targeted citizens as being negligent merely because they were riding a motorcycle. ([HB 481](#))
- **LINE OF DUTY COMPENSATION ACT** – Authorizes a claim to be filed with the state by the estate of public safety workers who are killed in the line of duty. Public safety workers include law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, air ambulance pilots, air ambulance registered professional nurses and firefighters. The claim must be filed within one year of the date of the death and the amount of compensation will be \$25,000. ([HB 580](#), took effect 6/19).

If you have any comments or questions about this week’s column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

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