

Senator Eric Schmitt

Weekly Column

15th District



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Beginning the Legislative Process

All legislation, whether it originates in the Senate or House, must go through the same steps that take a bill and make it a law. This process begins with the legislation being written and introduced—a process that continues until March 1, the last day to introduce bills in the Senate. The next step is for bills to be referred to and discussed in committee, where the public can offer testimony on the issue. A majority vote from the committee sends a bill to the floor for debate by the full Senate. This week, committee assignments were announced, which will give us the opportunity to continue our work to pass legislation that will improve the lives of Missouri families.

My committee assignments include:

- The Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government. This committee considers and reports on bills relating to the promotion of economic development, community and business development, and job growth on the state and local level. In these tough economic times, this committee will be especially important as we work to grow our economy, create quality 21st Century jobs and support small businesses.
- The Committee on Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families. I have been appointed the vice-chair of this committee, which discusses legislation dealing with healthcare reform, mental health legislation, and the quality of life for senior citizens. I have pledged to work diligently on the issue of healthcare reform and the skyrocketing costs that are affecting so many Missouri families and

businesses. My work on this committee will allow me to be even more involved in making healthcare more available, affordable, and portable.

- The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Pensions and Urban Affairs. I have also been appointed as vice-chair of this committee. The panel handles all matters concerning veterans' issues, as well as retirement pension plans and urban renewal. Many of the bills that pass through this committee focus on ways to help repay the brave Missouri residents who served our great nation. We must continue to honor our veterans in this state.
- The Committee on Ways and Means. This committee discusses legislation concerning the revenue and public debt of the state and the assessment and classification of real and personal property. This could include bills addressing property tax reform and sales tax issues.
- The Committee on Gubernatorial Appointments. This committee considers and reports upon gubernatorial appointments forwarded to the Senate by the governor for the chamber's consent. These include members of state boards and commissions.

As always, I am pleased and honored to serve the citizens of the 15th District. Next week, we will start meeting in these committees and discussing legislation. I will keep you up-to-date on the bills we discuss and debate as the legislative process continues.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me using the information below. If you would like to begin receiving this column regularly, click on the subscribe link on the bottom of the page.

Thank you,

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