



More information
from the Capitol



Honoring Their Service

Veterans are courageous men and women who chose to dedicate their lives to defend our nation. This week, the Senate passed [House Bill 427](#), a comprehensive measure addressing issues important to veterans in our state. As the vice-chairman of the [Veteran's Affairs, Pensions, and Urban Affairs Committee](#), the well-being and priorities of those who bravely serve our country is an important part of my work in the General Assembly.

House Bill 427 contains a variety of provisions meant to honor and help Missouri's veterans. Some of these provisions include:

- Designating May 1st as Silver Star Families of America Day, a day set aside to honor the wounded soldiers of this state and the efforts of the Silver Star Families of America to honor the wounded members of the armed forces.
- Expanding the eligibility of the Veteran's Survivor



Sen. Schmitt presiding over debate on the Veterans' legislation, HB 427.



Fourth graders visiting from Edgar Road Elementary (Webster Groves) on April 29th.



Fourth graders visiting from Crestwood Elementary on April 29th.

Click [here](#) to view Sen. Schmitt's full photo gallery.

Grant program. Currently, the spouse or child of a veteran is eligible for an educational grant if the military member served in armed combat and was killed or became 80 percent disabled as a result of combat injuries. The provision expands the program to include step-children and adopted children.

- Clarifying the rules for in-state tuition for military dependents and making sure students can continue to qualify for in-state tuition, even if their parent(s) move(s) from Missouri.
- Establishing a program to honor fallen Missouri heroes by designating an interstate interchange in the person's name. This would serve as a way for the state to honor those who have fought and died for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Creating special license plates for veterans who have received a Purple Heart or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Our state's veterans are the men and women who have courageously defended our country. There are more than half a million veterans living in our state, and I will continue to work to make sure their interests are represented.

Also in the Legislature...

With only a few weeks left in the legislative session, bills are moving quickly through the Legislature. Here are some of the other recent actions we have taken:

The House passed [Senate Bill 157](#), a bill I sponsored to make sure Autism Spectrum Disorder services

in local areas meet the needs of the community. The bill codifies the five regional autism projects (Central, East, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Missouri) that collectively provide Autism Spectrum Disorder services to approximately 2,500 families statewide. This legislation ensures that programs and services that will help better the quality of life for those on the Autism Spectrum reach those who need them. I am expecting this bill to receive full legislative approval next week, making it my first bill to head to the governor's desk for his signature.

We also advanced [House Bill 544](#), which requires the Commissioner of Administration to continue to maintain the web-based [Missouri Accountability Portal](#) (mapyourtaxes.mo.gov). The portal currently consists of a searchable database that documents state purchasing of goods and services, as well as a searchable database of state employees and their salaries, tax credit recipients and tax delinquents. This bill also includes a provision requiring the governor to submit a daily report documenting all amounts withheld from the state's operating budget. The report would then be posted on the portal website and be searchable by amounts withheld from each fund and by the total amount withheld from the operating budget.



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