

State Senator Kurt U. Schaefer - District 19

Weekly Capitol Review

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Legislative Highlights from the Missouri Senate – March 2, 2009

Dear friends:

As the General Assembly reaches its mid-point, we begin discussing and debating bills in detail in order to perfect and pass them as they wind their way to the governor's desk. Several committee hearings were held last week, bringing more legislation out onto the senate floor.

One of my bills referred to committee last week was [Senate Bill 440](#), an act which places a temporary hold on court orders involving child custody, visitation or ex parte orders if one or both parties involved are deployed out-of-state in active military service. This bill would give the recipients a chance to review and attend a hearing on issues such as these upon their return from deployment unless they knowingly sign a waiver to remove that provision.

Some of you may be aware of the increasingly heavy workload experienced by Missouri's public defenders. The senate this week gave final approval to a bill sponsored by Sen. Jack Goodman, [Senate Bill 37](#), which instills a maximum number of caseloads for public defenders, to ensure effective counsel for their clients and allows districts to increase the number of public defenders to relieve some of the backlog of cases in the court system.

In addition to the legislative action, the senate also welcomed the M.U. Tigers football team to the Capitol last week.

Head Coach Gary Pinkel addressed the General Assembly with his praise for the team and his thanks for the support of the fans. Their victory at the Valero Alamo Bowl against Northwestern saw them finishing in the top 20 for two consecutive years as well as standing at #1 in APR (Academic Progress Rating) throughout all of the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) teams.

We are proud of our Mizzou team for excelling in both their athletic and academic achievements.

After the team visited the House and Senate, they stopped in the Capitol Rotunda, where

they signed posters, footballs and other memorabilia for a long line of Mizzou Tiger fans and enthusiasts.

These are just a few of the issues the state Senate is working on to better the lives of Missourians. For a more detailed report of all Missouri legislation, visit www.Senate.mo.gov.

I will continue to keep you updated on bills being introduced that may be of interest to you as well as upcoming events here at the Capitol. As always, feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns about the Missouri Legislature.

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