

State Senator Kurt U. Schaefer - District 19

Weekly Capitol Review

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Legislative Highlights from the Missouri Senate – Week of April 20, 2009

Dear friends:

A piece of legislation I sponsored has made its way through the Senate, been second-read in the House, and now is in the hands of the Rules Committee after a hearing last week. [Senate Bill 539](#) will, among other provisions, allow the Department of Natural Resources to distribute funds from the Economic Stimulus Program to municipalities, local governments or public water and sewer districts to assist in the construction of public drinking water and water pollution control projects.

In addition, the bill creates the Energy Futures Fund, which will be used for analysis of the efficiency of several energy-related programs.

The legislation also extends the Clean Water Commission's public notifications of impaired water sources for another year, now set to expire August 28, 2010.

In other legislation, most people know someone whose life is impacted by a child with Autism. The Senate last week gave final approval to a bill designed to assist families in the treatment of Autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Children with ASD often have impaired ability to interact and communicate with others, as well as displaying behavior problems.

Statistically, ASD affects one in 150 children, and the numbers are increasing. Treatment is expensive, but effective in the overwhelming majority of cases to improve the quality of life for these children.

[Senate Bill 167](#) will require insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autistic individuals up to age 18. The formative years of a child are the most crucial to the future of their adulthood. We need to ensure that a child has every chance to become a productive member of society.

For more information on the Missouri Legislature, Senate Communications produces a weekly column covering Senate action throughout the legislative session. To read about other

important Missouri legislation, visit www.senate.mo.gov and click on Senate Newsroom. Here you can read about events in the Missouri Senate, and subscribe to this excellent resource for weekly updates in your email.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns about these or any other issues involving the Missouri Legislature, feel free to contact my office.

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