



State Senator Kurt U. Schaefer - District 19

Weekly Capitol Review

PHONE: (573) 751-3931
Email: kurt.schaefer@senate.mo.gov



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Legislative Highlights from the Missouri Senate – Week of May 4, 2009

Dear friends:

Under the Missouri Constitution, the budget bills had to be truly agreed to and finally passed by 6:00 p.m. on May 8 of this year. The state budget is easily the most important legislative package for each legislative session, as it determines how we use money that comes to the state through taxes and from the federal government. This session, the Senate completed the budget a full day before the constitutional deadline with a \$23 billion legislative package aimed at improving access to education and providing funds for projects to create more jobs in the state.

[House Bill 22](#) contained many components for the state to use the Federal Stimulus money to restore funding for community and university building projects that were placed on hold by the governor. Among the eight University of Missouri projects covered by the bill, \$31 million is slated for the building of the new Ellis Fischel Cancer Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia as well as \$3.3 million for a new National Guard readiness center and armory in Boonville.

In other notable legislation, [Senate Bill 540](#) was also passed by the Senate, which will authorize the governor to transfer state property known as the Mid-Missouri Mental Health Center to the University of Missouri-Columbia. This legislation has now moved to the House, where it has been first read.

As we race towards the end of this legislative session, I must say it has gone by quickly. We have heard and debated many bills and still have more work to do before the final gavel falls at 6:00 p.m. on May 15. More information on these and many other bills may be obtained by visiting www.senate.mo.gov. As always, if you have questions or concerns about any issue involving the Missouri legislature, please feel free to contact my office.

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