



Senator
Bill Stouffer

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Coded Ammo?

Every week, this column is emailed to more than 4,000 addresses. With that and the additional correspondence coming out of the office, it is easy to understand we receive a lot of emails. Just like your inbox, mine is filled with to-do's, concerns, forwards and messages from friends.

Having a lot of legislation introduced during a legislative session can be a "good news, bad news" scenario. I know several folks who say the fewer bills we pass in the Legislature, the better. The truth is, only a small percentage of all the bills introduced each year actually make it onto the governor's desk.

Lately, I've been inundated with messages about a controversial bill. Interestingly, the bill died in the last legislative session, which ended in May. I will explain:

My office has been receiving dozens of calls about a bill that would have required makers of ammunition to individually encode each item and keep track of sales. Apparently, several states are proposing this and there may even be a national effort made in the future.

Many of the folks who are calling are asking about this bill, which was actually introduced last year. [Senate Bill 1200](#) was introduced at the beginning of the session and then referred to a committee, where it effectively died on February 28, 2008. The committee never brought up the bill, therefore it never made it onto the Senate floor.

Not counting Senate resolutions, there were roughly 570 bills introduced in the Missouri Senate last year; 61 of those bills passed through the Senate; and only 57 of those bills were signed by the governor. That means approximately one-tenth of the bills that were

introduced actually became law.

This is about average. Lawmakers race to start pre-filing bills on December 1 of each year. The thinking is the smaller the bill number, the better chance the bill has to get floor time. But, the majority of bills that are pre-filed are bills that did not make it the previous year. I have known senators who have filed bills each of the eight years they have been in office. Most times, their bills either never got a committee hearing or stayed in committee until it was too late for floor time.

Granted, it can be frustrating to an individual senator *not* to see a pet project become law. While one person may see a piece of legislation as necessary, a greater majority of his or her cohorts may decide there are other matters that should come before the upper chamber. I know how it feels. I have also had bills I thought should have been top priorities for everybody that never made it out of committee.

While proposals that seek to require encoding ammo seem to be gaining momentum in certain circles, the vast majority of people I have talked to agree it is not a good idea. In fact, it has not even been introduced in Missouri in 2009. This type of idea will not see support in Missouri in the near future.

My advice to anyone who is concerned about this kind of law, or anything connected to the Second Amendment, is to call and write their U.S. Senators and Representatives. Maybe a renewed grassroots effort reminding the new Congress who hired them would be a good idea.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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