

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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Senate Seminars Focus on State's Key Issues

The first several days of the first session of the 95th General Assembly were very busy ones, with newly- or re-elected lawmakers, including myself, sworn in on opening day, Jan. 7, followed by the inauguration of state officeholders on Jan. 12. I was pleased to be joined by my family, many friends and several constituents for the opening ceremonies and am now settling into Capitol life as I begin my fifth year as your state senator.

One of the new and beneficial things we're doing in the Upper Chamber this year during these first few days is hosting a series of seminars for new lawmakers and returning members that address the key issues the Legislature will be facing this year. Several of the seminars were held during the first full week of Senate business, and the rest are scheduled for the second week. These seminars include experts from a variety of fields.

Topics include:

- Energy — featuring presentations on current and future energy policies and a discussion on alternative and renewable energy efforts.
- Life Sciences — presentations and discussions on how Missouri can remain viable in the life sciences industry.
- Insurance — takes a look at the cost of the uninsured and how to make insurance more affordable to Missourians.
- Transportation — examines infrastructure and development in Missouri.
- Agriculture — examines the issues regarding our state's number one industry.
- Education — presentations and discussion on education ranging from early childhood, elementary and secondary, including discussions on the impact of the recent constitutional amendment and charter schools.
- Economic Development — presentations and discussions on economic development, including how Missouri competes with other states.

- Higher Education — information on higher education in Missouri, including a discussion on what other states have done to strengthen their coordinating boards.

I really appreciate the increased knowledge these seminars are bringing and know they will prove most helpful as lawmakers sit down at the table to draft legislation and then debate bills that come before the legislative body.

As always, if you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at 1-877-291-5584.

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