



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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A Weekly Column for
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Keeping Our Rivers Family-Friendly

It's hard to envision taking a leisurely journey down one of our state's many scenic rivers when temperatures now are barely reaching above freezing. However, floating season for several popular river destinations will begin in a few months, and I'm working to ensure that these waterways stay family-friendly.

Floating with family and friends has become a struggle for those looking for a peaceful and relaxing river outing. Your day can turn chaotic in a matter of seconds due to the increase of individuals consuming alcohol while floating on our state's waterways.

Several years ago, the federal government attempted to solve the problem of wild party-goers by passing stricter rules limiting certain alcohol paraphernalia and inappropriate behavior along certain rivers that run through federal property. However, passage of these rules just moved these individuals from those particular waterways to our state's rivers.

My measure, [Senate Bill 2](#), addresses this very issue. The increase of partiers on Missouri's rivers has caused law enforcement officers additional headaches when attempting to control alcohol use and safety measures on our state's rivers.

[Senate Bill 2](#) would prohibit possessing or using beer bongs or other devices intended for rapid consumption of alcohol; ban possessing or consuming any alcoholic substance that is produced in gelatin form, such as Jell-O shots; prohibit possessing or using any large volume alcohol containers that hold more than one gallon; and ban Styrofoam coolers on or within 50 feet of the river, unless in a campground, picnic area, landing, road, or parking lot. Violation of any of these provisions would result in a Class A misdemeanor.

The [Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee](#) recently heard testimony on my bill. Several groups and individuals attended the hearing and testified in support of the legislation, including various sheriff departments and canoe operators. [Senate Bill 2](#) did not receive any opposition in committee, and the panel is expected to vote my measure out of committee where it will be sent to the Senate floor for debate.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.


