



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Mid-Session Report for the 28th Senatorial District

Since the legislative session started in early January, fifty-seven Senate bills have been passed by the upper chamber and sent to the House of Representatives for consideration. Conversely, more than 40 House measures have been sent to the Senate for its approval. Several of the bills I am sponsoring this session have made their way over to the House.

[Senate Bill 1](#) amends our state's statutes regarding preneed funeral contracts. Many states regulate preneed funeral contracts. These regulations grant citizens certain rights as consumers. Pre-paying for funerals in advance, often called pre-need, is what sparks many of these state regulations. Over the last year, it has become apparent that regulating the sale of these contracts and agreements is more complicated than regulating the sale of other types of consumer products.

The biggest complication with these preneed funeral contracts deals with the length of time between signing the agreement and the need for the services in the contract. My legislation would help prevent situations where individuals take advantage of vulnerable citizens in their time of stress and grief. The [House Special Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing](#) has already held a hearing on Senate Bill 1. Passage of this bill out of committee would send the legislation to the full House for debate.

[Senate Bill 47](#) deepens the state's law enforcement recruiting pool by changing the educational requirements for Missouri Water Patrol members, Highway Patrol members, and radio personnel. Instead of limiting the job pool to only those who graduate from an accredited four-year high school, the new provision in Senate Bill 47 would include

completion of a public or private high school program of education, or a General Education Development (GED) certificate. Our state should not limit who can protect our waters, highways, and operate our emergency communications systems based on a technicality regarding education. Those who graduate from public and private schools leave with the same skills and knowledge needed for “the real world.” And the same can be said of those who’ve earned their GED certification. This bill is now in the House for similar consideration.

My colleagues in the General Assembly have also “truly agreed and finally passed” [Senate Bill 313](#). Passage of this legislation by both chambers sends this bill to the governor’s desk for his signature. Senate Bill 313 will help track the federal economic stimulus funds by placing the money into two accounts within the state treasury that are separate from regular revenue. This measure contains an emergency clause, which means the bill will become effective immediately upon receiving the governor’s signature.

With the first half of the legislative session under our belts, I look forward to the work ahead in the second half — which traditionally marks the Senate’s budget work on the floor. As your state senator, I will help pass a sound budget for the hard working citizens of our state. I am honored to be working for the citizens of the 28th Senate District and privileged to be your voice in the Missouri Senate.

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.

