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A Column for the Week of: July 6, 2009

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Bills Recently Signed Into Law – Part 1

Laws Allow Missourians to Continue Summer Traditions and Give Our State's Economy a Boost

Since the conclusion of the 2009 legislative session on May 15, the governor has signed several important measures into law. He has until July 14 to either sign or veto all legislation that has made its way through the General Assembly and has been delivered to his desk. If the governor does not lend his signature to any piece of legislation by the July 14 deadline, the bills will become law.

Legalizing Tractor Parades

Summer months in our state often include county- and state-wide festivals and fairs. Many times, these events kick-off with tractor parades. House Bills 93 and 216, signed on May 29, allows tractors participating in parades and other special events to be driven on Missouri roadways for fund-raising purposes during daylight with the approval of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Since the legislation contained an emergency clause, the law took effect immediately upon the governor's signature.

Jobs Bill Working for Missourians

On June 4, the governor signed <u>House Bill 191</u>, this past session's compromise on the state's comprehensive bipartisan jobs bill. House Bill 191 is designed to give Missouri's economy a much-need lift, and with dedication and compromise from both sides of the aisle, this bill will help businesses create new jobs, expand their operations, and train workers.

House Bill 191 allows for the annual maximum limit on the <u>Missouri Quality Jobs Program</u> to be raised from \$60 million to \$80 million, and removes the annual per-company cap for jobs in the high-impact and technology categories. The bill increases the annual cap on the Missouri

BUILD (<u>Business Use Incentives for Large-Scale Development</u>) from \$15 million to \$25 million, and removes the provision requiring the company to seek a competitive bid from another state. The legislation provides funding for pre-employment training activities under the state's <u>Job-Training Program</u>, and provides that bonds be given out by the Missouri Development Finance Board to issue Build America Bonds.

The wide-ranging measure is also designed to give tax credits to job-creating businesses that provide better health care coverage and have a higher wage than the county average. The legislation also defines the amount of tax credits the Missouri Development Finance Board can award during the calendar year. House Bill 191 includes the "Big Government Get Off My Back Act," which prohibits any state agency from increasing user fees within four years of the passed date of legislation. It also protects the rights of small business owners with fewer than 26 employees.

House Bill 191 contained an emergency clause for the provisions regarding the Missouri Development Finance Board tax credits, the Missouri BUILD Program, the increase on the tax credit cap for qualified equity investments, the historic preservation tax credits, and the Quality Jobs Program. All other provisions included in House Bill 191 will become law with most bills on Aug. 28.

Next week I'll highlight additional legislation that has been enacted into law. If you have any questions about the bills mentioned above, 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.

