



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

Capitol Building, Room 416
Jefferson City, MO 65101

A Column for the Week of:
July 13, 2009

Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793

Bills Recently Signed Into Law – Part II

*Laws Extend Unemployment Benefits for Missourians
And Compensate Families of Emergency Personnel Killed in the Line of Duty*

July 14 was the constitutional deadline for the governor to sign or veto legislation that made its way to his desk. Legislation that did not receive a veto or the governor's signature will automatically become law. The General Assembly sent 166 measures to the governor for his signature. Last week, I described two bills that have been signed — one legalizes tractor parades in Missouri; and the other helps businesses create new jobs, expand their operations, and train workers.

Extending Unemployment Benefits for Missourians

On June 12, the governor signed [House Bill 1075](#), legislation that extends and expands unemployment benefits for citizens across our state. The measure allows the state to receive extended federal unemployment money through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In turn, the state will use those funds to extend the amount of time out-of-work Missourians can receive unemployment benefits, and expand who may be eligible for such benefits.

House Bill 1075 also:

- Specifies that the additional unemployment compensation can be offered to claimants during times of high unemployment (when the average total unemployment is greater than 6.5 percent during the most recent three-month period).
- Extends unemployment benefits from the typical 59 weeks to an additional possible 13 weeks (during at least 6.5 percent unemployment) or 20 weeks (during at least 8 percent unemployment).

This legislation also expands the number of Missourians who may be eligible to receive unemployment compensation. Individuals will now be able to receive unemployment benefits if they were forced to leave their jobs because of a compelling family reason, including the illness or disability of an immediate family member, the need to relocate for a spouse's job, or because of a

domestic violence situation. Also eligible to receive benefits are workers enrolled in a job training program.

Since House Bill 1075 contained an emergency clause, provisions in bill became law upon receiving the governor's signature. For the expanded federal unemployment benefits to continue past 2009, the General Assembly must renew the provisions in House Bill 1075 next session or they will expire after the stimulus funding is depleted.

Compensating Family of Emergency Personnel Killed In The Line of Duty

A bill that creates a new fund to help support the families of Missouri emergency workers who are killed in the line of duty was signed on June 22. [House Bill 580](#) establishes the Line of Duty Compensation Act. The new law allows a claim to be filed with the Division of Workers' Compensation on behalf of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, air ambulance pilot, or air ambulance registered nurse who is killed while on the job. The benefit is \$25,000 and can be claimed up to one year following the individual's death.

As with House Bill 1075, House Bill 580 contained an emergency clause and became law with the governor's signature.

Other Important Measures Signed Into Law

Two House bills I handled in the Senate have also been signed by the governor. [House Bill 250](#) ensures citizens in our state will not be denied access to horse and mule trails and roads currently having this designation by our state, except when conditions are not suitable due to public safety concerns, necessary maintenance, or for reasons related to the mission of the agency that owns or manages the land. And [House Bill 914](#) removes a provision in state statute requiring the circuit court to approve the Director of Finance's appointment of a liquidating agent for a failed bank.

If you have any questions about the bills mentioned above or other legislation that has been signed by the governor, 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.

