



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

Capitol Building, Room 416
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793

Legislation Working for Missourians

More than 125 Measures Become Law August 28

Measures passed by the General Assembly during the 2009 legislative session needed to receive action by the governor no later than July 14, exactly 45 days after the Legislature constitutionally adjourned for the year (May 30). Bills reaching the governor's desk automatically become law if they do not receive a signature or a veto.

Most legislation not receiving a veto becomes law August 28, the constitutionally-effective date for new laws. Measures containing emergency clauses took effect immediately upon receiving the governor's signature. If noted in the legislation, a bill can become law at another specified date. In turn, certain provisions in a bill can also have a different effective date than the rest of the measure.

Thirty-six Senate bills and 103 House bills were signed by the governor this year, including one of my top priorities this past session — passing a consumer protection measure for the citizens of our state. [Senate Bill 1](#) establishes licensing and contract requirements for preneed funeral contract sellers, providers, and seller agents. My legislation, signed by the governor July 9, tackles the biggest complication with preneed funeral contracts (the length of time between signing the agreement and the need for services in the contract), and will ensure that Missouri citizens will not be taken advantage of during their time of stress and grief.

Several crime-related bills also received the governor's signature. [House Bill 62](#), signed July 9, prohibits certain alcohol-related activities on most of our state's rivers (language taken from a bill I sponsored this past session, [Senate Bill 2](#)), bans those 21 and younger from texting while driving, and expands the crime of cattle rustling.

An economic development measure that contained several provisions designed to create

jobs and spur economic development in our state was signed by the governor June 4. Among other provisions, [House Bill 191](#) increases the annual cap on the Quality Jobs Program and reforms the state's tax credit system by capping the amount of tax credits the Missouri Development Finance Board can issue annually.

Strengthening our state's educational system is always a top priority among lawmakers in the General Assembly. [Senate Bill 291](#), a wide-ranging education bill that instituted several major reforms for schools across our state, was signed July 13. The comprehensive measure included a provision that fixes an error in Proposition A passed last year (providing extra revenue to public schools in our state), which ensures the money voters intended for Missouri schools is properly distributed; creates the Missouri Senior Cadets Program, which will provide opportunities for 12th graders in public schools to mentor kindergarten through eighth grade students; establishes the School Flex Program to allow eligible students to pursue a timely graduation from high school; creates the Persistence to Graduation Fund, which provides a way for school districts to apply for grants to implement drop-out prevention strategies; requires teaching standards in public schools; and allows school boards to establish a four-day school week instead of a five-day school week by a majority vote of board members.

If you have any questions about the legislation signed into law this year, you can visit the governor's website (www.governor.mo.gov) and click on legislative actions. If you have questions regarding other legislative matters, 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.


