



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

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A Column for the Week of:  
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## Lawmakers Return to Jefferson City

### *September 16 Kicks Off Annual Veto Session*

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Under our state's constitution, bills 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). Those bills reaching the governor's desk automatically became law if they did not receive a signature or a veto.

Most bills not receiving a veto became law August 28, the constitutionally-effective date for new laws. If legislation contained an emergency clause, those particular bills took effect immediately upon receiving the governor's signature. And if noted in the legislation, a bill can become law at a specified date, including provisions that have different effective dates than the rest of the bill.

Thirty-six Senate bills and 103 House bills were signed by the governor this year. A total of 23 bills (12 Senate and 11 House) received the governor's veto. In addition, 11 House budget bills also contained line-item vetoes. Line-item vetoes allow a governor to disapprove of a particular item or items of a bill without having to eliminate the entire piece of legislation.

On Sept. 16, the General Assembly will have an opportunity to consider each bill the governor has vetoed during its annual veto session. If my colleagues and I decide to attempt to override a veto, the motion will be put to a vote. In order to have a successful overturn of a governor's veto, a two-thirds majority vote is required in both the Senate and the House.

To see a complete list of bills vetoed by the governor, please visit the Missouri Senate's website ([www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov)), click on Session Information on the left hand side of the page, and then select the link titled "Governor's Action on Truly Agreed Bills."

If you have any questions about laws regarding other legislative matters, please feel free to

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

