

Week of May 4, 2009



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[Legislation with a Local Impact](#)

As we prepare to enter the last week of this year's legislative session, much of the focus is on wrapping up the big bills of the session, such as the economic development measure and the omnibus education bill. But the majority of the bills that are passed in any given session are not headline-grabbing and may only affect a small portion of the state. Often, this legislation arises from issues that are brought to our attention by concerned constituents.

For example, one bill I am sponsoring that addresses a local issue is [Senate Bill 242](#). Cass County residents recently approved a proposed \$38.5 million bond to improve the wastewater system that serves the Middle Big Creek sewer sub-district during the April 7 election. This project requires the expansion of the Pleasant Hill treatment plant to accommodate the sewer sub-district. Because of an increasing population in the area, including Cass County communities such as Pleasant Hill and Raymore, the wastewater system is operating near capacity. The bond will fund the construction of two new main sewer lines and facility improvements at the Pleasant Hill treatment plant to serve the region and phase out several pump stations.

Because this particular sewer sub-district primarily serves wholesale customers in Cass County, SB 242 provides an alternate procedure to approve the issuing of bonds for a common sewer sub-district in the county. Bonds may be issued if the sub-district receives the written consent of 75 percent of the political entities (such as a town or city) that do business with the sub-district. The legislation is currently in a conference committee where the differences between the Senate and House versions are being worked out. From

there, a final Senate and House vote sends SB 242 to the governor's desk for his signature.

Another bill I am sponsoring is [Senate Bill 421](#), which is currently in the House for approval. This measure removes a provision requiring the circuit court to approve the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration's director of finance's appointment of the FDIC as the liquidating agent for a failed bank. All this does is speed along the process of liquidating assets if a bank fails.

Finally, I am handling [House Bill 239](#) in the Senate, a bill that changes the way certain endowment funds are managed. What this bill would do is help protect those investments by ensuring that an endowment board uses no more than two percent of the total market value of the endowment for internal administration and development purposes. It also allows endowments to spend a portion of the earnings they have received even though their principal has decreased in the recent past.

These endowments, including the University of Missouri, ensure that generations of Missourians will be able to receive a top-notch public education, so spending should be carefully monitored. Education is one of our greatest resources in this state, and it must be protected. House Bill 239 was passed this week by the General Assembly and now awaits the governor's signature to become law.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senate District.

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