

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE
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Senate Leader Calls On MoDOT Leader to Stick to Business at Hand

‘...this is the second instance this year where he has veered off-track...’

JEFFERSON CITY – Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today (5/22) questioned Missouri Department of Transportation Director Pete Rahn's comments and actions regarding Senate Bill 202, which now awaits the governor's signature. Shields said Rahn has overstepped his bounds as an un-elected bureaucrat when it comes to the helmet law.

“The last time I checked, laws are written by the people's elected representatives to the state House and Senate, and the governor then has the power to approve or veto the laws they pass that represent the will of the people,” Sen. Shields said. “I am alarmed that an appointed bureaucrat would use taxpayer money to pay for polling and then hold a press conference while on the clock to oppose a specific piece of legislation.”

Rahn held a press conference on Wednesday (5/20) calling on Gov. Nixon to veto the bill that has already passed the legislative process. It has also been reported that the department of transportation used taxpayer dollars to commission a statewide poll on the issue.

Senate Bill 202 would exempt anyone over the age of 21 from wearing a helmet while driving or riding a motorcycle, except when on an interstate. The helmet exemption expires on August 28, 2014, unless renewed by the Legislature and signed by a governor before that date.

Shields said he would like to see Rahn spend his efforts on his broader tasks as director.

“I appreciate that Pete has taken us from a sub-par state to one that is now recognized for smoother, better roads,” Shields said. “That is why I encourage him to refocus his efforts on continuing to build and improve Missouri's roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure, because this is the second instance this year where he has veered off-track by misusing taxpayer dollars in an effort to lobby elected officials.”

The first instance was reported earlier this year by media outlets when Rahn had state transportation department employees go to the capitol building to lobby for stricter seatbelt laws while being paid for those hours as department work with taxpayer dollars.

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