



This report contains information about the bills I worked on this session as well as how your taxpayer dollars were spent. You may view my legislation on my website, www.senate.mo.gov/cunningham. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

The Health Care Freedom Act Senate Joint Resolution 25 (now HB 1764):

Perhaps my most satisfying accomplishment this session was Senate Joint Resolution 25 (amended onto HB 1764), also known as the Health Care Freedom Act. Essentially this act allows Missourians to have a voice when it comes to the recently enacted federal health care mandates.

The Health Care Freedom Act would be added to Missouri statutes if approved by voters on the August 3rd election ballot. This act provides that “no federal law shall compel a patient, employer, or health care provider to participate in any government or privately run health care system, nor prohibit a patient or employer from paying directly for legal health care services.”

It’s important to note that this does not take away your opportunity to participate in the federal health care plan if that is what you choose to do. It expands health care choices and does not limit them in any way. Missouri’s safety net programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare, will not be affected by this act. They are protected. The act simply preserves an individual’s right to choose their own health care plan or provider without facing fines or imprisonment, and authorizes the attorney general to defend Missourians against the same.

The proposal received bipartisan support from my colleagues in both the Senate and the House of Representatives because we see this as an affirmation of our state’s rights and every citizen’s right to choose how they spend their own money. Although 42 states introduced similar legislation, Missouri will be the first state in the nation to have an official vote on this issue. Please exercise your right to express your views at the ballot on August 3rd.

Senator Cunningham’s Legislation, Continued

In addition to the Health Care Freedom Act, I advanced several other measures that were sent to the governor, including:

Senate Bill 630: This act modifies several laws relating to manufactured homes. It establishes the procedures for transferring these “mobile” homes from personal property into real property. It facilitates the sales and financing of these homes during a time when affordable housing is so critical.

House Bill 1965: This act repeals obsolete statutes and ends the printing of state manuals and statute books since both are available online. This measure, handled by Sen. Cunningham in the Senate, will save the state nearly \$2 million.

House Bill 1692: This act modifies several laws including the establishment of the licensing requirements for real estate brokers and salespersons. The legislation was strongly supported by the real estate industry. Additionally the bill includes lien law reform to protect new home buyers which was negotiated between the home builders and sub-contractors.



Senator Cunningham’s Committees

Financial and Governmental Organizations and Elections, Vice-Chairman
Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families
Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence
Transportation
Veterans’ Affairs, Pensions and Urban Affairs
Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee
Joint Committee on Education

“Truly Passed” Legislative Accomplishments

Other than Senator Cunningham’s Health Care Freedom Act and other legislation reported previously, there are several major bills approved by the Legislature that would become law with the governor’s signature. A few of these include:

DWI Bill (HB 1695)

Responding to a series of newspaper articles earlier this year, this legislation strengthens Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) laws by tracking repeat offenders, increasing jail time, utilizing DWI courts, and centralizing reporting in a central databank.

Timely Tax Refunds (HB 1408)

This bill would make sure Missouri taxpayers receive money they are owed on time, ensuring that refunds be delivered within 90 days of April 15th or the state must pay interest to the taxpayer.

Autism Insurance Reform (HB 1311)

This bill would require insurance companies to cover children with autism for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders up to \$40,000 per year per individual (through age 18). Insurance companies will not be allowed to deny or cancel coverage due to an autism diagnosis.

Abortion Consent Law (SB 793)

This legislation expands the informed consent for abortion law to include a mother’s right to:

- An opportunity to hear the child’s heartbeat or see an ultrasound.
- View printed materials that detail the development of the child.
- Referrals by the physician to counseling, rape crisis centers, and Alternatives to Abortion program.
- Explanation of the father’s responsibility for child support.

The legislation also protects Missouri from the newly enacted federal health care mandate that funds abortions with public funds by bringing it into compliance with Missouri’s law that prohibits general abortion coverage by insurance providers without an additional rider added by the insured individual.

Ethics Reform (SB 844)

Ethics legislation was passed that allows for investigations by the Missouri Ethics Commission whenever there is suspicion, not only when there is a complaint. The bill has new donation reporting requirements, and bars committees from shifting funds to all committees except candidate committees.

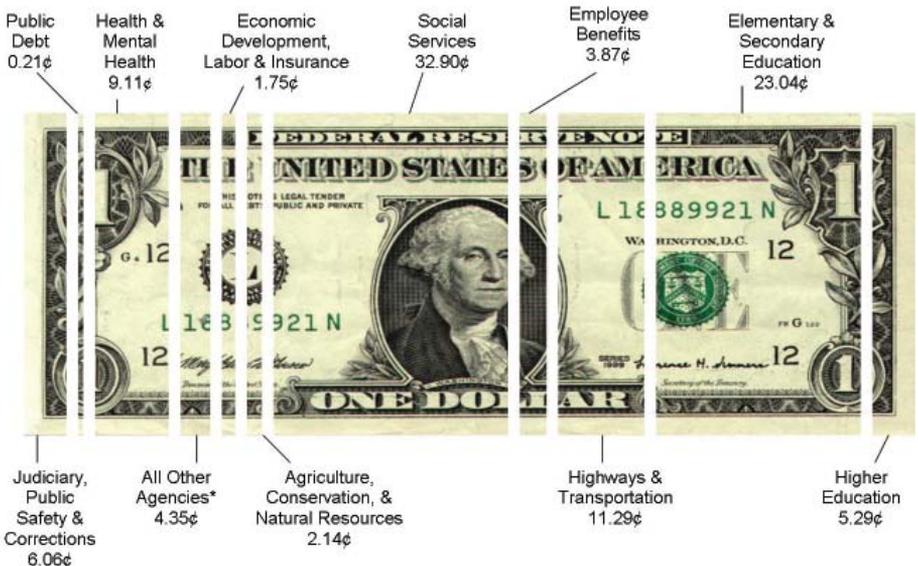
The State Budget

This year's budgeting process was the most difficult in my entire career in the Legislature. However, we were able to pass a balanced budget, without a tax increase, by cutting \$456 million from state spending. Here are a few of the highlights:

- **Maintain Education Funding.** Despite the historic deficit in revenue, we kept funding for K-12 education at the same levels as the present year.
- **Living Within Our Means.** There were a number of initiatives that eliminated waste and redundancy in government spending, including:
 - Medicaid cost containment.
 - Merging the Highway Patrol and the Water Patrol.
 - Elimination of Blue Book printing.

While this year was difficult, projections indicate there will be more difficult financial times ahead. We will continue to look for ways to streamline government without burdensome tax increases when you least need it and be responsible stewards of your taxpayer dollars. We welcome your suggestions at www.senate.mo.gov. Click on the Rebooting Government logo. All suggestions will be considered.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR FY 2011 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET All Funds: \$23.275 Billion



* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate