



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of August 30, 2010**

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### Veto Session

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JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Constitution requires members of the General Assembly to return to the Capitol “on the first Wednesday following the second Monday in September for a period not to exceed ten calendar days for the sole purpose of considering bills returned (vetoed) by the governor.” This year, Governor Nixon vetoed five bills approved during the 2010 legislative session. He also vetoed a couple of line items in the appropriations bill funding the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration, and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

For example, the governor vetoed Senate Bill 777 on July 14. This legislation allows “lending institutions to offer, sell, and finance automobile club memberships, service contracts, motor vehicle service contracts, and vehicle protection devices and other plans and services providing a benefit to the borrower if the cost is disclosed separate from the loan contract,” among its many provisions. In his veto message, the governor stated the bill “facilitates consumer borrowing to purchase service contracts, products of often questionable value in a market with an active history of consumer deception and confusion. Permitting expansion of the sale of these products in this manner will be harmful to Missourians.”

Since bills vetoed by the governor return to the chamber where they originated, SB 777 will be the only bill the Senate will consider during the Veto Session September 15. The other four bills vetoed by the governor will return to the House of Representatives where they originated. If two-thirds of the members of the House vote to override any of these vetoes, those measures will move to the Senate, where it will also take a two-thirds vote to enact the measures into law. However, getting two-thirds of the members of both chambers to agree on anything is a high hurdle. There have been fewer than a dozen veto overrides in Missouri’s

history.

The annual Veto Session also offers us a chance to say goodbye to retiring members of the Missouri Senate. Prior to the start of the Veto Session at noon on September 15, the Senate will hold a retirement ceremony in the Senate chamber for the 10 members who are retiring this year. I think most of them would run for re-election if term limits did not prevent them from seeking another term, although a couple of members have expressed a desire to return home after long legislative careers. Regardless of their party affiliation or their personal beliefs, it has been an honor to work with each of them. I wish each of them well in whatever they choose to do next.

This week the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission held its meeting in Shelbina for the first time. Members discussed the major transportation issues facing Missouri, including the 2012 budget and the challenges posed by the depletion of Amendment 3 dollars and the end of the federal stimulus. Audrain County Presiding Commissioner Dick Webber talked about expanding Highway 54 to four lanes in Pike and Audrain counties. The evening before the meeting, I had the pleasure of hosting a dinner for the highway commissioners, a number of MODOT officials and local elected officials from our district.

I want to wrap up this week's column by recognizing the efforts of some local officials who work hard every day to make sure our roads are safe to travel, including Ronnie Calvin, the Regional Maintenance Supervisor at Bowling Green and Farber; Rich Arnold, the Regional Maintenance Supervisor at Hannibal; Heath Otte, the Regional Maintenance Supervisor at Shelbina; Jamie Gottman, the Maintenance Crew Leader for Shelbina; and Maintenance Superintendents Rodney Osbourne and Rick Ellison. While we are comfortable inside our air-conditioned homes and offices, these hard-working folks are out in the hot sun keeping our roads and bridges in the best possible condition. In the winter when the snow is blowing and we are home sleeping at two in the morning, these same dedicated workers are out driving the snowplows and salt trucks to keep our roads safe for travel.

If you have any questions or comments about these or any other issues give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an e-mail at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.