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The Stouffer Report: Session Review – Rebooting Government

We in the [Missouri Senate](#) put our money where our mouths are, in terms of working to make state government run more efficiently. After spending most of the 2010 legislative session on “[Rebooting Government](#)” efforts, we were able to get a few ideas delivered to the governor.

[Senate Bill 1007](#) makes changes to some of the public assistance programs administered by the state. Most of the changes are related to [MOHealthNet](#) and could save the state as much as \$40 million in only a few years.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 54](#) creates the Joint Interim Committee on Reducing the Size of State Government. My hope is this panel will be put together and start meeting as soon as possible. The goal is to look at every program the state provides and see what is working, what is not and what needs changing.

[House Bill 1868](#) is a measure that includes several rebooting government provisions. The biggest aspect of the proposal is unifying the [Missouri State Highway Patrol](#) and the [Missouri State Water Patrol](#). This will save approximately \$500,000 and make better use of both divisions. The bill establishes money-saving criteria for payment regarding MOHealthNet claims and creates the Joint Committee on the Reduction and Reorganization of Programs within State Government.

[House Bill 1965](#) is something I have wanted to see

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become a reality for sometime. Very simply, the measure would eliminate old, outdated and obsolete state laws. Moreover, the bill would end the days of printing the Official State Manual, commonly called the "Blue Book," and the Missouri state statutes. This would save approximately \$1.7 million. These days, most folks go online to get the information in these books anyway, so why not save more money?

Other bills geared toward streamlining state government that were debated this year include a revamp of the state's retirement system ([Senate Bill 714](#)), and a few bills that would have eliminated two state holidays. Ending the observance of Lincoln's Birthday and Truman's Birthday would have saved the state approximately \$2.4 million. The governor says he will no longer give state employees the day after Thanksgiving off, which will result in a \$1.2 million savings, because of overtime paid to corrections officers and others who work in 24-hour a day situations. These bills, along with other rebooting government efforts, are sure to be considered next session.

So, between the suggestions we were given by folks in March, the ideas we came up with in the Missouri Senate, and work that will be done by the committees I mentioned about earlier, we should have a much better blueprint for streamlining state government by the time lawmakers come back to Jefferson City in January. I look forward to seeing what changes will be made in the months and years to come.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

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