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**Special note:** [The Grand River Bridge](#), west of Brunswick on Highway 24 in Chariton County, is closed to traffic. MoDOT officials say detours have been posted while they create a long-term fix to the structure.



## **The Stouffer Report: Session Review – Adult-Oriented Businesses**

After years of trying, the Legislature passed new restrictions on adult-oriented businesses in Missouri in 2010.

[Senate Bill 586](#) will keep these sex shops and strip clubs from being placed near churches, schools, day cares, libraries, parks, homes or other sexually-oriented businesses. The measure keeps folks convicted of certain crimes from establishing an adult business. The bill also establishes guidelines for those who work in these places.

If you drive down I-70, especially on the western side of the state, you will see a growing number of these types of places. They are all visible from the highway. These operations have a negative impact on communities. While I am not a fan of government regulation and would prefer these regulations happen locally, it is for the greater good of our communities that these places have a few restrictions.

Missouri is a largely rural state, made up of hard-working folks who strive to make their cities and towns great places to live, work and raise families. When adult businesses come into an area, they work to bring down the moral fiber of the community. We simply cannot allow this to continue. A quote on the

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walls of the senate says it best, "Nothing can ever be politically right that is morally wrong."

Provisions in Senate Bill 586 are common sense. There is no need for these businesses to be open between midnight and 6 a.m. There is no need to sell alcohol on the premises. And, there is absolutely no reason to build adult businesses next to churches, schools or any of the locations this measure prohibits.

For the most part, adult-oriented businesses operate with little oversight. Outside of local building or zoning codes, there is not much scrutiny placed of these types of businesses. This bill would change that and help to make Missouri more family-friendly as a vacation and tourism destination. Adult businesses lower property values and bring in crimes like prostitution and drugs. We do not need that *anywhere* in this state.

This is the type of legislation that makes Missouri better. Again, while I do not favor adding regulations, this is an industry that has gone unchecked for too long. The fewer of these places we see along not just [our interstates](#), but anywhere in rural Missouri, the better. This is a beautiful state and I hope we keep it that way for years to come.

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

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).



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