

Week of September 13, 2010



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Committees Meet During Veto Session

Lawmakers spent this week's veto session reflecting on the past as well as looking ahead to the future. We considered the bills passed in 2010 that were vetoed by the governor and said goodbye to retiring Senate members, but we also took the opportunity to hold several committee meetings in preparation for 2011 while all lawmakers were gathered at the Capitol—a rare occurrence when the General Assembly is not in session.

I serve as chairman of both the Joint Committee on Education and the Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee, both of which met this week. The Joint Committee on Education, a 14-member committee consisting of seven senators and seven representatives, is charged with monitoring the progress of education in Missouri's public schools and higher education institutions, studying issues relating to school funding and teachers' salaries, and making recommendations to the General Assembly for legislative action.

This week we took time to recognize our committee's retiring members, as well as discuss K–12 public school funding, teacher compensation and the efficiency of the state's Regional Professional Development Centers. Looking ahead to the coming legislative session, the committee also talked about topics for potential future study such as voluntary pre-kindergarten and higher education funding models.

The Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee, comprised of six senators and one of the Senate's three "2020" committees, met to discuss recommendations for the committee's final report, which is due to the Senate at the end of the year. The committee is responsible for determining what education in Missouri should look like by the year 2020 and developing long-term strategies to achieve these future goals, and I'm looking forward to sharing our findings and suggestions with my colleagues. We have met for nearly two years since Senate President Pro Tem Charlie Shields proposed forming the committees,

which the Senate established, and I'm confident that through consulting leaders in education, studying and analyzing our state's schools and our students' needs, and discussing the issues that Missouri will likely face in the future, we will have several effective and innovative solutions ready to present to the Senate.

Education has been and continues to be one of my top priorities as a lawmaker, and I feel honored to be entrusted with a position of leadership on these important committees. I firmly believe that the ideas and solutions that are born through our bi-partisan discussions will make a positive impact on education in Missouri for years to come. Undoubtedly we face economic uncertainties in the next few years, and difficult decisions will continue being made, but I know that I, along with a large number of my colleagues, am committed to funding education to the best of our ability because it truly is one of the best investments our state can make for the future.

For the veto session, as expected the General Assembly did not override any of this year's vetoes. While the House proposed overturning the veto of [HB 1903](#), which would have created a special fund to receive any additional federal stimulus money given to Missouri, the chamber did not have the two-thirds majority required for a veto override. Since the House, which was the originating chamber for the bill, did not have enough votes, the bill never had the opportunity to come up for discussion in the Senate. Lawmakers did not attempt to override the other four vetoed bills.

The veto session marks the last step of the 2010 regular legislative session, and soon, the bill pre-filing period will begin for the 2011 session. I look forward to a new year of serving the residents of the 31st District and working to make a difference in the Show-Me State.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

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