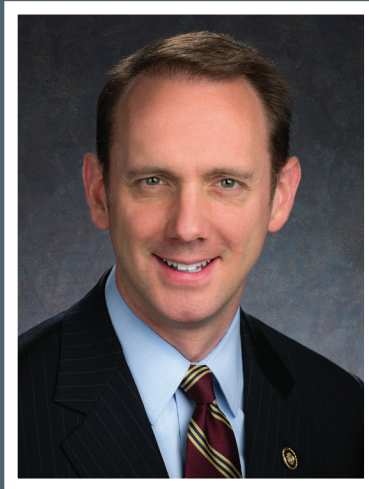


2015 Legislative Review



Senator Scott Sifton Serving Missouri's 1st Senatorial District

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Missouri's 1st
Senatorial
District

Working for the People of the 1st Senatorial District

Dear friends:

This past session proved to be one of the more crucial legislative sessions we have seen in recent years. Lawmakers worked hard to protect your rights and move our state forward.

Among the critical measures that passed out of the House and Senate this session was House Bill 42, addressing the issue of student transfers from unaccredited school districts. Our broken transfer law has already proven unmanageable, and unless fixed will present even greater complications in the years ahead. Receiving districts, such as those I represent, need the ability to manage their enrollment and class size levels.

The bill we sent to the governor was not perfect -- as no compromise ever is. House Bill 42 ultimately did not become law, as the Legislature declined to attempt to override the governor's veto. But the bill did represent continued progress toward achieving an equitable and feasible way to address the problem of unaccredited school districts. I will continue working across the aisle until we arrive at a change in the law that is satisfactory to our community.

Children are also the focus of another bill that Missouri lawmakers passed this year. The governor signed Senate Bill 341, which included language from my Senate Bill 427 establishing safe sleep protocols at our licensed day cares. We need to do all we can to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Senate Bill 341 is a major step.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you in the Missouri Senate. Every day brings new challenges for all of us, and I have the privilege of traveling to Jefferson City to try to make a difference. I do so with your thoughts, suggestions and needs in mind. Much of my legislation originates with issues brought to my attention by constituents. Your input is greatly appreciated and always welcome.

Thank you,



Duties of Sen. Sifton's Committees

Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment

Reports on bills relating to the development of state commerce, protecting Missouri consumers, the development and conservation of energy resources, and other matters relating to environmental preservation.

Financial & Governmental Organizations and Elections

Lawmakers on this panel take up legislation relating to financial institutions in the Show-Me State; certain conditions of departments, boards, bureaus and commissions within state government; and matters regarding election law, among other pertinent issues.

Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Examines bills relating to the judicial department of the state, including the practice of Missouri courts, civil procedure and criminal laws, criminal costs, probation or parole of individuals sentenced under the criminal laws of the state, and other related matters.

Veterans' Affairs and Health

Work on this committee includes considering measures pertaining to our state's veterans. The panel also considers the state's MO HealthNet medical services plan for certain eligible citizens, as well as other health-related issues.

Ways and Means

Committee members review bills concerning the revenue and public debt of Missouri, the assessment of real and personal property and the classification of property for taxation purposes.

Committees and Priority Legislation

Easing Families' Burdens

I am proud to say that one of my bills made it to the governor's desk and into law this year.

Senate Bill 164 exempts funeral and burial expenses from attachment by creditors in bankruptcy. Previously, when someone going through bankruptcy lost a loved one, the matured life insurance proceeds would go to their creditors, leaving no money for a funeral or burial.

Now, up to \$15,000 of those life insurance proceeds are exempted from bankruptcy for purposes of paying for a loved one's funeral and burial. No person unfortunate enough to

be bankrupt should have to be left without a way to bury their child, parent or spouse.

This is an issue plaguing many families in our community, especially in cases where heavy health care costs associated with serious disease result in medical bankruptcy.

The House added amendments regarding life insurance valuation reserves and insurer foreign investment limits. These provisions will help Missouri insurers better compete in the marketplace and keep premium rates down.

Highlights of the 2015 Session

Stopping Right-to-Work

In state after state, so-called "right-to-work" legislation has resulted in lower wages for workers across the board, whether they belonged to a union or not. I filibustered House Bill 116 during session, but the majority party used a rare procedure to force a vote despite opposition on both sides of the aisle. Our governor vetoed the measure, and a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers in the House of Representatives prevented an override of the governor's veto.

Municipal Court Reform

While every driver should follow the rules of the road, municipalities should not be ticketing excessively just so they can tax and spend. I am pleased the governor signed Senate Bill 5 into law. This important measure lowers the percentage of threshold our local municipalities can collect to 12.5 percent of total revenue. This new law will allow our law enforcement officers to focus on public safety instead of revenue collection. I proudly sponsored a related measure, Senate Bill 50.

Medical Malpractice Caps

Another new law addresses the cost of medical malpractice in our state. Senate Bill 239 spells out new limits on the amounts that can be requested in malpractice lawsuits, and includes different caps depending on the severity of the injury. The Missouri Supreme Court struck down the prior limits, leaving Missouri with no caps for the last three years. This year's legislation, signed by the governor, reflects a compromise between patient advocates, doctors, hospitals and insurers.

Fixing Our Student Transfer Law

For the past two years, I have supported measures to fix the state's transfer law for unaccredited schools and give receiving districts control over their total enrollment.

Both last year and this year saw successful passage of a transfer bill, including House Bill 42. Unfortunately, thus far, the Legislature and the governor have been unable to reach an agreement on how to fix the current transfer

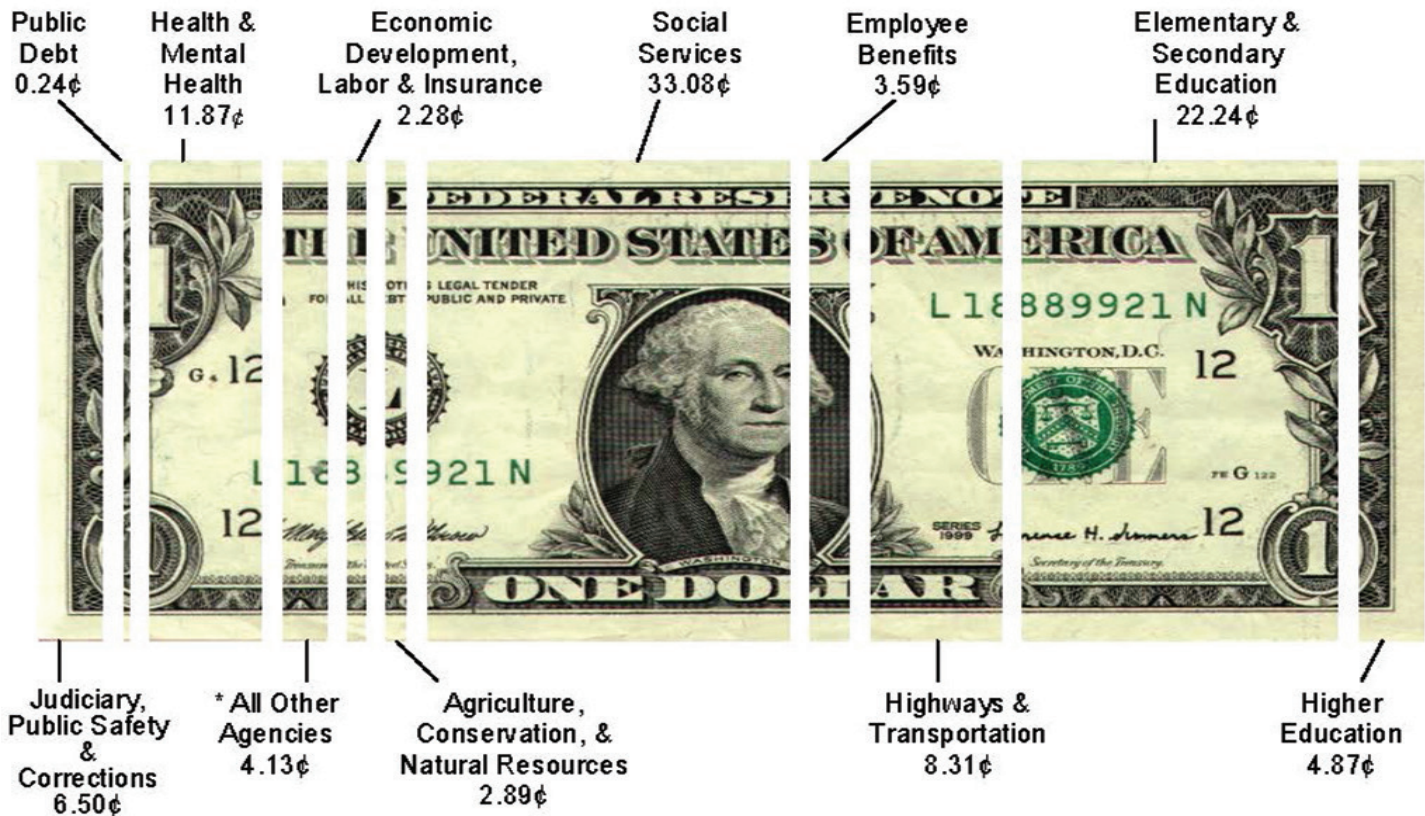
law. Our students have to get the best education they possibly can. I will continue to work across the aisle to fight for all students until we find a better way to address the challenges of unaccredited schools.

Missouri's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FISCAL YEAR 2016 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET

All Funds: \$26.028 Billion



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

Improving Day Care Safety: Senate Bill 341

This session, I was fortunate to be able to help pass legislation intended to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in our state. My Senate Bill 427 mandated the establishment of safe infant sleeping protocols in child care facilities providing care for children under one year old. While time ran out on Senate Bill 427 itself, its provisions

were added to Senate Bill 341 and signed into law by the governor.

The bill gives the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services the power to approve training concerning the safe infant sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). All licensed day care facilities providing care for children under

one year old will now implement and maintain a written safe sleep policy in accordance with the AAP's recommendations, including training for employees and volunteers.

SIDS deaths are a terrible tragedy. We must do all we can to reduce the risk of SIDS, and requiring best practices for safe sleep at our licensed day cares is a big step forward.



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Senator Sifton's Legislation for 2015:

- SB 48 - Institutes a gift ban for members of the General Assembly and their candidate committees;
- SB 49 - Modifies provisions relating to school transfers (Contained in part in truly agreed to and finally passed HB 42);
- SB 50 - Prohibits political subdivisions participating in the St. Louis County sales tax pool from receiving sales tax pool revenue if more than 50 percent of their annual general operating revenues come from traffic fines;
- SB 76 - Requires every felony arrestee 17 years old or older to provide a DNA sample for matching with unsolved crimes;
- SB 77 - Reauthorizes the Missouri Homestead Preservation tax credit program;
- SB 78 - Prohibits an insurer from requiring any waiting period for health insurance coverage for maternity benefits and requires coverage to begin immediately from the effective date of the health insurance policy or plan;
- SB 136 - Allows emergency workers to request, receive and submit absentee ballots;
- SB 164 - Exempts, in bankruptcy proceedings, life insurance proceeds for the burial of a family member, modifies insurance foreign investment limits, changes the requirements for the valuation reserves for life insurance and modifies provisions regarding qualified spousal trusts (Truly agreed to and finally passed);
- SB 247 - Provides a cause of action against pay disparity based on gender;
- SB 427 - Mandates the establishment of safe sleeping protocols in child care facilities providing care for children under one year of age (Contained in truly agreed to and finally passed SB 341);
- SB 440 - Changes the requirements for school antibullying policies;
- SB 467 - Removes the statute of limitations on civil actions and prosecutions involving offenses against children;
- SB 468 - Requires each public school to test each enrolling student for dyslexia and related disorders and provide treatment;
- SB 486 - Modifies class-one election offenses;
- SB 516 - Bans the sale of event tickets that have a credit card entry restriction to consumers without a signed acknowledgment by the consumer; and
- SB 548 - Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to employ a dyslexia specialist and creates the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia (Contained in truly agreed to and finally passed HB 42).