



Bills Sponsored and Handled by Sen. Dave Schatz

The 2016 legislative session was busy and productive. Through many long days and late nights, we were able to pass a balanced budget, which ended funding for Planned Parenthood and sent many reform-minded bills to the governor's desk. In this end-of-session report, I have highlighted some of the most important bills to our community and our state. Much of my legislation deals with making life easier for everyday Missourians and making their interactions with state government as hassle-free as possible. Below are some of my bills that made it through the legislative process.

Senate Bill 641: Agriculture is our state's No. 1 industry and Franklin County is home to some of the best pasture land in Missouri. Currently, disaster payments from the federal government (for floods or severe droughts, which take place about twice a decade) are taxed like normal income. No other disaster payments are taxed in this manner – neither Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance nor insurance. Senate Bill 641 will ensure the rare instances of agricultural disaster payments are not taxed. This does not apply to crop insurance or other payments. The governor vetoed Senate Bill 641, but the veto was overridden by both chambers at the recent veto session.

Senate Bill 700: This legislation will make life easier for employers by allowing employers to pay upfront for minor injuries to employees, in which no work time is lost. In this instance, we are talking about minor scrapes and bruises, not serious injuries. This legislation will allow for a timely resolution for all involved and improve Missouri's business climate while helping employers hold down ever-growing insurance costs. Senate Bill 700 will help our state continue to attract employers and create more jobs.

House Bill 2380: As vice-chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, I work on many transportation-related issues. House Bill 2380 was originally sponsored by Rep. Glen Kolkmeier and contains my permanent trailer license plate fix. Trailer owners will now have the option to purchase a permanent trailer license plate for \$52.50. These permanent plates are non-transferable, but they will save motorists the inconvenience of renewing plates every three years. House Bill 2380 also allows for a license plate reissue from the Department of Revenue. Nearly every decade, the state comes out with all new license plates, and it has been 10 years since current plates were issued. It will take several years to formulate and implement the new plates, which will celebrate Missouri's bicentennial in 2021.



Senator Schatz testifies at a committee hearing.

Senate Bill 656: This bill is this year's self-defense omnibus legislation, and it contains many important sections, including what was originally my Senate Bill 1026. This legislation allows for extended concealed carry permits that are only valid in Missouri. Qualified applicants can apply for 10-year, 25-year, and lifetime concealed carry permits instead of renewing every five years. Senate Bill 656 also expands Missouri's Stand Your Ground law so that law-abiding citizens do not have a duty to retreat when confronted by life-threatening assailants. The bill also contains what is known as Constitutional Carry.

Reforming State Government

Reform was a major theme of this year's session – reforming how state government operates, reforming ethics laws for legislators and reforming voting laws to ensure the integrity of our elections. I supported these measures because citizens should expect more from their state government.

Senate Bill 607: This legislation reforms welfare eligibility in our state by simply double-checking the eligibility of Missourians receiving state aid. Specifically, the bill directs the Department of Social Services to contract with a third-party data company to flag recipients who may be receiving benefits despite earning too much money to actually qualify for the benefits. The department will then investigate and remove non-qualifying recipients from the welfare rolls. A similar effort in Illinois saved the state millions by removing fraudulent and non-eligible recipients.



Early this session, I was honored to sponsor Nancy Brody to the State Committee of Dietitians.

House Bill 1631 and House Joint Resolution 53: Voter ID, also known as Photo ID, will enhance the integrity of our elections by ensuring the democratic principle of “one man, one vote.” To be implemented, voters must first approve House Joint Resolution 53 at the ballot box so Voter ID becomes part of our state constitution.

House Bill 1631 will then become law, and voters will be required to show a government-issued photo ID to vote in future elections. Voters without a government-issued photo ID may sign an affidavit and present a utility bill or college ID to vote or they may cast a provisional ballot. State fee offices will

provide a no-cost photo ID to citizens for the purpose of voting as well. Photo ID will ensure that our elections are free of voter fraud and impersonation.

Ethics Reforms – House Bills 2203, 1983 and 1979:

Many ethics reform bills were proposed this session, and I was glad to vote in support of all of them. Voters have spoken and made it clear that they hold lawmakers in Jefferson City to high ethical standards.

House Bill 2203 requires anyone who registers as a lobbyist to dissolve their campaign account. Some former legislators-turned-lobbyists have hung on to their campaign money, and this new legislation will prevent that from happening.

House Bill 1983 stipulates that no legislators will work as paid political consultants while still serving in office. This has only happened once before, but it should never happen.

Finally, **House Bill 1979** applies to all current and future elected officials. The bill mandates a six-month cooling off period before a former elected official can become a lobbyist. These six months do not begin until after a legislator has finished serving the term they were elected and sworn in to serve.



FFA student leaders visiting the Capitol.

Pro-Military Issues



Your Missouri General Assembly has been working hard in recent years to make

Missouri an even more military-friendly state. The importance of military facilities like Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood to our local economy and our national defense cannot be overstated. Active and retired military personnel also add to the fabric of our communities, and it is important to attract and retain these highly skilled service men and women whenever possible. To that end, there were two important Senate bills that were passed that make life easier for our soldiers and sailors.

Senate Bill 814: Adds Missouri to the list of states that do not tax the active-duty pay of our service men and women. This will cost the state about \$3.6 million in lost revenue, but as tax receipts are currently up, it will not cause a budget crunch and it will mean a lot to our military members stationed locally. Previously, Missouri passed a law to exempt military pension incomes from our state income tax.

Senate Bill 968: This bill will make it easier for active duty and reserve military members to receive higher education in Missouri. This bill stipulates that military members shall receive in-state tuition rates from Missouri state colleges and universities. Due to the highly mobile nature of military service, many soldiers and sailors do not live in Missouri long enough to qualify for in-state tuition by traditional means. Senate Bill 968 allows our service men and women to receive in-state tuition rates immediately upon being stationed in Missouri.



Senator Schatz debates a bill in the chamber of the Senate.

Call or Click At Least Three Working Days Before You Dig!

1-800-DIG-RITE or 811
mo1call.com

- Call or Click at least three working days before you dig.
- Wait the required amount of time.
- Confirm Utility Response.
- Respect the marks.
- Dig with care.

Dig Safely.
Become a partner in damage prevention.

MISSOURI ONE CALL SYSTEM



1-866-VET-INFO

Questions about other legislation or any state government issues? Please contact my office at any time at (573) 751-3678 or by email at Dave.Schatz@senate.mo.gov.

STATE SENATOR DAVE SCHATZ
 201 W CAPITOL AVE ROOM 433
 JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101
 WWW.SENATE.MO.GOV/SCHATZ

PRSRT STD
 US Postage
 PAID
 Jefferson City MO 65101
 Permit No 220

Missouri's 2017 Operating Budget

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR
 FISCAL YEAR 2017 AFTER VETO OPERATING BUDGET
 All Funds: \$27.258 Billion



The General Assembly passed the Fiscal Year 2017 budget well ahead of the constitutional deadline this year. The \$27.3 billion spending plan includes \$71 million in additional funds for K-12. We were also able to agree to a 4 percent performance funding increase to Missouri's colleges and universities to prevent a tuition hike next year. Additionally, we approved \$10 million for women's health care at federally approved health clinics.

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