



State Senator

District 20

Jay Wasson

2016 Capitol Report



Contact Sen. Wasson

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Second Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly has come and gone. It continues to be an honor serving the citizens of the 20th District in the Missouri Senate.

During the 2016 session, lawmakers passed measures that will save our K-12 funding formula, strengthen our economy and make health care more accessible and affordable in the Show-Me State. The September veto session also saw legislators override 13 of the governor's vetoes.

The 2017 legislative session will begin in January. Until then, I look forward to seeing you in the district throughout the remainder of the year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office in Jefferson City if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Jay Wasson
State Senator



SEN. WASSON'S EDUCATION BILL TAKES EFFECT

As a public servant, one of my chief concerns has always been ensuring Missouri's children have access to a quality education. As a lawmaker, I share in the responsibility of seeing that our public school system has the financial means to provide that education. This session, Missouri legislators came together in support of Senate Bill 586, a bipartisan education measure I filed to save Missouri's K-12 foundation formula.

The foundation formula determines the amount of funding each school district in Missouri receives. The original formula contained a 5 percent cap on current operating expenses. In 2008, Missouri voters passed Proposition A, which eliminated the gaming loss limit. At the time, proponents of Prop A claimed that repealing the loss limit would generate millions of dollars in dedicated education funding for K-12 education. As a result, the Legislature voted to remove the 5 percent cap in 2009. Regrettably, the gaming revenue never materialized; the formula, on the other hand, continued to grow at such a rate that fully funding it became all but impossible. Without legislative action, the formula would not have survived.

Senate Bill 586 reinstated the 5 percent cap on current operating expenses. This one change will not only save the formula, but will also make the goal of fully funding it attainable within the next couple of years. Most importantly, it will provide Missouri's

school districts with the consistency and reassurance they need in order to efficiently allocate their resources and effectively educate our students. Senate Bill 586 also specifies that charter schools are eligible to receive early childhood education funding.

Despite having enormous bipartisan support in both chambers, the governor vetoed SB 586; however, the Legislature voted to override the governor's veto the very next day. I am very pleased to say this landmark education bill took effect on July 1, 2016.

38TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPLIT

My first bill of 2016 to make it to the governor's desk was Senate Bill 585 — a bill I had been working to pass for some time to help alleviate the extremely overworked 38th Judicial Circuit. At the time the 38th Judicial Circuit was created, Taney County heard very few court cases; however, Taney County's case load eventually caught up to, if not surpassed, Christian County's in recent years, due in large part to the growth of Branson. Senate Bill 585 split the 38th Circuit so that it only includes Christian County, while Taney County has been moved under a newly created 46th Judicial Circuit. Senate Bill 585 was signed by the governor in mid-February and immediately went into effect, giving candidates enough time to file for the 2016 election cycle.

DESIGN BUILD MEASURE BECOMES LAW

This session, I filed Senate Bill 789 to authorize any political subdivision, such as a school district, to enter into design-build contracts. Design-build is a construction method whereby the architect and contractor work as one team. By expanding the use of design-build, we will allow Missouri's government entities to move their construction projects along more quickly while saving money. The Missouri Department of Transportation already utilizes the design-build process, and they have been very pleased with the results. Plain and simple, design-build removes many of the pitfalls and problems that can come with traditional construction methods. I am pleased to report the governor approved House Bill 2376, which is very similar to my SB 789.

SEN. WASSON'S 2016 LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

SENATE BILL 660 modifies provisions of law relating to bidding procedures for county depositories.

HOUSE BILL 1582, which contains language identical to my Senate Bill 950, requires employers with at least 250 employees to file Missouri income tax returns electronically unless granted a waiver by the Internal Revenue Service, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

HOUSE BILL 1976, which contains language that is substantially similar to two measures I sponsored: Senate Bill 659, requiring autocycle operators to have a driver's license and exempting them from wearing protective headgear if the autocycle has a roof; and Senate Bill 975, modifying provisions related to extended service warranties.

HOUSE BILL 2194, which contains language similar to my Senate Bill 974, modifies provisions relating to cancellation or nonrenewal for automobile and homeowner's insurance policies.

GOVERNOR APPROVES TASK FORCE ON FAIR, LOCAL TAXATION

The governor has also approved House Bill 2140, which is substantially similar to legislation I filed (Senate Bill 906) to prevent Missouri cities and counties from losing an estimated \$44 million in lost auto sales revenue.

In 2012, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in *Street v. Director of Revenue* that vehicles purchased out of state were subject to local use tax, but not local sales tax, resulting in a huge tax incentive for buyers residing in Missouri cities and counties that had not enacted a local use tax to cross the state line to purchase a vehicle. In response, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 23, requiring any taxing authority without a local use tax to have an election to validate a rate by November 2016.

The Department of Revenue reports \$7.6 billion in auto sales occurred during 2015 in the 54 counties and over 1,200 municipalities that still do not have a local use tax law in place. That is \$7.6 billion that dealerships in neighboring states are currently eyeing and are going to try and win from Missouri businesses if the statute expires. House Bill 2140 allows local governments and the DOR to continue operating under the current tax structure for another two years and creates the the Missouri Task Force on Fair, Nondiscriminatory Local Taxation Concerning Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Boats and Outboard Motors. It is our hope HB 2140 will give us the time we need to find a long-term solution.

FY 2017 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FISCAL YEAR 2017 AFTER VETO OPERATING BUDGET

All Funds: \$27.258 Billion



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



IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN THE SHOW-ME STATE

This session, I dedicated a significant amount of time to improving health care in Missouri by working to pass legislation that will make it more affordable and accessible for all Missourians. The last few bills I wish to highlight all have to do with improving health care in the Show-Me State. Signed by the governor in early July, House Bill 1816 contains five health care measures I sponsored this session. They include:

- Senate Bill 835, making the State Board of Nursing the administrative agency responsible for implementing the Nursing Education Incentive Program;
- Senate Bill 985, establishing a new version of the existing Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) to allow registered nurses and licensed practical/vocational nurses to have one multistate license, with the privilege to practice in their home state and other NLC states;
- Senate Bill 836, providing the statutory prohibition of the unlawful practice of optometry shall not apply to students enrolled in an accredited school of optometry and practicing under the personal direction of instructors;
- Senate Bill 973, allowing pharmacists, upon your request, to use their judgment to fill your prescription up to a 90-day quantity; and
- Senate Bill 868, extending the sunset provision for coverage of early refills of prescription eye drops from Jan. 1, 2017, to Jan. 1, 2020.

I also sponsored Senate Bill 830, which gives optometrists the freedom to choose what labs they do business with, among other provisions. Senate Bill 830 was signed into law as part of House Bill 1682.

State Senator Jay Wasson

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WELCOMING VISITORS TO THE CAPITOL



Pictured left: Sen. Jay Wasson with members of the Class 3A State Championship Girls Basketball Team, the Strafford Indians. The team was introduced in the Senate and presented with a resolution recognizing their achievement.

Pictured below: Sen. Jay Wasson and Rep. Lyndall Fraker sit with students from Strafford Elementary, who visited the Capitol as part of their study on government.



SEN. WASSON SPONSORS GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS

It was my honor during the 2016 legislative session to sponsor four outstanding public servants, all of whom had been nominated by the governor to serve on one of Missouri's more than 200 public boards and commissions.

They include Anita Oplotnik to the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors; Nancy Maus to the Missouri Dental Board; and Nancy Hoeman and Linda Thomas to the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board.

I know each of them will do a fantastic job in their new position, working to improve the lives of our citizens and ensure our state operates effectively and efficiently.