

# Senator Sandy Crawford

## 2018 Legislative Newsletter



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Serving  
the Citizens  
of the 28th  
District







The Missouri General Assembly had a productive 2018 legislative session. Many of the bills we passed help make Missouri a more business-friendly state and remove burdensome government regulations. This report highlights some of the bills I passed this year.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. If there is anything I can do to help you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact my office in Jefferson City at (573) 751-8793, or by email at [sandy.crawford@senate.mo.gov](mailto:sandy.crawford@senate.mo.gov).

*Sandy Crawford*

Sandy Crawford  
Missouri Senator  
28th Senatorial District

## SB 806: Guardianship and Conservator Proceedings



The intent of Senate Bill 806 is to improve and clarify the processes used by the courts when appointing public administrators as guardians or conservators. Last year, we did some cleanup work on this matter. This year, we worked to improve and clarify these processes to make them more efficient.

Senate Bill 806 will improve the priority process for assigning cases. Current statute already lists whom the court shall consider when appointing a guardian to someone deemed incapacitated or disabled. New language codifies what is already in statute by explicitly indicating the order of priority. Public administrators will not be appointed, unless there is no relative suitable and willing to serve, or if the appointment of a relative or nominee is contrary to the best interests of the individual. Currently, some judges are automatically appointing public administrators without considering other options. In some cases, families are coming forward, saying they are capable and willing to serve after the administrator

has already received the case.

Senate Bill 806 will improve both notice of petition and hearings on capacity or disability. Public administrators will receive notice of petition when being considered for appointment, as well as accompanying exhibits on the case. This includes written notice indicating the date and time of the proceeding and an opportunity to be present and heard at the hearing. Currently, a public administrator can be appointed as a guardian without any notification, with those appointments going into effect immediately. This would allow administrators an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the individual, ensure a more seamless transition into guardianship and provide a higher level of care.

Senate Bill 806 will also make changes to final settlements for decedent estates. This gives public administrators one year to close out conservatorships for decedent estates. Current statute indicates settlements must be completed in 60 days, which public administrators find unrealistic, especially when dealing with Medicaid issues surrounding the decedent. This change eliminates the need to continually file extensions and will give a realistic timeline for administrators to comply with state law.

## SB 623: Proceeds from Tax Foreclosures

This legislation clarifies state law regarding any surplus of funds following a tax foreclosure sale. This legislation requires the surplus funds to be distributed first to any recorded lienholders prior to being given to the owner. Senate Bill 623 also outlines a process for making a claim on any surplus funds. Current law is not clear and has led to confusion about the order in which the surplus funds should be distributed. In some cases, the property owner has received the surplus ahead of the lienholder, despite the fact the owner had



not been making payments on the property. We wanted to make sure this process is clear and didn't lead to additional sales tax burdens or unintended consequences.

Senate Bill 623 adds the record lienholder as the primary recipient on any excess proceeds from a tax foreclosure sale, specifies the record lienholder will receive a distribution before the owner of record — if applicable — and outlines the process for making a claim on surplus funds.

# SB 951: Modernizing Hospital Regulations

Senate Bill 951 expands the definition of hospital premises. Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services interprets the hospital licensing premises statute in a very limited fashion. A hospital can operate across a street — either way — under its current license, but not catty-corner.



Senate Bill 951 allows state regulations to automatically update, in order to stay current with the latest federal requirements. Currently, updating state regulations require at least six to nine months. This leads to confusion and inconsistent state and federal standards.

# SB 627: Fake Meat

Language from my Senate Bill 977 became part of Senate Bill 627, a proactive piece of legislation that ensures the integrity of our state's meat supply. Missouri is the first state in the country to pass this type of legislation. Alternative sources of protein are being labeled and promoted as an equivalent or substitute for beef. As investments in plant-based food products and laboratory-grown meat increase, we must ensure that those products do not mislead consumers into thinking those products are meat produced by farm and ranch families.

The traditional wording on alternative meat products is confusing to consumers, and it weakens the value of products derived from actual livestock. Senate Bill 627 does not stop laboratory-grown food products or plant based proteins. It simply prevents these proteins from being identified as meat. Senate Bill 627 ensures the definition of meat only includes products raised on farms and ranches and harvested through the processing of actual livestock.

Two of the top four beef processing companies in the world are investing in a company that is developing technology to grow meat in a laboratory from actual animal tissue. This investment is the first by a traditional meat company into so-called "cultured meat," signaling that this is closer to the retail shelf than many of us realized. These products are being pitched using animal welfare and environment-friendly claims. Senate Bill 627 does not stifle emerging technologies, but it does ensure the integrity of our meat supply and reduces consumer confusion.



# 2019 State Budget

**Without the budget, none of these items would be possible.**

Missouri's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2019 is \$28 billion. State law requires we pass a balanced budget every year.

This year, we were able to increase funding for education, which means fully funding the school foundation formula for the second year in a row. This is highly important for students throughout our great state.



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



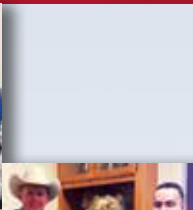
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## Visitors from Throughout the 28th Senatorial District



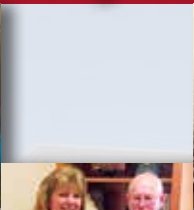
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Cedar County



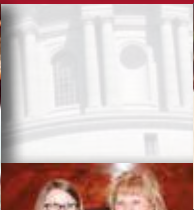
Dallas County



Hickory County



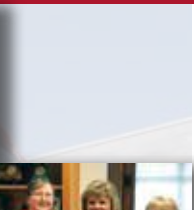
Laclede County



Pettis County



Polk County



St. Clair County

## Congratulations to Missouri's Newest Governor

Missouri has a new governor, and he is from our part of the state. Mike Parson is a lifelong farmer, a former sheriff, Missouri state representative, Missouri senator and lieutenant governor. He exemplifies how we live in rural Missouri, and his values are as pure and real as any you will see.

Governor Parson hit the ground running as the Show-Me State's 57th governor, and set out to do what he has done throughout his elected life: highlight Missouri's strengths, talk to as many people each day as he can and lead by example. In a short amount



*Pictured: Sen. Crawford, Brian Hammons (from Cedar County) and Gov. Parson*

of time, he has toured our state numerous times and shown us all the greatness of Missouri.

More than all of this, I am proud to say our governor still lives in the 28th Senatorial District. When he is not meeting with other leaders or hosting listening posts throughout of our state, he is home, working on the farm. To me, this says it all about our governor.

Thank you, Mike Parson, for your years of service and leadership to Missouri.