

STATE SENATOR SANDY CRAWFORD

2020 LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER



PROUDLY SERVING THE CITIZENS OF THE 28TH DISTRICT

Using Technology to Cut Through Red Tape

I am proud to report **House Bill 1655** crossed the legislative finish line and was signed into law by the governor. This legislation includes my **Senate Bill 578**, which sets up the framework to allow a notary public to approve documents online. Remote online notarization can be done using technology, rather than an in-person meeting. Given the ongoing pandemic, I believe this legislation is especially valuable. I spent many hours with stakeholders and the secretary of state's office to craft this legislation.

Pictured right: The governor and Sen. Crawford at the signing of HB 1655.



Helping Our Vulnerable Friends and Neighbors



Among the measures the Legislature sent to the governor is **Senate Bill 599**, a wide-ranging proposal that relates to banking and financial rules. Included in the bill are **Senate Bill 984** and **Senate Bill 654**, both of which I sponsored this year. My portions of SB 599 relate to protecting senior citizens and individuals with disabilities from being financially exploited, and it also makes some minor changes to the Missouri Family Trust Company Act.

Pictured left: Sen. Crawford and Missouri Senate staffer Alex Cypert, a resident of the 28th Senatorial District, conduct business on the dais of the Missouri Senate.

Easing Rules for Foster Parents

In my opinion, there were several legislative victories this year, including my **Senate Bill 653**. Most of this language is also in **House Bill 1414**. We have many great foster parents in the 28th Senatorial District, and throughout Missouri. Through this legislation, I hope to give these parents more flexibility as they welcome foster children into their homes.

Senate Bill 653 updates the "Foster Parents' Bill of Rights" and requires the Children's Division to provide written notification of these rights at the time a child

is placed with a prospective foster parent, even if the parent has yet to be licensed as a foster parent. Additionally, the division will provide full access to the child's medical, psychological and psychiatric records, including records prior to the child coming into care, at the time the child is placed with a foster parent.

Under this legislation, if a foster parent alleges a court failed to allow him/her to be heard, the foster parent could then ask a higher court to intervene.

Missouri's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021: Providing Needed Services During a Pandemic

This year will likely go down in history for any number of reasons. The COVID-19 virus presented a unique challenge for lawmakers this year. When the virus hit Missouri in March, we temporarily adjourned the legislative session, not knowing what to expect, or if we would be able to come back. Once we were cleared to return to Jefferson City, we had to work quickly to complete our work on the state's operating budget.

Upon our return to the Capitol in April, our state's economy had gone from one of the most robust in years to one that was greatly diminished, which meant having to start over with the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021. In the end, I believe we made the best use of limited dollars to craft a plan that ensures our state government remains open and able to serve the citizens of our state.



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

Visitors from the 28th District

1: Kim and Ken Weymuth, Sen. Crawford and the Weymuth's sons, Kyle and Kelsey, from Pettis County. Ken was confirmed by the Missouri Senate as a member of the University of Central Missouri Board of Governors.



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2: Thane and Suzanne Kifer from Polk County and Sen. Crawford. Thane was confirmed by the Missouri Senate as a member of the State Banking and Savings and Loan Board.



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3: Leadership Buffalo Day at the Capitol, including Sen. Crawford and Rep. Jeff Knight.



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Senator Sandy Crawford
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Other Legislative Successes for Sen. Crawford in 2020

Senate Bill 854 expedites state committee elections in each state senatorial district. This measure is included in **Senate Bill 631**, which became law this year.

Senate Bill 807 is a part of **House Bill 1768**, which modifies the powers of Neighborhood Improvement Districts to add telecommunication services.

Also, **Senate Bill 779** is included in **Senate Bill 551**. This legislation addresses insurance issues and revises the Missouri Auto Insurance Plan to help more people get car insurance when they couldn't before.

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Pictured, from left to right: Caleb Ball, 2020 assistant; Barbara Mustoe, chief of staff; Sen. Crawford; and Pam Bowman, administrative assistant.

