

2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE SENATOR
CALEB ROWDEN

BOONE & COOPER COUNTIES



19TH DISTRICT

SENATOR ROWDEN'S MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The wide-ranging reforms listed below represent some of the most significant legislation approved by the General Assembly this year. Thanks to the support of my legislative colleagues, these selected bills will become law later this year.

BUILDING NEXT GENERATION WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE

As technology continues to advance, it's critical that Missouri remains competitive. Current wireless infrastructure rules do not encourage economic growth. The next generation of wireless technology is expected to deliver service 100 times faster than what is currently available; however, this technology requires tens of thousands of small cell facilities to be deployed across the state.

The Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act, House Bill 1991, addresses the challenges facing the massive rollout required to improve our wireless infrastructure.

The small cell bill is expected to create more than 20,000 jobs and attract \$2 billion in capital investment, resulting in nearly \$4 billion in economic growth over the next few years. The new regulatory framework created by this bill is good for consumers, good for businesses and a good investment in Missouri's future.

EXPANDING THE "SAFE AT HOME" PROGRAM

Since 2007, the Safe at Home Program has kept survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, human trafficking or stalking safe by providing a designated address to use when creating new public records. These services keep survivors' confidential addresses out of the hands of their assailants.

House Bill 1461, which I sponsored in the Senate, expands this program to include victims of any crime who fear for their own safety, as well as children who live with the victim. Additionally, if a parent participates in the program, a court order releasing information about a child in a custody case will not release the participating parent's address.

PASSING THE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT

Missouri is on the verge of a prison crisis. With one of the fastest growing prison populations in the country, taxpayers face the looming burden of needing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to build and operate two new prisons.

In response, the Missouri Justice Reinvestment Task Force has spent the past year working with stakeholders throughout the criminal justice system to identify and implement evidence-based reforms. The task force's three main recommendations include:

- 1)Streamlined risk assessments that better match offenders with appropriate resources;
- 2)Expanded community-based services that divert individuals away from the prison system; and
- 3)Restructured probation and parole services that are more flexible and effective at reducing costly, ineffective prison time for technical violations.

The Justice Reinvestment Act will save Missourians money and allow resources to be focused on community-based mental health services, drug treatment and educational programs.

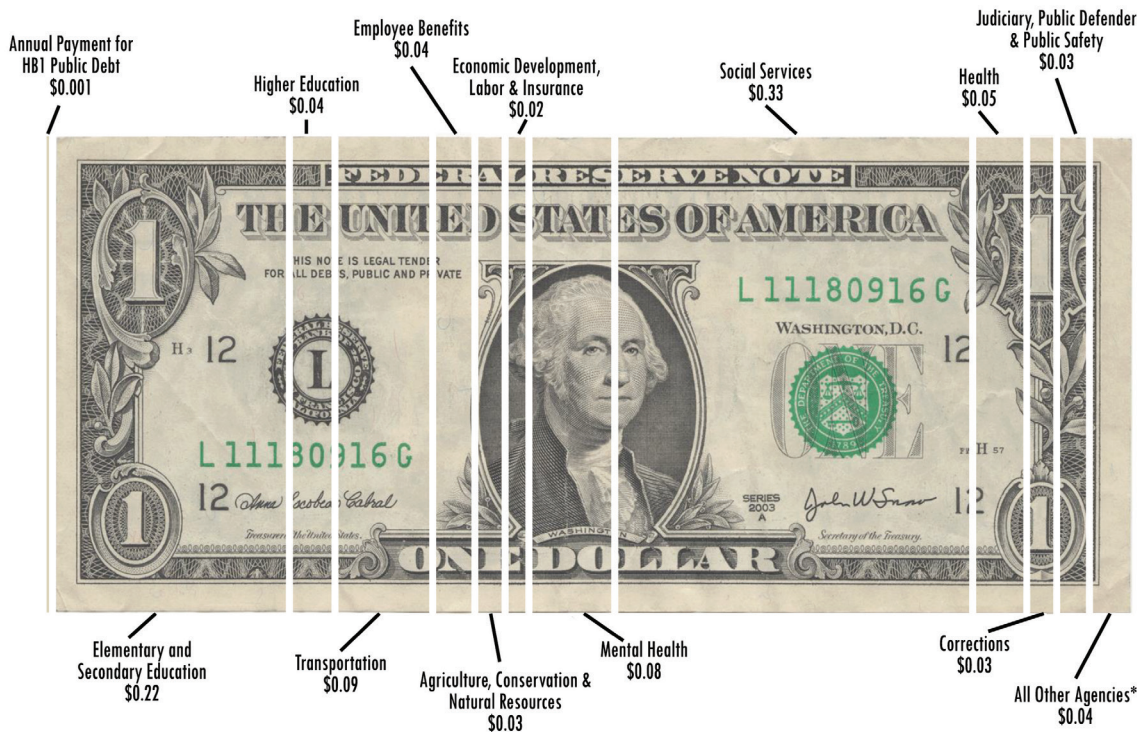
CREATING A FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER TAX CREDIT

First-time home buyers often struggle to save enough money for a down payment on their first home. House Bill 1796 allows first-time home buyers to create a savings account to be used to pay for eligible expenses like down payments, closing costs, appraisal fees, mortgage origination fees, inspection fees and other uses. Individuals who contribute to the account can deduct 50 percent of their contributions from their taxes, up to \$800 for an individual or \$1600 for couples filing jointly.

THE STATE OF MISSOURI'S OPERATING BUDGET

Passing a balanced budget is the General Assembly's only constitutionally mandated responsibility. The state's fiscal year begins on July 1, 2018, and ends on June 30, 2019. Missouri's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2019 is \$28.31 billion.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR FISCAL YEAR 2019 OPERATING BUDGET All Funds: \$28.310 Billion



HONORING HEROES WITH HIGHWAY DESIGNATIONS

The Missouri General Assembly approved two bills intended to honor several local heroes. Senate Bill 999 names a portion of I-70 in Columbia the “Highway Patrol Sgt. Benjamin Booth Memorial Highway.” Senate Bill 1000 designates a portion of I-70 the “Sheriff Roger I. Wilson Memorial Highway.” Sergeant Booth and Sheriff Wilson died in the line of duty in 1933 while attempting to apprehend two bank robbers. This legislation attempts to honor their memory and serves as a recognition for all who serve.



Capitol repairs are underway and will continue through 2020.
Learn more at capitol.mo.gov.

State Senator Caleb Rowden
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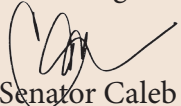


LEGISLATIVE REPORT ENCLOSED



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This legislative report is designed to inform you of several of the important issues my colleagues and I worked on during the past year. Included inside are explanations of several bills I passed into law this year, as well as an overview of the Fiscal Year 2019 state budget. My Capitol office is available to assist you, and I welcome your comments, questions and concerns regarding our state.


Senator Caleb Rowden



573-751-3931

SENATE.MO.GOV/**ROWDEN**