

STATE SENATOR SANDY CRAWFORD

2021 LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER



PROUDLY SERVING THE CITIZENS OF THE 28TH DISTRICT

Cleaning up Missouri “Clean Energy” Statutes

House Bill 697 makes much-needed reforms to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Act and strengthens consumer protections for those who participate in the program. **Senate Bill 105**, which I sponsored this year, was a companion bill to HB 697.

PACE provides financing for energy efficient projects on residential properties. The financing is attached to the property as a tax assessment. House Bill 697 addresses the program’s provisions, including setting limits on project costs and capping the amount of the loan, based on its assessed value. It also authorizes oversight by the Missouri Division of Finance.

These changes will bring better accountability to the program and provide homeowners with comprehensive information about their loan.



Senator Crawford presents her legislation on the floor of the Missouri Senate.

Easing Regulations on Missourians



Senator Crawford chairs the Missouri Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

Passed by the Missouri General Assembly and signed into law by the governor, **House Bill 604** includes numerous provisions relating to insurance. Within HB 604 are three bills I sponsored this year. **Senate Bill 29** reforms state law regarding certificates of self-insurance for certain religious organizations. **Senate Bill 310** updates state law regarding the Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund and how it deals with legal defense costs. These provisions were also truly agreed and finally passed in **Senate Bill 6**.

In addition, **Senate Bill 295** is also contained in HB 604. Known as the

Missouri Statutory Thresholds for Settlements Involving Minors Act, this legislation allows certain claim settlements involving minors to be settled out-of-court when the total settlement amount is \$35,000 or less.

House Bill 271 includes language from another bill I sponsored this year, **Senate Bill 27**. This new law provides county treasurers with access to important documents before they authorize certain payments, allows citizens to easily track the expenditures of local governments and gives local municipalities the ability to quickly bid projects or make purchases in certain cases.

Helping Our Local Business Owners

Senate Bill 106, which I sponsored, updates and modernizes several areas of state law concerning financial institutions. The new law streamlines compliance, reduces lending costs and promotes small business and small farm lending.

Senate Bills 153 & 97 level the playing field for Missouri businesses by charging out-of-state online retailers the same sales tax Missouri businesses are required to collect. I was one of several lawmakers sponsoring similar legislation this year, and I am proud to say elements

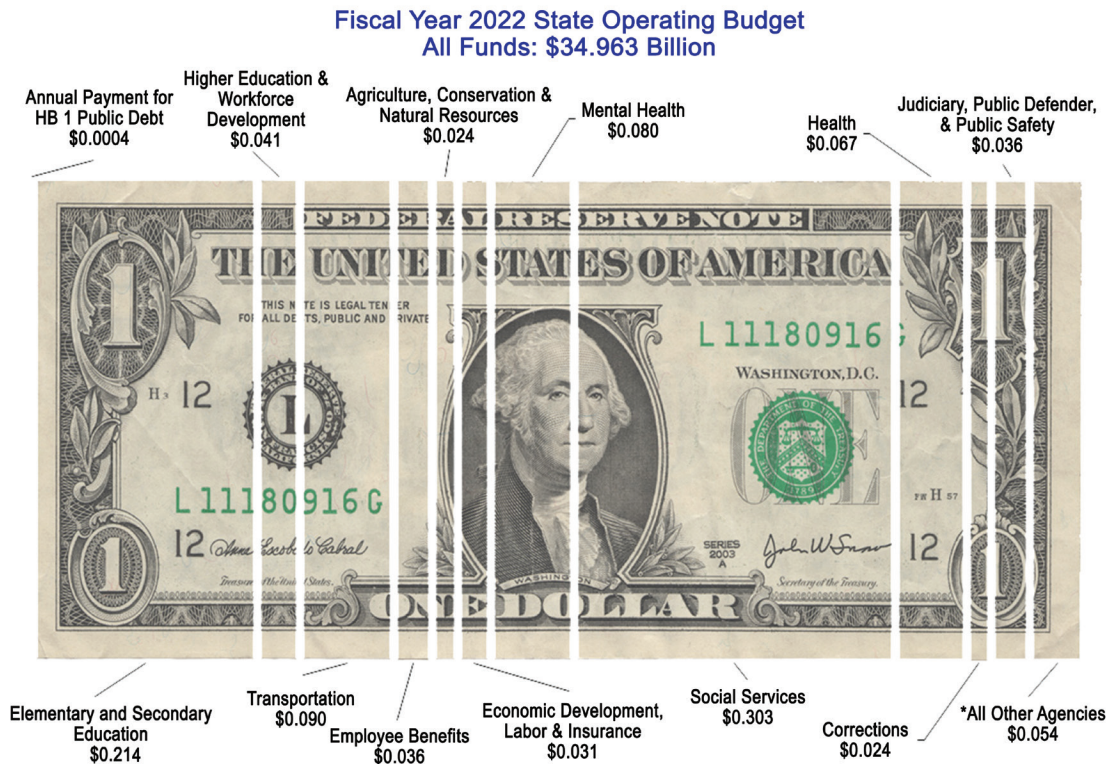
of **Senate Bill 287** are contained in this new law. This legislation also includes another measure I sponsored, **Senate Bill 161**. It clarifies the use tax ballot language for local communities. This measure allows cities or counties to place a use tax on a ballot and eliminate any disparity between what local and online retailers pay.

The new law evenly applies the rules to everyone, whether they are based in Missouri or anywhere throughout the country.

Missouri's Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget

Missouri's Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget fully funds the state's K-12 Education Foundation Formula. The FY 2022 budget also provides an additional \$20 million in school transportation funding, ensuring our students can safely make it to and from school. This is very important for the great schools throughout the 28th Senatorial District. The 2022 spending plan also includes funding for key infrastructure improvements throughout the state.

The budget includes \$15 million to improve low volume roads, commonly known as letter routes in rural areas. It appropriates \$20 million in federal funding to help meat processing facilities continue to operate safely during the pandemic. In addition, the state's rural broadband grant program receives \$10 million to help providers and communities invest in building broadband internet infrastructure in underserved areas of the state.



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

Highlights from the 2021 Legislative Session



The Elliott family poses with Sen. Crawford after Hollie Elliott's appointment to the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education on March 3.



Tabernacle Christian Academy visits Sen. Crawford at the Capitol.

Senator Sandy Crawford
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Other Legislative Successes for Sen. Crawford in 2021



Senator Crawford presides over the Missouri Senate during the 2021 regular legislative session.

House Bill 297 contains a portion of **Senate Bill 28**. This legislation makes changes to several rules that relate to higher education in Missouri. This new law changes the name of the Missouri Education Savings Program to the Missouri Education Program. The legislation also adds to the number of schools eligible to participate in the state's 529 College Savings Plan.

House Bill 273 modifies several provisions of state law related to professional licensure. The measure also includes language from **Senate Bill 263**, which I sponsored this year. This creates the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, which seeks to clarify state law regarding agents and amateur athletes in Missouri.

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