



STATE SENATOR
**RUSTY
BLACK**

REPRESENTING THE
12TH DISTRICT IN THE
MISSOURI SENATE



2023

**END OF
SESSION
REPORT**

SB 75: A New Commitment to Our Teachers



Of all the priorities Sen. Black had going into this year's regular legislative session, retirement topped his list. For the past six years, Sen. Black has worked to improve our state's many retirement systems.

Senate Bill 75 contains several provisions, all of which address issues with various systems in Missouri, including teachers and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

For Sen. Black, it is a huge benefit to allow retired teachers to come back into schools to work, whether it is in the

classroom, driving students to and from school by bus or working in any other position within Missouri's 520-plus school districts. The main objective was to give districts the tools they need to staff vacant positions with retired teachers.

Another concern was retirement programs for Missouri's sheriffs. Supporting law enforcement is important to Sen. Black, including those who have dedicated their lives to the service of their communities and the state.

The governor signed SB 75 into law on July 6. It took effect on Aug. 28. This is the conclusion of six years of work for Sen. Black, getting more teachers into our schools and helping those retired employees who have served in varying capacities — be it in the classroom or helping keep our streets safe throughout the Show-Me State.

SB 157: Let Professionals Do Their Work

Senate Bill 157 modifies licensing and collaborative practice arrangements for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Under this new law, an APRN may prescribe Schedule II controlled substances for hospice patients. Additionally, collaborative practice arrangements between the APRN and the collaborating physician may waive geographic proximity requirements, including when the arrangement outlines the use of telehealth and when the APRN is providing services in a correctional center. Collaborating physicians or designated physicians can be present with the APRN for sufficient periods of time, at least once every two weeks, to participate in chart reviews and supervision.

Previously, an APRN could practice with the collaborating physician continuously present for a one-month period when entering into an arrangement with the physician. This new law waives that requirement when a primary care or behavioral health physician

enters into an arrangement with a primary care or behavioral health APRN, the physician is new to the patient population and the APRN is familiar with the patient population.

This new law also includes numerous features for other licensing requirements in our state across a wide range of occupations. The goal is to streamline an otherwise tedious process, which benefits not only those professionals who do the work, but those who require their services.



SB 51: Easing Burdensome Regulations



The Missouri General Assembly passed, and the governor subsequently signed, **Senate Bill 51** into law this year. This new law allows physical therapists with a doctorate of physical therapy, or five years of clinical experience, to evaluate and initiate treatment on a patient without referral from a physician. The statute also removes unnecessary and burdensome regulations, which saves the

patient time and money. Senator Black is proud to have supported it not only in committee, but also all the way through the upper chamber this year. He has been working on similar legislation for the past few years in the Missouri House of Representatives, and is happy to see this idea finally make it to the finish line. This should benefit therapists and patients alike.

The Fiscal Year 2024 State Operating Budget

In late April and early May, the Missouri Senate focused on crafting its version of the state budget. Before this, the Missouri House of Representatives drafted its version. The budget is a crucial tool that determines how our tax dollars are spent and invested. As a blueprint of Missouri's priorities, it's important that the Senate deliberates on it carefully and thoroughly. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and your voice in the Missouri Senate, Sen. Black always keeps in mind the importance of fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency throughout this process.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH DOLLAR FISCAL YEAR 2024 TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET All Funds: \$48.579 Billion

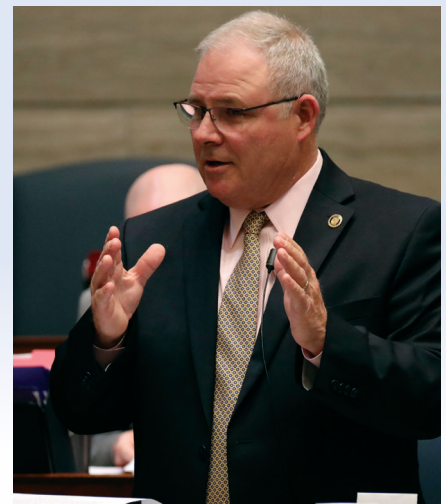


* Department of Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Statewide Real Estate

FY '24 Budget: First-Responders

A top priority for Sen. Black in the state's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024 addresses available treatment for PTSD for veterans and first responders. These brave men and women have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting our communities and country. As a result, they have been exposed to traumatic and life-threatening situations. PTSD is a debilitating condition that can have long-term effects on mental health and quality of life, making it difficult for these individuals to reintegrate into society.

Providing access to effective PTSD treatments, such as electroencephalogram (EEG) combined transcranial magnetic stimulation (eTMS), can help veterans and first responders reduce the symptoms of flashbacks, anxiety and depression, allowing them to function better in their daily lives. Furthermore, investing in these treatments for veterans and first responders can be considered a moral obligation.



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2023 End of Session Report

Inside:

- Details on Sen. Black's signature legislation for 2023, **Senate Bill 75**
- Learn about **Senate Bill 157** and how it pertains to you
- A look at Missouri's Fiscal Year 2024 **operating budget**



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Follow Sen. Black and his legislation:
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