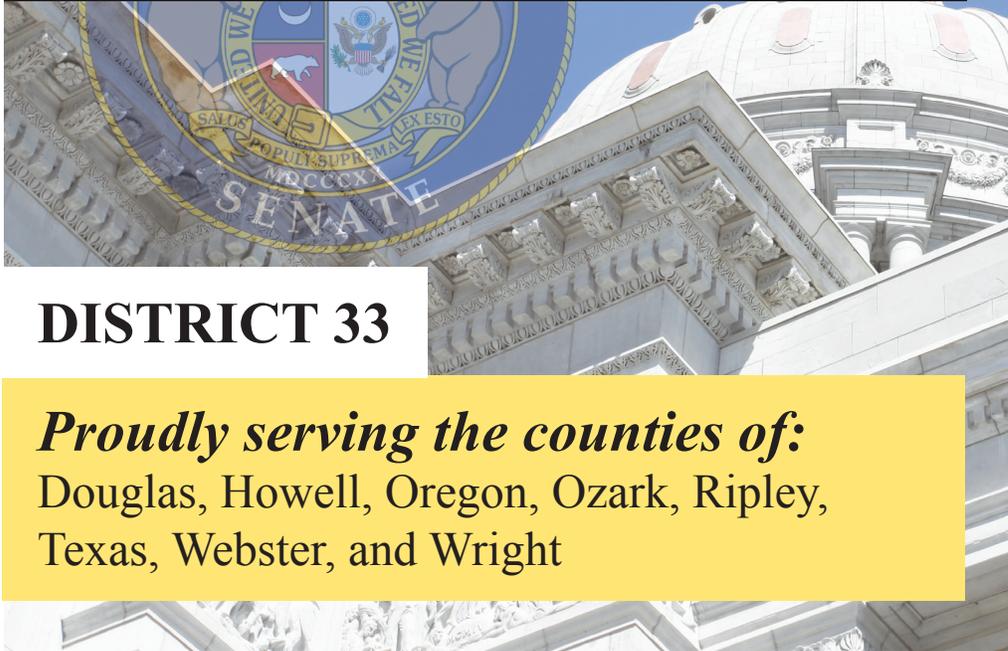


SENATOR MIKE CUNNINGHAM

2013 SESSION REPORT



DISTRICT 33

*Proudly serving the counties of:
Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Ripley,
Texas, Webster, and Wright*



Dear Friend,

The 2013 legislative session — my freshman term in the Missouri Senate — has come to a close. It's an honor and privilege to represent our great community in the Missouri Legislature. My job is to ensure your voice and concerns are heard in Jefferson City, and to endorse good policy that will benefit not only our area, but our fellow Missourians throughout the state. I appreciate your feedback as I continue to serve in the upper chamber of our state government.

This session, I supported a number of bills to help protect your cherished American freedoms and limit federal government intrusion. I endorsed initiatives to help keep your private information confidential, protect your Second Amendment rights, allow communities to continue serving meals at church events and potluck dinners, and lower taxes across the board so Missouri's economy and job market can grow and prosper. Although not all the legislation supported by the Missouri Senate was signed by the governor, matters regarding your liberties remain the focus of our work.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in Jefferson City. I take the responsibility with which you have entrusted me very seriously, and my hope and prayer is to move quality legislation forward to make Missouri an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. If you have any questions or concerns regarding matters in our area, or about how your state government can better serve you, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Cunningham

*“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”
- Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States*

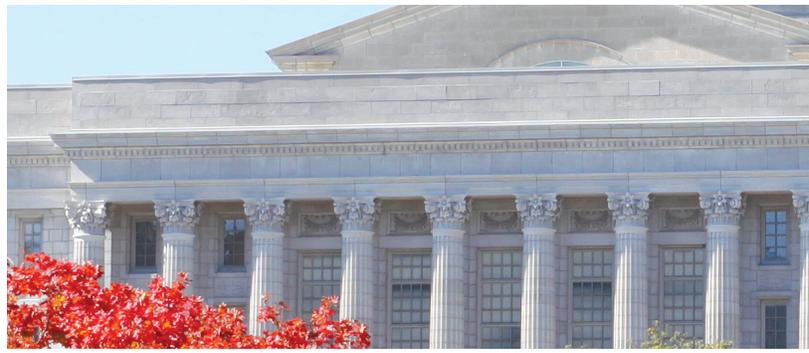
SENATOR MIKE CUNNINGHAM

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DEFENDING YOUR FREEDOMS IN THE MISSOURI SENATE



Reforming Workers' Compensation Laws

One of the Legislature's top priorities was addressing workers' compensation laws — a \$1.3 billion industry that affects nearly all of us, as the division administers the programs that provide services to workers who have been injured on the job or been exposed to occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment.

A bill passed this year and signed by the governor addresses the Second Injury Fund within this industry, which compensates injured employees when a current work-related injury combines with a prior disability to create an increased combined disability. **Senate Bill 1** creates a funding mechanism — a supplemental surcharge not to exceed 3 percent of net premiums from 2014 to 2021 — to help bring the Second Injury Fund back from its insolvency that arose from the recent recession. The bill also makes it clear that occupational diseases are exclusively covered under workers' compensation laws and creates enhanced benefits for Missourians with certain occupational diseases, including mesothelioma.

Senate Bill 1 was a victory for Missouri, but the governor did a disservice to the people by vetoing **SB 34**, which I sponsored in the Senate. The bill would have required the Division of Workers' Compensation to develop and maintain a workers' compensation claims database to be accessible to potential employers during a pre-hire period.

The bill would have allowed potential employers to view job applicants' information regarding workers' compensation claims in a more timely manner — as a result, they would've been able to make more prompt employment decisions and the Missourians hired could have received their paychecks that much sooner. In addition, the bill would have helped identify inappropriate claims against the Second Injury Fund; 10 years ago, a Missourian placed 34 claims against the fund. I will continue to work on legislation that will provide our state with much-needed improvements to our workers' compensation system.

Defending Citizens' Privacy

Throughout this year's session, you may have heard news regarding the Missouri Department of Revenue's (DOR) actions regarding your private information. This state department was scanning and retaining Missourians' private documents when they sought driver's and non-driver's licenses and CCW endorsements. The ripple of anger could be felt from every corner of the state when the people found out their privacy had been compromised. The Senate took swift action and passed a bill to protect your sensitive information and ensure state departments don't partake in unlawful actions.

Senate Bill 252, signed by the governor on July 1, states that DOR cannot retain copies of source documents presented by individuals applying for driver's or non-driver's licenses. In addition, DOR cannot use technology to capture digital images of source documents so that the images are capable of being retained in electronic storage in a transferable format.

Addressing Prevailing Wage

House Bill 34, which took effect on Aug. 28, marks the first substantial change to prevailing wage laws in 40 years. The bill will make prevailing wage more affordable for rural Missouri communities and will keep public projects — such as school improvement projects — more affordable, thus bringing more jobs to the state and bolstering our area and all of Missouri.

The bill establishes a new method for calculating the prevailing wage rate for third and fourth class counties, which will make projects more affordable and provide relief for taxpayers.

Education About Firearms

One of the most cherished liberties that our Founding Fathers established in our country's infancy is the right to keep and bear arms. Many of us have grown up handling firearms, whether it be for hunting or enjoying some time at the shooting range. Sadly, tragedies have occurred in our country involving dangerous, armed intruders. The federal government has headed some misguided attempts at ways to curb gun violence, but what we need is education — we need to be informed on what to do should a dangerous situation arise in Missouri.

Senate Bill 75, which was signed by the governor on July 12, allows each Missouri school district to teach the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program (or similar program) to first grade students. The program promotes safety and protection of children and emphasizes how students should respond if they encounter a firearm. Children do not use firearms during the instruction of this program. The legislation also establishes a program allowing school districts, if they so choose, to train school employees on how to respond to students with information about threatening situations and how to address a potentially dangerous intruder.

Advocating for Lower Taxes

A big priority for the Missouri Senate was initiating an across-the-board tax break for Missouri citizens. **House Bill 253** would have lowered personal state income tax and corporate state income tax by .5 percent over a 10-year timeframe and created a \$2,000 deduction for Missourians making less than \$20,000 adjusted gross income. The legislation also would've created tax amnesty and added language to relieve certain fees and penalties. The legislation was vetoed by the governor, and failed to reach the necessary votes for a veto override during lawmakers' annual veto session held on Wednesday, Sept. 11.



VISIT THE MISSOURI SENATE WEBSITE

Serving Our Congregations and Communities

Coming from rural Missouri, we understand the importance of helping out our neighbors and embracing a sense of community. It was brought to my attention that some health inspectors are prohibiting members of charity or community service groups from preparing food for guests because the food was not prepared in an inspected kitchen. This pertains to community and charity events such as potluck dinners, chili suppers, and church events where food is served. These types of gatherings are the heart and soul of our communities and need to continue their good work.

Senate Bill 432 would have allowed a nonprofit organization to prepare food in a private home or other area. Consumers would have to be informed by a clearly visible placard at the serving location that the food was prepared in a kitchen that is not subject to regulation and inspection by the regulatory authority. The nonprofit organization had the option of notifying the regulatory authority prior to the beginning of the event. If the nonprofit decided to notify the regulatory authority, that organization would have had to include information regarding its name; the date, time, and location of the event; and the name and contact information of the person in charge of the event.

Although the bill was not sent to the governor’s desk, I’ll continue to advocate for the positive efforts demonstrated by local communities.

Common Core and Missouri

Every child in Missouri deserves a quality education that will help them attain rewarding careers and a successful future. An initiative that has come to light recently is the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which are defined as an initiative to establish a single set of educational standards for K-12 students in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics. However, I have serious concerns about this program.

The CCSS were adopted without legislative approval, and the public has had little input regarding the initiative. Parents deserve to be informed about what goes on in their children’s classroom. The quality of the CCSS have also been questioned by educators and other professionals throughout the state. In addition, a Missouri news source noted that the federal government will be able to obtain individual student data due to the CCSS. After lengthy battles this year to protect Missourians’ privacy, we don’t need any more reasons to worry about the confidentiality of our private information — especially that of our children.

Senate Bill 210 would have allowed the public to become more educated about the CCSS. Unfortunately, the bill did not make it to the governor’s desk. The legislation would have required the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to hold public meetings in each congressional district on the CCSS. I will continue to advocate for more knowledge about the potential consequences of CCSS.

- Learn about bills sent to the governor.
- Read about how a bill becomes a law.
- Find news pertaining to the Missouri Senate.
- Research the past session archive.
- Read a glossary of legislative terms.
- Find information about legislative committees.

Health Care and Medicaid Expansion

This year, lawmakers discussed the notion of expanding Missouri’s Medicaid program, also known as MO HealthNet. The Legislature ultimately decided to study other options to help improve MO HealthNet, without federal government interference. Washington, D.C., touts that it will provide Missouri with federal funding for a certain timeframe if we expand Medicaid eligibility to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Although the federal government’s offer is tempting, we shouldn’t be quick to accept “free money” and act without thinking of the consequences. The flexibility of our state budget is limited and our federal government may not be the best business partner.

Missourians deserve quality health care, but a one-size-fits-all plan designed by the federal government isn’t the answer. We shouldn’t expand a broken program, which would weaken the quality of Medicaid’s existing services. Our state needs its own solutions.

Throughout the 2013 interim, the Senate Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation and Reform worked with the goal of reforming Medicaid by improving system efficiency, financial stability and delivery of care. Among other responsibilities, the panel will develop methods to prevent fraud and abuse in the MO HealthNet system and find solutions to provide more efficient and cost-effective ways to provide coverage for MO HealthNet participants.

My hope is that the panel will find quality, cost-effective solutions that will benefit MO HealthNet, without having to rely on shallow promises from the federal government.



While visiting the Capitol for their annual Legislative Day, several county recorders of deeds took time to visit their senators, including Sens. Cunningham (middle) and Parson (far right).

Senator Mike Cunningham

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Jefferson City MO 65101

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Senator Cunningham is always happy to meet with guests at the Capitol. Please call (573) 751-1882 to schedule a time to meet with the senator.



Senator Cunningham invites Amber Marlin to the dais in the Missouri Senate chamber.



Senator Cunningham with representatives of Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Day. From left to right: Jon Wilson, agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Gainesville High School; Tanner Trivitt; Sara Jo Cunningham; Sen. Cunningham; Kelsie Myers; and Tali Rose.



Senator Cunningham and members of the Missouri Retired Teachers' Association.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET

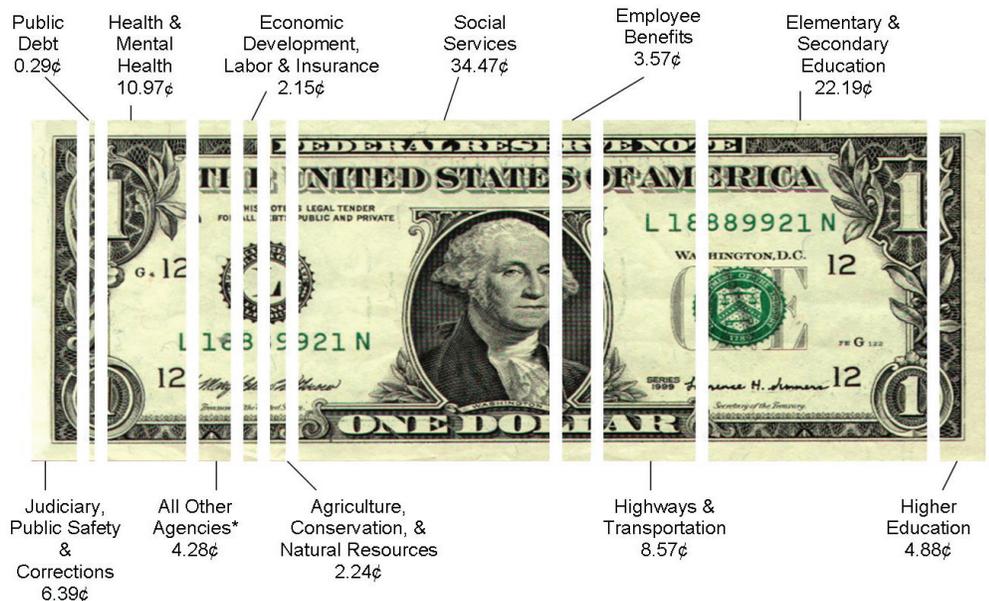
One of the Missouri Legislature's biggest tasks is sending a fiscally responsible and balanced budget to the governor for his approval. One day before our constitutional deadline, lawmakers sent to the executive office a budget plan for FY 2014, which began on July 1 and will run through June 30, 2014.

The Missouri Senate is dedicated to passing a balanced budget, unlike Congress, which has failed to even pass a budget in more than four years. The budget plan for our state is approximately \$25 billion and includes funding for important state services, such as K-12 education and agriculture resources.

An important aspect of the budget to note is funding for DOR. Upon the knowledge of how the state department and executive office were handling citizens' private information, funding for the Division of Motor Vehicles (a section of DOR) will last for eight months; the Legislature will review the status and policies of DOR once that timeframe is up at the beginning of the 2014 legislative session and determine additional funding at that time.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FISCAL YEAR 2014 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET
All Funds: \$24.801 Billion



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