

# 2013 Legislative Review



## Senator Scott Sifton Serving Missouri's 1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District

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### Missouri's 1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District

*"It is an honor to serve our community. I look forward to working for the residents of south St. Louis County and the inner suburban ring these next four years."*

— Senator Scott Sifton

## Working for the People of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District

Dear Friends,  
We have reached the conclusion of the First Regular Session of the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and it was remarkably busy in the Missouri Senate between the beginning of January and the middle of May, with the annual veto session following in September.

I was elected to the Missouri Senate in November 2012, after having spent two years in the Missouri House of Representatives. Before the legislative session began, I prefiled three bills:

- Senate Bill 38, which would establish a lobbyist gift ban for the members of the General Assembly and their candidate committees;
- Senate Bill 39, which would reauthorize the Missouri Homestead Preservation tax credit program and help senior citizens with their property taxes; and

- Senate Bill 40, which would prohibit insurers from imposing waiting periods for maternity benefits and require coverage to begin immediately from the effective date of the policy or plan.

You can see a full list of my legislation on the back page of this report.

We received our committee assignments in early January and then started the process of hearing bills in committee and debating them on the Senate floor. We had many important challenges during this legislative session and discussed issues affecting families throughout our communities and the Show-Me State.

I look forward to meeting whatever challenges the future holds and am ready to continue serving the citizens of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District.

Thank you.

## Duties of Sen. Sifton's Committees

### Appropriations

This committee examines measures pertaining to general appropriations and disbursement of public money in the state.

### Financial & Governmental Organizations and Elections

Lawmakers on this panel take up legislation relating to financial institutions in the Show-Me State; certain conditions of departments, boards, bureaus and commissions within state government; and matters regarding election law, among other pertinent issues.

### Veterans' Affairs and Health

Work on this committee includes considering measures pertaining to our state's veterans. The panel also considers the state's MO HealthNet medical services plan for certain eligible citizens, as well as other health-related issues.

### Ways and Means

Committee members review bills concerning the revenue and public debt of Missouri, the assessment of real and personal property and the classification of property for taxation purposes.



## Senator Sifton's Committee Assignments

- Appropriations
- Financial & Governmental Organizations and Elections
- Veterans' Affairs and Health
- Ways and Means
- Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
- Joint Committee on Legislative Research
- Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan - Board of Trustees
- Missouri Veterans Commission



It is truly an honor to serve on the Missouri Veterans Commission. We must do all we can for our veterans. This commission is dedicated to helping members of our retired Armed Forces in every possible way.

The MVC aids all veterans, their dependents and legal representatives by providing information regarding the rights of veterans and their dependents and assist them in accessing benefits through the state and federal government.



*“Veterans’ issues were among my priorities when I served in the Missouri House, and I will continue to focus on veterans’ issues in the Missouri Senate.”*  
— Senator Sifton



In addition, Sen. Sifton also serves on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, a panel that has the responsibility of reviewing administrative rules filed by state agencies for compliance with Missouri statutes. The committee is made up of five Missouri senators and five Missouri representatives.

Senator Sifton is also one of 20 members of the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. This panel provides a research and reference service on legislative issues, investigates legislative and governmental institutions and assists in the drafting of some legislation.

# Missouri's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget



The only constitutionally mandated duty of the Missouri Legislature is to pass a budget. Each year, lawmakers and state department heads come together to sort through hundreds of pages of documents in order to craft a spending plan that is fair to all Missourians and ensures services will continue to reach their intended destinations.

The budget process typically starts in November or December, when members of the Missouri Senate and House budget teams, along with members of the Governor's staff, meet to determine the Consensus Revenue Estimate (CRE)

for the next fiscal year. The Governor gives what is known as the "State of the State" address in late January. From there, both the Senate Appropriations and the House Budget committees gather and take testimony, both from the public and from state department heads. Then, the full House starts to debate the budget bills, followed by similar debate in the Senate. After that, a conference committee is formed, with members from both chambers coming together to iron out any differences. The results are approved by each chamber and sent to the Governor no later than 6 p.m. on the budget deadline, which was May 10 of this year.

Normally, the Governor signs the budget into law sometime in June. Missouri fiscal years start on July 1 and end the following June 30.

I am proud and honored to be one of the members serving on the Senate Appropriations Committee. We met daily from late January through April, going line by line through each page of the Governor's budget. This is a job that requires meticulous research and time. All of us on the panel realize how vital our job is, and we take it very seriously.



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## Senator Sifton's Legislation for 2013:

- Senate Bill 36  
Modifies provisions related to juvenile offenders who have been certified as adults and found guilty in a court of general jurisdiction (co-sponsor) - **Signed by the Governor** -
- Senate Bill 38  
Institutes a lobbyist gift ban for the members of the General Assembly and their candidate committees
- Senate Bill 39  
Reauthorizes the Missouri Homestead Preservation tax credit program
- Senate Bill 40  
Prohibits insurers from imposing waiting periods for maternity benefits and requires coverage to begin immediately from the effective date of the policy or plan
- Senate Bill 96  
Prohibits discrimination based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity (co-sponsor)
- Senate Bill 142  
Repeals a provision requiring corporate paid-in surplus distributions to be identified as liquidating dividends
- Senate Bill 207  
Allows electric corporations to recover costs for infrastructure replacement projects (co-sponsor)
- Senate Bill 230  
Establishes Chloe's Law which requires newborn screenings for critical congenital heart disease (co-sponsor) - **Signed by the Governor** -
- Senate Bill 284  
Changes the requirements for school anti-bullying policies