

2014 Legislative Review



Senator Scott Sifton Serving Missouri's 1st Senatorial District

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Missouri's 1st
Senatorial
District

Working for the People of the 1st Senatorial District

Dear Friends,
The Second Regular Session of the 97th General Assembly has come to a close. As always, when I am in Jefferson City, the people of South St. Louis County and the inner suburban ring come first. I am proud to be your spokesman in the Capitol and work on your behalf each year. Before the session began, I prefiled three pieces of legislation as my top priorities for 2014:

- SB 534 - Modifies provisions relating to student transfers, school accreditation, and charter schools;
- SB 535 - Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to designate accredited school districts to which an unaccredited district must provide transportation for transfer students; and
- SB 536 - Institutes a lobbyist gift ban for the members of the General Assembly and their candidate committees.

The school transfer issue is one of the most important that the Missouri General Assembly has had to tackle in the last 10 to 15 years. We have all seen what impact the current transfer law has had in the St. Louis region, and the same situation could soon be seen

not only in Kansas City, but in small towns throughout Missouri. Many hours were spent on the floor of the Missouri Senate crafting a bill that eventually made its way to the governor. In the end, my bill was passed along with eight others that are next going to the governor under the vehicle of Senate Bill 493. Getting a handle on school transfers must be done immediately in order to avoid dire consequences.

In addition, the time has come for real reform in the arena of gifts given to lawmakers by lobbyists. The control lobbyists have over members of the Missouri Legislature seems to grow each year, as the number of legislators-turned-lobbyists grows substantially with each new General Assembly. Unfortunately, that fight will have to continue next year.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to serve as your state senator. I look forward to another year working on behalf of South County and the inner suburban ring in our State Capitol.

Thanks,

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.

Transportation and Infrastructure

This committee is responsible for taking up all legislation concerning roads, highways, bridges, airports and aviation, railroads, port authorities and all other means of transportation; motor vehicles, motor vehicle registration and drivers' licenses; and infrastructure across the state of Missouri.



Committees, Appointees and Legislation

House Bill 1411

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.

I had the pleasure of handling a measure requiring anyone under 17 years old to have a parent or guardian's permission to use a tanning bed. House Bill 1411 now sits on the governor's desk.

Our goal is to provide an additional layer of security so that everybody can be safe and not have to worry about unintended consequences that could be permanent.

House Bill 1411 would require — prior to any person younger than 17 using a tanning device in a tanning facility — the parent or guardian of the person to appear annually in

person at the facility and sign an acknowledgment stating that he or she has read and understands the warnings given by the facility and consents to the minor's use of a tanning device at the facility.

I am happy to have been asked to handle this important piece of legislation in the Missouri Senate and am hopeful to see it receive the governor's signature. The bill provides another way to help empower parents and keep the younger people in our state safe.

Gubernatorial Appointees in 2014



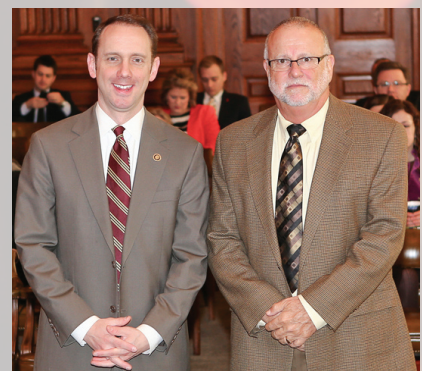
Senator Sifton and Gary Rogles, who was appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules.



Joseph Hunt, who was chosen for a term on the Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority.



Senator Sifton and Tracy Mulderig, who was chosen as a student representative of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

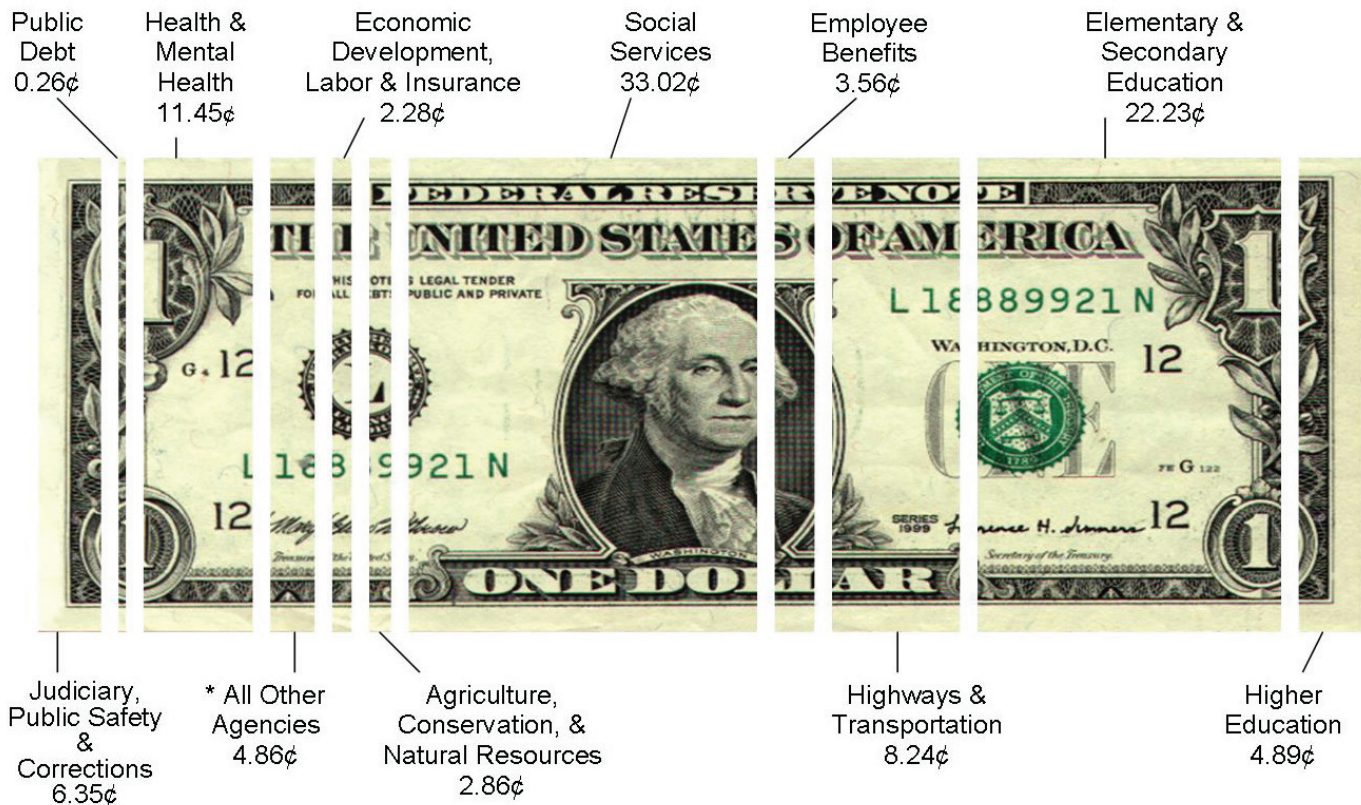


Larry Newcomb, who was tabbed as a member of the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board.

Missouri's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FISCAL YEAR 2015 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET
All Funds: \$26.379 Billion



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

Senate Bill 647

In response to the growing need for food pantry donations throughout the state, I filed legislation to raise the current cap on the Food Pantry Tax Credit from \$1.25 million to \$2 million. Missourians who make donations to food pantries may receive a credit of up to \$2,500 per taxpayer per year. Senate Bill 647 would allow individuals and corporations to utilize the tax credit cap increase starting next year.

Congress cut \$5 billion from the federal food stamp program just before the holidays last year. We've seen a dramatic increase in the need for well-stocked food pantries throughout Missouri. Pantries will need individuals and organizations to donate more food.

We need to bring to light how many Missourians rely on food pantries and the donations these important facilities take in. We must also consider how cuts to food stamps will affect thousands of families across our state. The credit increase passed as part of House Bill 1132, which now sits on the governor's desk.

Senate Bill 879

This year I filed legislation requiring that DNA be taken from all people arrested and charged with felonies in Missouri.

Missouri is one of 27 states that already requires DNA collection for certain felony offenses, such as murder and rape. Expanding DNA collection to all felonies will help catch more criminals. Fifteen other states have already taken this important crime-fighting step. Statistics from those states prove that taking DNA samples from a broader universe of suspects will help solve unsolved crimes. New Mexico alone found 118 new matches for crimes that would have otherwise gone unprosecuted.

Expanded collection will ensure local and state law enforcement agencies have access to the most accurate technology and information to identify suspects and, just as importantly, exonerate the innocent.

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Senator Sifton's Legislation for 2014:

- SB 534 - Modifies provisions relating to student transfers, school accreditation, and charter schools
- SB 535 - Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to designate accredited school districts to which an unaccredited district must provide transportation for transfer students
- SB 536 - Institutes a lobbyist gift ban for the members of the General Assembly and their candidate committees
- SB 558 - Reauthorizes the Missouri Homestead Preservation tax credit program
- SB 559 - Prohibits an insurer from requiring any waiting period for health insurance coverage for maternity benefits and requires coverage to begin immediately from the effective date of the health insurance policy or plan
- SB 560 - Changes the requirements for school antibullying policies
- SB 566 - Restricts the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from including certain data from neglected children and delinquent children in the aggregate data of a school district
- SB 643 - Modifies provisions regarding the publishing of the Missouri statutes by the Revisor of Statutes
- SB 647 - Raises the fiscal year cap on the Food Pantry Tax Credit from \$1.25 million to \$2 million (found within truly agreed to and finally passed HB 1132)
- SB 708 - Allows emergency workers to request, receive and submit absentee ballots
- SB 728 - Modifies class one election offenses
- SB 759 - Establishes the Missouri Parent/Teacher Involvement Program to provide grants to schools to contribute to the academic and social success of pupils
- SB 817 - Establishes the Missouri Immunization Registry
- SB 837 - Modifies provisions relating to self-service storage facilities
- SB 879 - Requires every individual who is 17 years old or older and arrested for any felony offense to provide a biological sample for DNA profiling
- SB 880 - Authorizes the Department of Revenue to enter into reciprocal agreements with the federal government and other states to recover debts from vendor payments and refunds
- SB 881 - Authorizes the Department of Revenue to seek administrative garnishment orders and specifies the procedure for a certificate of lien for delinquent use taxes
- SB 904 - Specifies notice requirements for zoning hearings on planned developments in unincorporated St. Louis County and requires the county to create an email notification system
- SB 984 - Modifies provisions relating to the management of dyslexia in elementary and secondary schools
- SB 985 - Grants St. Louis County and Christian County an additional associate circuit judge and circuit judge
- SB 986 - Decreases the membership of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights
- SB 995 - Exempts certain items from qualifying as unclaimed property
- SCR 25 - Urges the Department of Natural Resources to require groundwater monitoring of new and existing coal ash ponds and require clean up of leaking coal ash ponds
- HB 1411 - Requires an annual in-person parental consent for a minor younger than 17 to use a tanning device in a tanning facility