

From the Desk of:



Dear Constituent,

After almost five months of work in Jefferson City, the First Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly concluded on Friday, May 15th. I can honestly say I was both elated and disappointed. During this legislative session, I sponsored four bills that passed through the General Assembly – awaiting the governor’s signature – that are important to the state of Missouri and the St. Louis Area, and secure \$5.25 million in the budget for education, transportation, and community programs.

I was disappointed, however, that the Majority Caucus this session neglected to work on important bills such as Medicaid expansion and minimum wage. These issues in conjunction with the passing of the “TANF” and “Right to Work” legislation out of the General Assembly are all disappointments that will continue to negatively impact Missourians for years to come. Once again, I was honored to dedicate my time and effort to the cause of faithfully advocating for the people of the 5th Senatorial District.

I advertised these proposals in your local newspaper, so that my constituents could see my agenda for the session and show what bills have moved throughout the General Assembly that could be enacted into law that will affect their lives for years to come. Below is a list of what we were able to accomplish here in Jefferson City as I worked for the 5th Senatorial District.

SB 334 – Gives Harris-Stowe State University the authority to grant certain bachelor and graduate degrees in fields other than education. Harris-Stowe State University has been training teachers in the St. Louis area since 1857. In 2005, Harris-Stowe finally attained university status making them the second Historically Black College and University in the state of Missouri.

SB 156 – This bill would re-name part of State Highway 115 in St. Louis City as “Theodore McNeal Highway.” Sen. Theodore “Ted” McNeal, was the first African American Senator in the state of Missouri. He began promoting fair-employment practices for blacks in St. Louis. He led the passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act (1961); Supported the creation of the University of Missouri-St. Louis (1964); Helped in the passage of the state Civil Rights Code (1965). In 1970, McNeal retired from politics and accepted an appointment to the University of Missouri’s governing board.

SB 166 – Changes the name of the “I Have a Dream” specialty license plate to the “Dare to Dream” specialty license plate. This bill was a technical change to a license plate created to honor the life, legacy and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SCR 1 – Designating January as Sex Trafficking Awareness Month. A recent Justice Department study identified St. Louis as one of the top 20 U.S. regions for sex trafficking. According to Crisis Aid International, between 100,000 and 300,000 people are currently at risk of trafficking in the U.S. Just this summer, the FBI arrested 150 predators in 70 cities, including St. Louis. The roundup involved 105 children, all with different stories.

SCR 2 – Designating November as PICA Awareness Month. PICA is an eating disorder that involves the eating of inedible substances like paint and dirt. The dangers include digestion problems, serious infections and even death. These children require in-home care, psychiatric treatment and specialized daycare.

In addition to the five bills that I sponsored passing the General Assembly, I have also co- sponsored and added language to various bills that have made their way to the governor’s desk for his signature.

SB 5 - Modifies distribution of traffic fines and court costs collected by municipal courts. This bill would limit revenue from traffic fines that municipalities can use in their budgets. This would take the “Macks-Creek” percentage down from 30 percent to 12.5 percent for St. Louis County.

HB 42 – Modifies elementary and secondary education provisions (Student Transfer bill) The bill requires, beginning July 1, 2016, all public schools in the St. Louis City School District and Kansas City School District, including charter schools, to use a personalized learning approach to elevating the reading levels and helping the individuals that need additional academic attention. **This will ensure merit based grade level promotions and stop social promotions in schools.**

HB 522 – Designates certain highways and bridges in the state. This bill is what is called an “Omnibus bill”. Section 227.380 – Relates to the Theodore McNeal Highway. This bill was used as a second vehicle to get this language passed through the legislature.

SB 629 – Modifies provisions relating to the Police Retirement System of Kansas City and the Civilian Employees’ Retirement System of the Police Department of Kansas City.

A bill that I sponsored, SB 270 regarding Public Retirement Systems, would give charter school teachers and administrators a seat on the public school retirement boards in St. Louis and Kansas City. The language of my bill has been placed on HB 629 as a second vehicle to move through the legislature.

Finally, I want to thank the many constituents, organizations and others who communicated their concerns, ideas, positions and thoughts with my office during the legislative session. I particularly want to thank the many of you who journeyed to Jefferson City to personally express and advocate your feelings and beliefs. Your presence in the Capitol is effective. It truly makes a difference. Seeing and feeling first hand your spirit of determination to make our community better inspires me to remain ever true and committed to my pledge to the people “A Voice of the Voiceless.”

Thank you.

For more information on Sen. Nasheed, visit her Missouri Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov/nasheed or email her at Jamilah.Nasheed@senate.mo.gov.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol
Room 328
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
www.senate.mo.gov/nasheed

Phone Number:
(573) 751-4415