



CAPITOL TELEPHONE: 573-751-2204

E-MAIL:

DEAN.DOHRMAN@HOUSE.MO.GOV

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DEAN A. DOHRMAN
51ST DISTRICT**

Committees

**Higher Education, Vice Chair
Subcommittee on Student Debt Relief
Joint Committee on Education
Veterans
Special Committee on Employment Security
NCSL Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force**



STATE CAPITOL OFFICE
201 WEST CAPITOL AVENUE
ROOM 415-A
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101-6806

QUICK LINKS:

www.state.mo.us
www.house.mo.gov
www.modot.org
www.senate.mo.gov

**Capitol Report
July 13th, 2017**

I'll begin with the good news. The Department of Homeland Security has granted a Real ID extension to Missouri. St. Louis Public Radio (<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/missouri-given-extension-real-id-compliance-military-bases-nuclear-plants#stream/0>) reports that the extension will allow Missourians to access nuclear facilities, military bases (Whiteman AFB confirmed Missouri driver's licenses are now being accepted), and other federal installations with the driver's license we currently carry. (As you will recall, our current law allows for a Real ID compliant license or a non-compliant license.) The *Southeast Missourian* reports that the extension only covers the time period until October 10, but that the governor's office will continue to work with federal agencies to secure further extensions until the Department of Revenue can fully implement our new law (<http://www.semissourian.com/story/2427243.html>). Obviously, this is good news and moves the inconvenience meter in the right direction. I will keep you informed of future developments.

Concerning other specific news relating to the 51st District, you may have heard that the Missouri Department of Agriculture has placed a temporary ban on the use of dicamba. After more than 140 complaints of damage from those not using the product (dicamba is an indiscriminant broadleaf herbicide, so drift onto unintended crops is a problem), the department called for a temporary stoppage of its use. The Brownfield Network reports that BASF is working with the department to write new use directions for Missouri, and the department is working to solve the issues (<http://brownfieldagnews.com/news/basf-writing-missouri-use-label-dicamba/>). I will give further updates on this matter as they become available.

In other news, the second extraordinary session continues. As mentioned in past reports, the special session was called by the Governor to address health and safety requirements for abortion clinics. The legislation moved from the Senate, to the House, and then back to the Senate, where it currently awaits further action. However, the recent Kansas City *Star* editorial placing the cost at over \$1 million is inaccurate (<http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article160164789.html>). Legislators are only paid when they are attending a session at the rate of their per diem (approximately \$114/day). Most of the staff required at these sessions are full time, so they are no extra cost. Consequently, our first special session cost under \$70,000, and this session has barely exceeded the previous mark (http://www.columbiainmissourian.com/news/state_news/so-far-missouri-abortion-special-session-costs-top/article_ce6caaaa-8e8e-5c30-9eda-d997b623be79.html). The best estimate I can calculate is that the *Star* editorial writer is basing the cost on all legislators in attendance for a full 60 days – not fake news, just inaccurate and what I consider misleading.

Finally as promised, five additional TAFP'd bills are also summarized below. More TAFP'd bill summaries will follow in the weeks to come. Finally, before Veto Session in September, the governor's actions on all bills will be reviewed. However, we will begin this week's review with a reaction to some network news broadcasts, and some facts concerning the state budget.

Governor Signs State Operating Budget

The governor recently signed the state operating budget into law. The budget for the current fiscal year that began on July 1 includes record levels of spending for K-12 public education as it fully funds the School Foundation Formula for the first time. The budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor also includes \$6 million for the rural school broadband program; an additional \$12 million for Early Childhood Special Education; more than \$10 million to keep children out of dangerous and abusive situations; and over \$12 million to combat the opioid crisis.

While the governor signed the budget into law, he also announced more than \$250 million in budget restrictions. The restrictions are necessary because actual revenue growth has failed to meet the projections upon which the budget is based. Some of the restrictions include \$47 million from the Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund that is used to maintain government buildings; \$24 million from funding for higher education; \$15 million from funding for K-12 school transportation; \$10 million from funds to promote Missouri tourism; and \$30 million from the Department of Social Services, which is working to identify efficiencies in their department.

Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed Bills

HCR 4 (Signed by Governor 2/15) – Disapproves the salary recommendations of the Missouri Citizens Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials

In accordance with the Missouri Constitution, the Missouri Citizens Commission on Compensation is charged with setting the amounts of compensation paid to statewide elected officials, legislators, and judges. This bill officially rejects the suggested increases proposed by the Commission.

HCR 19 (Vetoed by Governor 6/29) – Authorizes the issuance of public bonds for half of the financing of a new conservatory building at UMKC

Missouri law requires the approval of the General Assembly in instances of certain projects that are to be funded by revenue bonds shall be secured by a pledge of future appropriations to be made by the General Assembly. This bill would have approved the UMKC project to be funded in part by revenue bonds secured by a pledge of future appropriations to be made by the General Assembly.

SB 8 (Signed by Governor 6/28) – Modifies the law relating to flashing lights on motor vehicles and equipment

This act establishes a five cent per gallon motor fuel tax on propane fuel used to propel motor vehicles, to be increased to seventeen cents per gallon by January 1, 2025. Owners and operators of propane-fueled vehicles may continue to apply for and use alternative fuel decals in lieu of paying the motor fuel tax. This act also changes what entity may designate the roads on which a 14-foot length limit applies; and who shall issue permits for the movement of sludge disposal units, pump trucks, well-driller's equipment, and utility wires, poles, and equipment; from the chief engineer of MODOT to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. Additionally, this act provides that agricultural machinery and implements may be operated on state highways between the hours of sunset and sunrise for agricultural purposes provided such vehicles are equipped with lighting meeting the requirements of RSMo 307.115.

Among other provisions, this act also changes lighting regulations for service vehicles. Under current law, motor vehicles and equipment owned by the State Highways and Transportation Commission or a contractor or subcontractor performing work for the Department of Transportation may use or display fixed, flashing, or rotating amber or white lights only when the vehicle is stationary in a work zone and while highway workers are present. This act permits use of such lights at any time. The act also permits such use of amber and white lights, as well as red and blue lights from dusk until dawn, by motor vehicles and equipment which are leased by the commission or a contractor or subcontractor.

SB 16 (Signed by Governor 7/5) – Exempts delivery charges from sales and use taxes

This act provides that usual and customary delivery charges that are stated separately from the sale price shall not be subject to sales and use taxes.

SB 19 (Signed by Governor 2/6) – Creates new provisions of law relating to labor organizations

Under this act, employers are barred from requiring employees to become, remain, or refrain from becoming a member of a labor organization or pay dues or other charges required of labor organization members as a condition of employment. Any person who violates or directs another to violate this act is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Moreover, any person injured as a result of violation or threatened violation of this act is entitled to injunctive relief and certain other damages.

It is an honor to serve the 51st District in the Missouri House of Representatives. Each week I will issue a capitol report to keep you informed of activities in Jefferson City. Any concerns or issues you might have are of great interest to me. I look forward to your input and thoughts, so please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to improve our state government and the quality of life for all Missourians. My telephone number is 573-751-2204 or you may contact me by email at dean.dohrman@house.mo.gov. Thank you for working with me to make Missouri a great place to live.

Serving the Constituents of the 51st District,



State Representative

If you would like to **unsubscribe** to this Capitol Report,
please contact: dylan.bryant@house.mo.gov