



Week of February 9, 2005

Senate Gears in Motion

This past Monday, my bill that would require people to prove they are U.S. citizens before they can register to vote was heard in committee. I drafted Senate Bill 50 to protect our right to vote, which is a precious privilege for us American citizens. It should be against the law for those who are in this country illegally to show up at the polls and cast votes that can undermine our safety as a sovereign nation.

In these times, we cannot afford to allow terrorist sympathizers and undocumented immigrants with anti-American views to use a ballot as a way to further their cause. It has been reported that at least eight of the 19 hijackers involved in 9/11 were eligible to vote in Virginia or Florida. Other states such as Ohio have relayed that potential political saboteurs entered our country illegally and managed to register to vote in the past few years. Who knows how many have marked the ballots here in Missouri. Not checking voters for legal citizenship degrades the reliability of our electoral system as well as leads to future instances of benefit fraud in other facets of the social sphere. I expect that this measure will gain bipartisan support and pass to the Senate floor for debate in the near future because my fellow lawmakers and I value the democratic process that has enabled us to serve the great state of Missouri.

A bill that will limit the sale of cold medications containing pseudoephedrine, an ingredient used in making methamphetamine, received first-round approval this week from

the Senate. The dangers of meth are undeniable, and this bill will curb the production of the dangerous drug by making it so that only pharmacists and registered technicians can sell the dry-tablet forms of the medicine, such as Sudafed. The bill also requires pharmacies to keep track of who purchases the medicine in a log that police can access. This is a step forward in Missouri's fight against meth and to ensure that intended cures for the common cold are not used in a harmful way.

Also debated this week was the first bill that was filed this session. Senate Bill 1 narrows the definition of injury in workers' compensation law so that employees are not compensated unless their job was the "prevailing" cause of the accident. The measure also limits benefits for employees when a work-related injury aggravates a pre-existing condition and eliminates reimbursement for injuries that occur while an employee is on his or her way to work. This bill would shield businesses from having to award compensation to undeserving recipients who are merely milking the system. After debating a number of amendments, **the senate gave first-round approval to the measure,** which now just needs a second passing vote to move the bill to the House for similar consideration. Joint passage places the bill on the governor's desk to become law.

The Senate Financial committee this week heard testimony on Senate Bill 270, the Invest-in-Missouri Act, which I am co-sponsoring with Senator Delbert Scott. The legislation would ease deposit-eligibility requirements so Missouri's dollars, which is your money as a taxpayer, will be kept in Missouri banks rather than being invested in out-of-state accounts. The act would also help Missouri banks loan money to Missouri citizens for starting up businesses, which in effect, creates jobs and boosts our economic growth. I have previously worked on the linked-deposit loan program under former State Treasurer Wendell Bailey, so I'm glad to be working with Senator Scott and current State Treasurer Sarah Steelman on this initiative to bring our money back to where it belongs—in our state.

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Sen. Larry Gene Taylor represents the people of Ozark, Stone, Taney, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald counties.