



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott  
28<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 221  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the  
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**Contact: Debbie Poire  
(573) 751-8793**

# Senate Tackles Wrongful Convictions, Virtual Schools and Illegal Immigration

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JEFFERSON CITY – Lawmakers gave first-round approval to legislation offering restitution to Missourians found to have been wrongfully imprisoned. SB 1023 makes eligible for compensation individuals incorrectly found guilty of a felony and later exonerated due to DNA evidence. Those who have been wrongfully imprisoned may receive \$50 for each day they were incarcerated after their conviction. The legislation also bars these individuals from filing lawsuits against the state or any political subdivision.

A bill giving a new look to public education received initial approval by the Senate. SB 912 establishes a virtual school program, to be administered via the Internet, to improve the quality of education for students with certain developmental disabilities. The virtual school would be subject to all laws applicable to Missouri public school districts, and the bill is not designed to replace traditional means of public education or home schooling. Instead, certain students with special needs would be able to use a computer at home to access lessons based on in-class instruction of students at the same grade level. An estimated 2 to 4 percent of the public school students would be enrolled in the virtual school.

Legislation making changes to state laws concerning illegal immigration was heard this week by the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. SB 1250 requires the state to ensure that undocumented immigrants cannot participate in family literacy, parents-as-teachers, vocational or tutoring programs. The state is also charged with prohibiting any form of financial assistance for non-citizens at Missouri public institutions of higher education.

Also under the bill, Missouri law enforcers are authorized to investigate, apprehend, detain, or remove non-citizens located in Missouri.

The Missouri Senate will reconvene on Tuesday, April 18. The Second Regular Session of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Missouri General Assembly runs through Friday, May 12.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us)

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair Counties in the Missouri Senate.*