



## 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**

# Veto Session

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JEFFERSON CITY – The governor of Missouri has 15 days to act on a bill if it is sent to him during the legislative session, and 45 days if the legislature has adjourned. If the governor signs a bill, then it is returned to the house it originated in with a message of approval, and then delivered to the Secretary of State.

If the governor vetoes a bill, it is returned to the chamber where it originated with the governor's objections. A two-thirds vote by members of both the House and Senate is required to override the governor's veto.

The Missouri Constitution requires members to return to the Capitol on "the first Wednesday following the second Monday in September" for the sole purpose of considering bills returned by the governor. This is what is commonly referred to as the "Veto Session."

This year the Veto Session begins Sept. 13. To date, Governor Blunt has vetoed line items in four appropriations bills.

In HB 1003, which funds the Department of Higher Education, the governor vetoed \$10 million in spending for the Access Missouri Scholarship Program, citing the failure of the General Assembly to pass HB 1865, which created the scholarship program.

In HB 1004, which funds the Department of Revenue, the Department of Transportation and the Office of Administration, the governor vetoed \$25,000 for the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, saying the appropriation is in conflict with state statute.

In HB 1007, which funds the Department of Economic Development, Department of Insurance and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Governor Blunt vetoed \$254,469 for the Office of Public Counsel, saying lawmakers failed to approve enacting legislation allowing the money to be spent.

Finally, in HB 1012, which funds most statewide offices, the judiciary, and legislative salaries and expenses, the governor vetoed \$155,760 for parking expenses, saying those expenses are the responsibility of the counties.

It is unlikely that any attempt will be made to override these four vetoes when lawmakers return to the Capitol next week for the annual Veto Session.

However, lawmakers will be busy attending committee hearings which are typically scheduled to coincide with the Veto Session. So far, ten separate committees have scheduled public hearings next week.

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.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).

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