

SENATOR ED EMERY

2013 SESSION REPORT



SERVING THE 31ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT:
Counties of Barton, Bates, Cass, Henry, and Vernon

Dear Friend,

It is my honor and privilege to represent our communities at the heart of state government in Jefferson City. I take this job of defending our constitutional freedoms seriously and do everything in my power to ensure our government works. Overregulation and intrusion by government can be burdensome, so what's best is for the government to step back and let the people thrive and prosper.

Every Missouri family deserves a shot at the American Dream; whether that may be to run a successful business, attend a higher education institution, or raise your children in your faith of choice. We're proud citizens of Missouri and this country, and we deserve the freedom to reach for our goals and enjoy the same liberties our Founding Fathers recognized and codified at the infancy of our country. As your elected official, my job is to protect your freedoms and ensure our community and state remain a great place to live, work, worship, and raise a family. If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact my Capitol office. Thank you and God Bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Emery".

Sen. Ed Emery

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."
— *George Washington, First President of the United States*

SENATOR ED EMERY

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PROTECTING YOUR LIBERTIES IN THE MISSOURI SENATE



Protecting Missourians' Second Amendment Rights

A constitutional liberty countless Missourians hold dear is their right to keep and bear arms, listed under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Many of us grew up learning about firearms from our loved ones and taking that knowledge to a shooting range or out hunting in Missouri's beautiful outdoors. Citizens also understand how important it is to be able to defend ourselves and our loved ones in threatening situations. Our country has witnessed tragic instances in which lives were lost due to the actions of evil perpetrators who were armed with firearms or other weapons. While our hearts go out to the victims and their families, taking away Missourians' rights is not an answer, nor is there any evidence it is a solution. Citizens need to know what to do in case they encounter an aggressor and how to handle themselves in a threatening situation.

Senate Bill 75, which was signed by the governor on July 12, allows each Missouri school district to teach the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program (or similar program) to first grade students. The purpose of the program is to promote safety and protection of children and emphasize how students should respond if they encounter a firearm. Children do not use firearms during the instruction of this program. The legislation also establishes the Active Shooter and Intruder Response Training for Schools Program, which allows school districts, if they so choose, to train teachers and school employees on how to respond to students with information about a threatening situation and how to address a potentially dangerous or armed intruder in the school or on school property.

Defending Citizens' Privacy

Missouri citizens were outraged this year when they found out the Missouri Department of Revenue went behind their backs and began collecting and sharing citizens' private information with entities tied to the federal government. Missourians' sensitive information was obtained when citizens applied or renewed driver's licenses and CCW permits. At a time when criminals have the potential to break into databases and steal private information and the federal government is gaining power with each passing day, Missouri lawmakers knew DOR's actions had to be stopped.

To be sure government officials and departments don't go beyond the scope of their power, a bill was passed (**SB 252**) to prohibit DOR from retaining copies of source documents presented by Missourians applying for driver's and non-driver's licenses. The legislation was signed by the governor on July 1 and took effect immediately upon receipt of his signature.

Prevailing Wage: Continuing Projects and Jobs in Rural Areas

As a senator representing a predominately rural area of our state, legislation that betters our communities is of great importance to me. A measure addressing rural Missouri and prevailing wage made it across the finish line this year. Prevailing wage establishes a minimum wage rate that must be paid to workers on public works construction projects in Missouri, such as bridges, roads, and government buildings. Currently, prevailing wage rates are inappropriate for rural areas of our state. Important public projects are being abandoned, thus eliminating jobs. **House Bill 34** establishes a new method for calculating the prevailing wage for third and fourth class counties. By streamlining prevailing wage laws, we can make public projects more affordable, thus bringing more work and jobs to Missouri.

Is Common Core Good for Missouri?

One of my top priorities during the 2013 legislative session was bringing the Common Core State Standards to Missourians' attention. The program — funded by special interests and supported by the federal government — is defined by certain organizations as an initiative "designed to circumvent the prohibition against the development of national education standards."

Many parents and guardians don't understand the negative consequences that could occur with this program. **Senate Bill 210** would have helped Missouri parents to better understand the program by requiring the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to hold public meetings in each congressional district on Common Core. The legislation, unfortunately, did not reach the finish line.

One of the biggest concerns regarding Common Core is the cost it imposes on the states. According to one report, estimates of the Common Core's phase-in costs have varied from \$3 billion to \$16 billion nationwide.

Another issue with Common Core is students' privacy. According to the report on Common Core, "...a 2009 stimulus bill earmark required state databases to begin tracking, among other things, students' religious affiliations, family income, family voting status, health care history, and disciplinary records in conjunction with student test scores. These records will span preschool to workforce entry and will be linked to Common Core tests."

Many people across the country aren't educated about Common Core State Standards, and we must question whether it is in the best interest of our state to spend this type of money.



Income Tax and Missouri

An important discussion held in the Missouri Senate this year pertained to the tyranny of taxing income. Income tax is one of the most troubling obstacles to economic prosperity for our state and Missouri families. It makes no sense to tax hard-working people who have the potential to bring so much good to the table for our economy. We must stop picking winners and losers in our job market and allow for healthy competition in the workplace.

The Missouri Legislature passed **HB 253** to address taxation in Missouri; however, it was vetoed by the governor. The legislation would have lowered personal state income tax and corporate state income tax by .5 percent over a 10-year timeframe and created a \$2,000 deduction for Missourians making less than \$20,000 adjusted gross income. The legislation also would've created tax amnesty and added language to reprieve certain fees and penalties.

We have seen success in our border states that have little or no income tax — Tennessee, for instance, has a zero percent individual income tax, has surpassed Missouri in population, and has lower debt per capita. The nine states in our country with no income taxes have outpaced the nine states with the highest income tax rates in population growth, GDP growth, and revenue growth.

Missouri needs to restore power and responsibility to the people and stop taxing success and prosperity. A limited government that serves the people and allows citizens control over their own lives is the best public policy.

Health Care and Medicaid Expansion

Another topic that received much discussion in the Legislature is the notion of Medicaid expansion, which is under the umbrella of the federal health care law. Although all Missourians deserve quality health care, expanding an already broken program would wreak havoc on our state budget and thin out Medicaid's existing services to its clients. In addition, Missouri is a state that prides itself on state sovereignty and not relying on handouts from a corrupt federal government. People sometimes forget that there is no such thing as "free money."

The upper chamber established the Senate Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation and Reform to help reform Missouri's Medicaid program (MO HealthNet) by improving system efficiency, financial stability, and delivery of care. A one-size-fits-all program designed by the federal government is not a solution for our state. Missouri needs to promote free market solutions to provide care that is high quality, yet affordable, for taxpayers.



VISIT THE MISSOURI SENATE WEBSITE

- Learn about bills sent to the governor.
- Read about how a bill becomes a law.
- Find news pertaining to the Missouri Senate.
- Research the past session archive.
- Find information about Capitol tours.
- Read a glossary of legislative terms.
- Find information about legislative committees.

Keeping Agenda 21 Out of Missouri

Many Missourians are now aware of the emergence of the National Blueway designations, which have caused many citizens concern regarding their property rights. Blueway designations are publicized as ways to help promote outdoor conservation, but the deeper connotation behind these titles is government control.

One proposed designation came close to home. The White River Watershed National Blueway was proposed to cover 60 counties across Arkansas and Missouri. People were worried about the federal government telling them what they could or could not do to their own property. Many of these individuals' livelihoods depend directly on how they use their land, whether it be for growing crops, raising livestock, or other means to earn their bread and butter. Thankfully, after complaints from the public and elected officials, the Interior Secretary rescinded the White River Blueway designation.

The National Blueway designations eerily resemble Agenda 21 — a sustainable development plan adopted in 1992 by the United Nations. To help protect citizens' property rights, **SB 265** was brought forth in the Missouri Senate and received bipartisan support in the Legislature; however, it was vetoed by the governor. The legislation would have prohibited the state and any political subdivision from implementing any policy recommendations that infringe on private property rights without due process and are traceable to the United Nation's Agenda 21 or any other international law or ancillary plan of action that contravenes the federal or state constitutions. I will continue to advocate for limiting government control with regard to Missourians' property.



Senator Emery visits with students learning about good leadership and state government.

Senator Ed Emery

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Senator Emery enjoys welcoming guests to the Missouri Capitol. Please call (573) 751-2108 to schedule a time to meet with the senator.



Senator Emery and fourth grade students from McEowen Elementary in Harrisonville, Mo.



Senator Emery and students from Rich Hill Youth Development Center.



Senator Emery and the Cass County Chamber of Commerce.

HISTORIC VETO SESSION

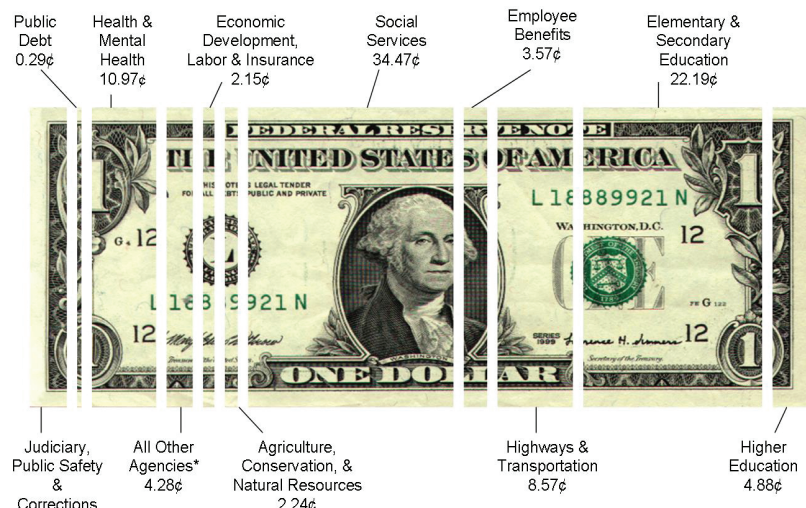
The Legislature met on Sept. 11 for our annual veto session, which was notable in that we ultimately overrode 10 vetoes, the most in modern history. Among those overridden was Senate Bill 129, which protects health care professionals who volunteer their time from frivolous lawsuits, and House Bill 339, which prohibits uninsured drivers from receiving noneconomic damages from insured drivers in lawsuits resulting from automobile accidents. Unfortunately, some of the most important bills fell short of the necessary votes for an override, including House Bill 253, which was the first major tax cut bill for Missourians in nearly 100 years, and legislation to strengthen Missourians' Second Amendment rights. I was disappointed these critical measures failed to become law this year. However, we will continue addressing these issues in the upcoming 2014 session.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET

One day before the Legislature's constitutional deadline, lawmakers sent the governor a fiscally responsible and balanced budget for FY 2014 (July 1 through June 30, 2014). The 2014 proposed budget included funding for all state departments, including K-12 education and higher education. Unlike officials in Washington, D.C., Missouri must pass a balanced budget, making it harder to spend money frivolously. Budgeting is one of the most difficult parts of a lawmaker's job, particularly in today's entitlement-minded culture. Dependency is encouraged by ambitious politicians empowered by their manipulation of the income tax to pick winners and losers. Below is a simplified picture of Missouri's budgeted priorities for FY 2014.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FISCAL YEAR 2014 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET
All Funds: \$24.801 Billion



*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate