District 4: St. Louis City and County

Senator Joe Keaveny's 2013 Legislative Report

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- Review Sen. Keaveny's sponsored legislation
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Missouri Boards and Commissions

Missouri citizens have the opportunity to improve the future of their state by joining a board or commission. Panels include (view all panels at **www.boards.mo.gov**):

- Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Education
- St. Louis City Board of Election Commissioners
- State Board of Education
- State Highways and Transportation Commission

Find Your Unclaimed Property

In the 4th Senatorial District, which includes St. Louis City and County, there is more than $12,206,000 worth of unclaimed property. According to the Missouri Treasurer's office, one in 10 Missourians has assets they need to claim. To search the Unclaimed Property Database, visit **www.showmemoney.com**.

Department of Natural Resources Energy Audit

Legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed into law in 2008 includes a Missouri personal income tax deduction for qualified home energy audits and the recommendations of those audits. Taxpayers who paid an individual certified by DNR to complete a home energy audit may deduct 100 percent of the costs incurred for the audit and the implementation of any energy efficiency recommendations made by the auditor. Visit DNR's website to learn more at **www.dnr.mo.gov**.

State Senator Joe Keaveny

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read this report detailing the priorities of the 2013 legislative session. This year, I advocated for expanding Missouri's Medicaid program, sponsored legislation to provide children with greater access to early-learning programs, and defended citizens from harmful proposals to increase taxes on hard-working citizens.

I'm happy to announce three of my bills have been signed by the governor, including legislation to modernize state services and provide greater efficiency in Missouri government.

If you have any questions pertaining to our community and government, please contact my Capitol office. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the Missouri Senate.

Sincerely,

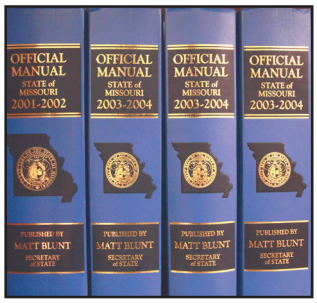
Senator Joe Keaveny

SENATOR KEAVENY'S BILLS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

The beginning of July marked the signing of three bills I sponsored during the 2013 legislative session. All received tremendous support in the Missouri Legislature throughout the regular session and will help modernize various state services.

Senate Bill 69 will improve efficiency when mistakes are found in administrative child support orders. The bill grants authority to administrative hearing officers from the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) to set aside or correct administrative child support decisions. Although such mistakes are rare, this bill helps make the process of correcting errors more proficient.

Senate Bill 99 makes the position of City of St. Louis Public Administrator an appointed position, rather than one in which the administrator is elected.



The bill also allows the Official Manual of the State of Missouri (known as the "Blue Book") to be printed again. The book is currently published online only. The state's Blue Book provides information about local, state, and federal governments, as well as stories, essays, and pictures that help preserve Missouri's heritage. You can view Missouri's Blue Book by visiting **www.sos.mo.gov/BlueBook**.

Senate Bill 100 increases protections for Missourians involved in bankruptcy proceedings. Funds accumulated in a health savings plan or received from an inherited individual retirement account (IRA) are now exempt from bankruptcy.

Promoting Seat Belt Use

Seat belts can reduce your risk of fatal injury by 45 percent in the event of a motor vehicle accident. In Missouri alone, more than 240 teens were killed in traffic crashes between 2010 and 2012. Of those killed, 78 percent were not using a seat belt.

To encourage more Missourians to buckle up, **SB 62** would have raised the fine for seat belt violations from $10 to $50. Research shows a strong correlation between increased fines and seat belt use. Studies also note that the average charges billed for an unrestrained Medicaid patient involved in an accident are $85,300, compared to $33,500 for a restrained individual.

Over the last three years, up to March 31, 2013, there have been 456 motor vehicle fatalities on Missouri roadways.

Before driving, visit the Missouri Department of Transportation's website at **www.modot.gov**. There, you can view the Traveler Information map, which will inform you of weather-related road conditions, flood closures, and work zone locations. You can also sign up for text alerts.

Open Enrollment in Health Insurance Marketplace Begins Oct. 1

Right now, families and small business owners can visit **www.healthcare.gov** (**CuidadoDeSalud.gov**) to prepare for open enrollment, which runs Oct. 1 through March 31.

Citizens may receive answers to their questions regarding the new Health Insurance Marketplace using the 24/7 call center: **1-800-318-2596**. Trained customer service representatives are ready to answer questions about the marketplace using 150 languages. TTY users should call **1-855-889-4325**.

Report Medicaid Fraud: Call toll-free at 1-800-286-3932

In April, an estimated 1,200 people packed three floors of the Capitol Rotunda to advocate for health care for 300,000 uninsured citizens.

Missouri Should Expand Medicaid

- The federal government will pay the entire cost of expansion for the first three years, gradually reducing its percentage of the cost of the program to 90 percent.
- Expanding the Medicaid program would have created up to 24,000 new jobs in the first year of the expansion.
- Medicaid expansion has the potential to generate $856 million in state and local taxes from 2014-2020 — more than enough to pay Missouri's share of the cost of expansion.
- Without Medicaid reform, the cost of providing care to the state's uninsured citizens at Missouri hospitals could nearly triple to $3.5 billion annually by 2019.

Senate Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation and Reform

I was appointed to the Senate Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation and Reform. The committee was established with the goal of reforming Medicaid by improving system efficiency, financial stability and delivery of care. Medicaid serves citizens most in need, including pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities.

I'm disappointed that the Missouri Legislature did not expand our state's Medicaid program this year, but I am hopeful this committee will determine a plan for the Legislature to help improve access to health care for our most vulnerable citizens and utilize federal dollars that belong to Missourians.

Expanding Access to Early Childhood Education

The Legislature's most important goal is job creation and economic development, yet not enough attention is focused on the people who will one day make up our workforce. Early education programs must become the state's top priority to ensure children stay competitive and are promoted to the next grade.

My sponsored legislation, **SB 133**, would have allowed a school district to receive state funding through Missouri's foundation formula for students between the ages of 3 and 5 who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The bill received debate on the Senate floor, but ultimately was not passed by the Legislature. Early education is my priority for the 2014 legislative session.

Senator Keaveny speaks at a rally at the Capitol supporting early education.

Why Focus on Early Education Programs?

- For every $1 invested in early care and education in Missouri, a total of $1.87 is generated in additional spending in the state.
- Without quality early childhood intervention, at-risk children are 25 percent more likely to drop out of school, 40 percent more likely to become a teen parent, and 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.
- In the absence of quality early childhood programs, colleges and businesses have to take on remedial training with students and employees, which is a waste of resources.
- If all Missouri children age 5 or under were given access to quality early-learning programs at a cost of an additional $1.9 billion, that investment would generate *$3.5 billion in total new spending in Missouri businesses.*

Examining the Cost of the Death Penalty

Senate Bill 61 would have required the state auditor to review the cost of sentencing a person to death versus a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Studies note that more than a dozen states have found that the death penalty is up to 10 times more expensive than sentences of life or life without parole. A study conducted in Florida noted that the state would save $51 million annually if the death penalty were abolished.

The American Bar Association highlights inefficiencies in Missouri's criminal justice system:

- Missouri is in compliance with only nine out of 95 best practices to ensure that innocent people are not executed.
- Several people in Missouri have been wrongfully convicted due to eyewitness misidentification, false confessions, and untruthful jailhouse informant testimony. Wrongful convictions cost the state money and innocent people are punished.
- Death penalty cases cost Missouri's underfunded state public defender system seven to 10 times more to defend than other murder cases.

I will continue to advocate for a more accurate and modernized criminal justice system.

Updating Criminal Procedures

Criminal procedures must be dealt with accurately and precisely for the sake of the victims and the accused in order to prevent mistakes and save resources.

My sponsored **SB 162** would have updated our criminal procedures system to reflect the best practices and addressed five key areas of the criminal justice system:

- Eyewitness identification procedures,
- Post-conviction DNA testing,
- Jailhouse informant testimony,
- Custodial interrogations, and
- Biological evidence procedures.

Missouri's Criminal Code

Although the Missouri Legislature was unable to take steps forward in revitalizing the state's criminal code, it'll be a top priority for the 2014 legislative session. The Missouri Criminal Code was enacted in 1979, and since that time, those laws have been muddled with continuous amendments, deletions, and additions.

Bills brought forward this year to update criminal code statutes and procedures need more time for consideration and are too important to be reviewed with haste. The measures brought forward this year were based on four years of work done by The Missouri Bar Criminal Code Revision Subcommittee, which aims to streamline criminal sentencing procedures and create a more effective judicial system in our state.

Health Fair Update

My annual Health and Back-to-School Fair commenced on July 20 and was a great success. More than 2,900 people registered at the fair, and approximately 85 booster seats were distributed to children in need (more than 700 have been donated so far this year). I applaud the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers for their continued partnership and great assistance in organizing the fair. Thank you to our vendors for participating and our guests for attending — you helped make an extraordinary day for our community.

Senator Joe Keaveny

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Jefferson City MO 65101

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Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan

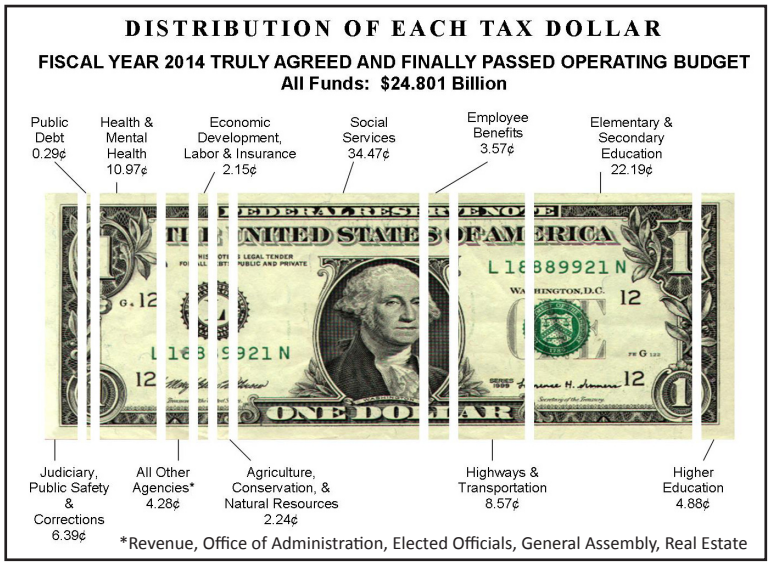
Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan — MOST — is a qualified tuition program established to help people save for the costs of education after high school. Owners of MOST 529 accounts are able to make a deduction for contributions of up to $8,000 per year per taxpayer from their Missouri state income taxes.

Several public universities in Missouri have created scholarship programs rewarding students and families who have taken advantage of the MOST 529 Program, including Missouri State University, Truman State University, and the University of Missouri system. Visit the treasurer's website to learn more at **www.treasurer.mo.gov**.

Updated Missouri Disparity Study

The last disparity study in Missouri was completed in 1996. Finally, the state will conduct an updated disparity study to compare the actual number of minority- and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBE) that exist in the state against the actual number of M/WBEs utilized in state government contracts. The study will help determine whether any barriers exist, due to discriminatory practices that impede M/WBEs from participating in state contracting opportunities.

I applaud the governor for including a $1 million appropriation for an updated study in his plan for the FY 2014 budget, which took effect on July 1 and continues until June 30, 2014. Visit **www.DED.mo.gov** to learn about business incentives available in Missouri.



Important Phone Numbers

State Information ..... (573) 751-2000
Dept. of Corrections (Probation and Parole) ..... (573) 751-8488
Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education..... (573) 751-4212
Dept. of Health and Senior Services ..... (573) 751-6400
Dept. of Mental Health..... (573) 751-4122
Dept. of Revenue..... (573) 751-4450
Driver's License Renewal ..... www.dor.mo.gov
Dept. of Social Services ..... (573) 751-4815
Dept. of Transportation ..... (888) 275-6636
MO Attorney General's No-Call List..... (866) 662-2551
St. Louis County Police Department..... (314) 889-2341
St. Louis Fire Department..... (314) 533-3406
St. Louis Regional Crime Stoppers ..... (866) 371-TIPS (8477)
St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD):
Emergency..... 911
Non-Emergency..... (314) 231-1212

*For more helpful phone numbers, check out Sen. Keaveny's community services directory at **www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny**.*

My Capitol staff and I are happy to assist you. Pictured above: Stacy Morse, Chief of Staff; Sen. Keaveny; Wilma Rowden, Administrative Assistant; and Matt Behnke, intern for the 2013 legislative session.

Open Enrollment for Missourians

The open enrollment period for Medicare is from October to December. I encourage you to access CLAIM, which answers questions about Medicare for Missourians. All services offered by CLAIM are free and confidential, provided by trained volunteer counselors who are happy to answer your questions about Medicare. During open enrollment, you can review your current Medicare plan and make changes, or choose a different plan that better suits your needs. Visit **www.missouriclaim.org** or call **1-800-390-3330**.