



STATE SENATOR DENNY HOSKINS

2018 MID-SESSION LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

With Missouri's unemployment rate being at its lowest in 17 years, Missouri has outpaced the rest of the nation in job growth by expanding employment opportunities in various industries. This legislative session, Sen. Denny Hoskins and his colleagues continue to focus on legislation that promotes and fosters economic growth. So far, the Missouri Senate has approved several bills addressing issues such as workforce readiness, tort reform, education, economic development, tax reform, energy and agriculture. The General Assembly's overarching goal is to make Missouri a more attractive place to live, work, and raise a family.

Senator Hoskins represents the citizens of the 21st Senatorial District, which includes Caldwell, Carroll, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Livingston, Ray and Saline counties. He was elected to serve in the Missouri Senate in 2016.

Economic development is one of the Senate's top priorities during the 2018 legislative session. Here is an overview of the bills that have passed the Senate and have been sent over to the Missouri House of Representatives for approval:

- **Senate Bill 549** - Reauthorizes the Missouri Works Training Program and the Missouri Works Program. This bill extends the programs until 2030.
- **Senate Bills 894 & 921** - Establishes a statewide STEM career awareness program and enacts new provisions of law related to computer science. These bills will incentivize more Missouri high school students to take computer science courses by allowing the courses to count toward graduation. The legislation creates a dedicated fund for the purpose of funding professional development programs relating to computer science.
- **Senate Bill 608** - Modifies provisions regarding the liability of property owners when criminal conduct occurs on their property. Under this measure, a business is only responsible for guarding against crimes on its property when it knows or has reason to know a crime is being committed or about to be committed.
- **Senate Bill 882** - Modifies provisions of the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program. This measure allows MO ABLE accounts to qualify for transfers without threat of a tax penalty and provides families of individuals with disabilities greater financial flexibility.
- **Senate Bill 564** - Modifies provisions relating to public utilities. This measure changes the way utilities are regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission and provides incentives to investor-owned utility companies looking to modernize its electrical infrastructure.
- **Senate Bill 547** - Modifies provisions relating to industrial hemp. This measure creates an industrial hemp pilot program that would allow for the growth, cultivation and study of hemp.
- **Senate Bills 603, 576 & 898** - Modifies provisions relating to virtual education. This measure establishes the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program and allows any eligible student to enroll in an online course of their choice, to be paid for by the school district or charter school they currently attend.
- **Senate Bill 773** - This legislation extends the nonresident tax arts and entertainment allocation for ten years, starting on December 31, 2020. The arts and entertainment tax is allocated to five cultural partners including the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund, Humanities Council Trust Fund, State Library Networking Fund, Public Television Broadcasting Corporation Special Fund and the Historic Preservation Revolving Fund.

Senator Denny Hoskins
201 W. Capitol Ave., Room 227
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone: 573.751.4302

Website: www.senate.mo.gov/Hoskins