



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

From the Missouri State Legislature

## Legislation would keep lawmakers from leaving state to avoid a vote

**Sen. Mike Parson, 28th District.** Last week in the Missouri Senate I introduced an important piece of legislation that would keep lawmakers in Missouri from leaving the state to avoid official votes, in case the situation presents itself. Senate Joint Resolution 22, a constitutional amendment which would, if approved by voters, require a member of the General Assembly to vacate his or her office if the member removes himself or herself from their respective chamber and leaves the state for the purpose of avoiding an official duty or vote.

It's unacceptable that elected officials, recently in Wisconsin and other states in the past, can and have avoided their duties by running to another state. Every state lawmaker has been sent to their respective Capitol to do a job, and when they flee to avoid a vote, they should lose their job.

Another one of my sponsored bills, Senate Bill 101, was given final approval by the Senate. The bill is designed to keep predatory contractors who prey on homeowners who need home exterior or roof work by prohibiting contractors from offering to pay, in any monetary form, a homeowner's insurance deductible as an incentive to encourage the homeowner to hire the contractor. The bill now moves to the House.

Tuesday, March 1, was the last day to file bills in the Senate. This week, I filed a series of new bills including:

**Senate Bill 374** — Establishes qualifications and appointment procedures for county recorders where offices of the court clerk and recorder of deeds are separate.

**Senate Bill 375** — Modifies provisions of the master settlement agreement regarding the refund of escrow payments.

**Senate Bill 376** — Modifies laws relating to the provisions of natural gas utility service.

**Senate Bill 377** — Extends the sunset of rolling stock tax credits.

One of my duties as your state senator is to serve on committees and boards that play important roles for the citizens of our state and the 28th Senatorial District. I was recently appointed by the Senate leader to serve on these following boards and committees: Missouri Fire Education Trust Fund Board of Trustees, Joint Committee on Legislative Research, Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security and Joint Committee on Wetlands.

If you would like to learn more about legislation filed for the 2011 legislative session, or any matter involving state government, contact my Capitol office at (573) 751-8793 or mparson@senate.mo.gov.

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**Rep. Sue Entlicher, 133rd District.** Last week began with Farm Bureau members visiting Jefferson City, hosting a Legislative reception for the Senators and Representatives on Monday evening. Attending this event were Susie and John Rummel, Peggy and

Lyndon Kenney from Cedar County and Jerry Sukovaty, Ben Lee and Trent Drake from Polk County.

The following bills were passed and perfected in the House this week:

**HCS HB 61: State Minimum Wage** — This substitute prohibits the Missouri minimum wage from exceeding the federal minimum wage and specifies that every employer must pay each employee who receives compensation in the form of gratuities a wage of \$3.63 per hour unless otherwise provided by law.

**HCS HB 76: Corporate Franchise Tax** — Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, this substitute reduces over a five-year period, the annual corporate franchise tax rate from one-thirty-seventh of 1 percent until no tax is imposed beginning Jan. 1, 2016. The annual tax liability of a corporation for corporate franchise tax for 2011 through 2015 is limited to the amount of the corporation's tax liability for tax year 2010. If a corporation did not have a corporate franchise tax liability in 2010 because the corporation was not doing business within the state or did not exist, the corporation's annual franchise tax liability cannot exceed the amount of the corporation's franchise tax liability for its first full taxable year of existence.

**HCS HB 136: Unemployment Benefits for Military Spouses; HCS HB 214, Human Trafficking; and HCS HB 276, 233 and 274: Unlawful Picketing of a Funeral.**

The last bill was debated at length due to some feeling we were harming the areas of free speech in America. Once again, always the question of do we rule with our heart or our mind, always trying to take care of both with what we do.

I received a stack of letters from Mrs. Mancuzo's

third-grade class, and was impressed as each student stated their arguments on why they should not have to make up any of the snow days. I believe we have a class of future state legislators in the making. I enjoyed every one of those letters.

Visitors to my Jefferson City office this week were Stephanie Legan Howard, Kathy Drake, Sue Webb, Betty Rendel, David and Nancy Hale, Paul Long, Kevin Krueger and Larry Pursley.

Contact Entlicher at 201 W. Capitol Ave., Room 405A, Jefferson City MO 65101, (573) 751-1347 or Sue.Entlicher@house.mo.gov.

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**Rep. Mike Kelly, 126th District.** This week we voted to phase out the corporate franchise tax in Missouri over a five-year period. I did not know what the franchise tax was until I was elected. I would venture most people in the state do not know, either. One of my predecessors, former Rep. Bubs Hohulin, confessed he did not know what it was until he asked one day as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He said the chairwoman asked if anyone else didn't know and about half the members of the committee raised their hands.

In Missouri, citizens and businesses pay real estate and property taxes. These are paid at the end of each year and the money goes to pay for things such as schools, libraries, hospitals, county road maintenance, and other local entities and services. In addition to paying property and real estate taxes, many businesses in the state pay the franchise tax. This is another tax levied on tangible property such as buildings and equipment.

We are doing everything we can to entice businesses to come to our state. This is

made more difficult when we impose taxes on businesses that other states do not. Kansas recently voted to phase out their franchise tax and have used that as a tool to lure businesses to their side of the state in the Kansas City area.

In addition to luring businesses from other states, we try to encourage existing Missouri companies to expand. This can be a hard sell if we tell them their expansion will result in an immediate tax increase. The money would be better used to construct new facilities, buy new equipment and hire new employees.

We also passed a bill limiting where and when protesters may picket at funerals in Missouri. The legislature has previously addressed this issue, but the laws were struck down as unconstitutional. I suspect if this measure becomes law, it will also be challenged. I understand the importance of free speech in our society. I also understand and agree with the necessity of the right for a family to grieve in peace without interference from severely misguided individuals.

Contact Kelley at 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 201E, Jefferson City MO 65101-6806, (573) 751-5280 or mike.kelley@house.mo.gov.

# BRIEFS

## Duck Creek, CMH on SBJ list

Duck Creek Technologies placed 10th and Citizens Memorial Healthcare placed 11th on the Springfield Business Journal's 2011 Dynamic Dozen list.

The 12 fastest-growing companies were chosen based on compound annual growth and ranked based on percentage growth between 2008 and 2010. Qualifying firms must have their headquarters within SBJ coverage area and have gross revenues of at least \$500,000 in each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Results were independently verified by business faculty at Ozarks Technical Community College.

Duck Creek, with 210 employees in Bolivar and 351 companywide, projected \$40.3 million in revenue in 2010, a growth of 31-percent since 2008. Duck Creek ranked fifth in 2009, second in 2007 and third in 2006.

CMH reported \$248 million of projected revenues in 2010, a 26.3-percent growth rate. The health care system has 1,600 employees. CMH ranked eighth in 2010 and 11th in 2010.

The awards were presented during a banquet Thursday, March 3, at the Gillioz Theatre in Springfield.

## Brown joins Central Care Cancer Center



Garry J. Brown, D.O., M.S., has joined the staff of Central Care Cancer Center in the Carrie J. Babb Cancer Center in Bolivar.

As a radiation oncologist, Brown is board-certified in radiation oncology and is a member of the American Society for Radiology Oncology.

He has knowledge and experience in the latest radiation therapy techniques, including intensity modulated radiation therapy, volumetric-modulated arc therapy, high dose rate brachytherapy and stereotactic procedures.

Brown is practicing full time in Bolivar and is now accepting new patients. Call (800) 592-5110 or 326-7200.

## Homeschoolers meet tomorrow

The Bolivar Area Homeschoolers will host nationally-known author Janie Cheaney from 10 to 11 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday) at the Bolivar First Baptist Church recreation building. Rollerskating, foosball and pool will follow. Donations are welcome.



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