

NEWS RELEASE

From the Office of
Representative Luke Scavuzzo
124th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2008

Legislative Update

At the end of this week we will be at the halfway point in this session. As of March 3rd, 1,044 House Bills have been filed with 49 of those bills reported “Do Pass” out of committee. Thirteen of those bills have been perfected, which means brought to the Floor for debate and approved, with twelve of those bills sent on to the Senate for their approval.

Some of the bills passed in the last few weeks range from Tax Credit for Storm Shelters to establishing the Drug Monitoring Act. The Drug Monitoring Act would have the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services keep a record of Missourian’s prescription drug use. It would also require pharmacists to maintain an electronic log of medicines containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Under the prescription tracking portion of the bill, the Health Department would have a record of a patient’s name, address and birth date, along with the types and amounts of drugs they are taking.

Everyone agreed that the part of the bill that would help fight the meth problem was good. Pharmacists do keep logs now on medicines containing pseudoephedrine, but most are not electronic logs. By using an electronic log system the names of the people buying those medicines would be available quicker.

The prescription tracking portion of the bill was controversial. Many members, along with myself, thought this could or would result in an unwarranted government intrusion into private medical information and increase the likelihood of such information falling into the wrong hands. We all know about losing our private information to hackers and having it sold by companies.

This bill narrowly passed by a vote of 84-69. This bill still has to receive approval from the Senate, so it has a hard road ahead.

We passed House Bill 1763 which changes the laws regarding petition circulation, including prohibiting the payment to circulators on a per-signature basis and prohibiting circulators from soliciting signatures for two or more petitions simultaneously. It also requires petition circulators to be Missouri residents. I hope this legislation becomes law, because we are getting too many out of state special interest groups coming into Missouri and trying to push their agenda by changing our state Constitution.

There have been about 120 amendments to our state constitution, with most of them coming in the last ten years. We need to make it harder to amend our State Constitution by making the vote on a Constitutional Amendment be a super majority vote. This would mean a change in our State Constitution and would have to be approved by at least 2/3's of the voters, not just a simple majority. We should not continue to play with a document so valuable to our state.



The fourth grade students from McEowen Elementary in Harrisonville were here to visit the capitol last week. They were very busy touring the Capitol, Supreme Court, Governor's Mansion and observing the House and Senate in session.

It is always an honor to have students from the district visit the capitol and for them to see how state government works first hand.

I truly enjoy serving the good people of the 124th Legislative District and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

If you need assistance or information, please don't hesitate to contact me. My contact information is: Representative Luke Scavuzzo, House Post Office, Jefferson City, MO 65101; my phone number is: 573-751-4072; my e-mail address is: luke.scavuzzo@house.mo.gov.

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