



Legislative Column for the Week of April 2, 2018

Greetings,

The Missouri General Assembly's 2018 legislative session is over halfway through, and the Senate has been a flurry of activity. A few weeks ago, our body passed a bill to raise the age at which young Missourians are prosecuted for criminal activity in adult courts, as opposed to remaining within the juvenile justice system. Currently, 17-year-olds are judged as adults. [Senate Bill 793](#) aims to change that, requiring those younger than 18 to be prosecuted as juveniles for most criminal offenses. The proposal awaits further action in the House of Representatives.

I supported this legislation, as did many of my Senate colleagues; Senate Bill 793 passed without a single vote in opposition. The unanimity of our approval is a testament to the necessity of this bill. Too often, adult prisons serve as training grounds for future crime. By allowing minors to be locked up alongside hardened criminals, we're making their rehabilitation less likely. It's vital we stop this vicious cycle before it even begins.

Sometimes a senator's job is to support good legislation, but other times it is just as important to stop bad legislation. A couple of weeks ago the Senate tried to adopt language altering [House Bill 1291](#) to limit the ability of Kansas City to raise certain local taxes beyond a specified amount. I was strongly against this measure, which would have stripped power away from the people of Kansas City. In effect, this proposal was an attempt to constrain the valid self-governance of one of our state's largest cities. I fought against this amendment on the Senate floor, ultimately defeating the measure.

I was happy to successfully champion an amendment to another piece of legislation, [Senate Bill 850](#), which is currently being considered by the Senate. The bill would change how Missouri keeps records of child abuse and neglect investigations, making the process more effective and responsive. My amendment, championed in the name of Adrian Jones, a victim of one of the [most horrific incidences](#) of child abuse in Kansas City, would make it easier for social service agencies to share information across state lines. This is important; just because an abusive guardian moves from one state to another does not mean that he or she should escape culpability for improper childcare.

Below, you will find a chart tracking the progress of every bill I have sponsored during the 2018 legislative session. These proposals are important to Missourians of all backgrounds. I look forward to discussing each and every one of them before the Missouri Senate.

[Sen. Curls' Sponsored Legislation for 2018](#)

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Senate Bill 779</u>	Modifies provisions of law relating to long-term care certificates of need.	Hearing conducted in Senate Health and Pensions Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 780</u>	Allows certain people to enter abandoned property to secure it, remove trash and graffiti and maintain the grounds, and provides immunity from civil and criminal liability.	Second read in the House of Representatives.
<u>Senate Bill 781</u>	Establishes notice procedures for potential adverse action against a State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts licensee who is delinquent on state taxes or has failed to file state income tax returns in the last three years.	Second read and referred to Senate Professional Registration Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 787</u>	Establishes the Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.	Second read in the House of Representatives.
<u>Senate Bill 855</u>	Requires the State Board of Education to assign classification designations to charter schools in the same manner as school districts are assigned such designations.	Second read and referred to Senate Education Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 856</u>	Modifies provisions relating to the Public School Retirement System of Kansas City.	Hearing conducted in Senate Health and Pensions Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 857</u>	Modifies provisions of law relating to the placement of children.	Second read and referred to Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 858</u>	Modifies provisions of law relating to investigations of child abuse or neglect.	Voted do pass by Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 930</u>	Modifies provisions of law relating to guardians ad litem.	Second read and referred to Senate Seniors, Families and Children Committee.

<u>Senate Bill 954</u>	Allows individuals found guilty of certain offenses of unlawful use of a weapon to expunge records relating to such offense.	Voted do pass by Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 965</u>	Modifies provisions relating to the "Hand-Up Program" and child care subsidies.	Hearing conducted in Senate Seniors, Families and Children Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 1029</u>	Modifies provisions relating to county assessment costs.	Second read and referred to Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 1030</u>	Increases the Jackson County collection fee on delinquent and back taxes from 3 to 5 percent.	Second read and referred to Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 1031</u>	Provides the Jackson County recorder of deeds may collect a \$2 fee on the recording of documents and instruments.	Second read and referred to Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.
<u>Senate Bill 1076</u>	Requires children under 2 years of age to be secured in rear-facing child passenger restraint systems.	Second read and referred to Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee.
<u>Senate Concurrent Resolution 45</u>	Designates the third week of every June as Pollinator Week.	Second read and referred to Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee.
<u>Senate Joint Resolution 32</u>	Requires certain statewide elected officials, members of the General Assembly and judges to receive cost-of-living adjustments if such adjustments are provided to all state employees.	Second read and referred to Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee.
<u>House Bill 1517</u> (Senate Sponsor)	Requires the attorney general and the commissioner of administration to submit to the General Assembly a monthly report of all settlements paid from the State Legal Expense Fund.	First read in the Senate.

Please know I value your input, and I invite you to visit my Capitol office if you are ever in Jefferson City. You may access my Senate website at senate.mo.gov/curls.

###