



Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR—DISTRICT 7

Volume III #30

July 25, 2011

VISIT MY
WEB-SITE FOR
ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

www.RepMikeLair.com

Room 400
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO
65101
PH: 573-751-2917
Fax: 573-566-9775

Email:

Mike.Lair@house.mo.gov



Keep up with the legislative process through the internet by visiting www.house.mo.gov

There you can view video clips, read legislation and hear the House Floor debate live.

We have gone from the proverbial frying pan and into the fire as the temperature and humidity hammer the Great Plains. Many of us exist from one air-conditioned space to another and gain a renewed respect for the fortitude of our agricultural neighbors and our pioneer ancestors.

Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate improved slightly and is almost half a point better than the national rate, but is still at an unacceptable rate of 8.8%. In an attempt to spur the slowly improving economic environment, the General Assembly leadership in the House and Senate have been hammering out an economic development emergency bill that is designed to do what we have pledged to do, and that is to create jobs.

A key element of the legislation is the inclusion of new accountability measures. They include capping the amount these programs can spend with legislative renewal or mandatory reviews required by sunsets of the four- to seven-year programs. The renewals will require the justification and economic impact of these programs to the full legislature or face automatic elimination. I believe any program that spends tax dollars should have those safeguards. The main job-creating provisions include:

AEROTROPOLIS, which is projected to create more than 20,000 jobs by turning St. Louis's Lambert International Airport into an international

trade hub for the export and distribution of Missouri and Midwest goods.

The Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act, which will attract high-tech jobs to our state.

The new technology Data Centers that are blossoming in surrounding states are creating high-end, well-paying jobs and must be incentivized.

New job training programs that will be coordinated through existing programs and Missouri's two- and four-year institutions of higher learning. To me this is the key to the entire package. We must be able to provide prospective employers with a work-ready and educated work force or all of the other aspects are for naught.

The Amateur Sports Event Attraction Tax Credit which will assist Missouri in attracting national sporting events and to be able to reap the economic benefits that they bring with them.

Kansas City Regional Funds, which will be used to keep the Kansas City area working and to stop the flight of employers to neighboring states.

There are several additional provisions to the package. A Tax Amnesty provision is projected to raise several hundred millions of dollars from previously uncollected state taxes. There are at least seven tax credit programs that will no longer be issuing credits. A list of twenty-four tax credits that will have sunsets and legislative reviews is included in the bill. Additionally, the ever-popular bill to return the St. Louis Police Department to city control

COMMITTEES:APPROPRIATIONS—
EDUCATION, CHAIR

BUDGET

RETIREMENT

RULES

JOINT COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION**QUICK LINKS:**HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVESwww.house.mo.gov

STATE:

www.mo.gov

SENATE:

www.senate.mo.gov**SERVING:**

CALDWELL

CARROLL

LIVINGSTON

CLINTON (PART)

has been included to gain support from a particular group of legislators.

This huge bill (approximately 200 pages the last time I saw it) has been touted as saving Missouri \$1.5 Billion over the next fifteen years. I truly hope those numbers are accurate and that it actually does create 20,000 jobs. It seems to me that each part of this bill has passed the House over the past three years only to die in the Senate. I sincerely hope that the necessary pre-session work is done this time to make it all work.

A Special Legislative Session seems likely and its extra cost will be held down if it runs concurrently with the mid-September Veto Session. We have been contacted by the Speaker of the House to ask if we will sign a petition to bring us back into session if the Governor refuses to do so.

Constituent service knows no season. This week we have been in touch with DESE, the Departments of Higher Education, Corrections, Transportation, and Health and Human Services to help 7th District residents. I was contacted by officials of three of my four counties and two cities about legislative problems and proposals. My fall calendar has begun to fill. If you have an event, a class, or a meeting that you would like me to attend, please contact Gregg or me.

As always, Gregg and I are at your service at (573) 751-2917, or mike.lair@house.mo.gov or State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 400, Jefferson City, MO 65101. Thank you for the privilege of repre-

senting the citizens of the 7th District. My website is www.RepMikeLair.com.

Mike Lair

