



Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR—DISTRICT 7

Volume III #43

October 24, 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.

The 96th General Assembly's first Special Session that began with such fanfare has extended its lackluster life for one more week in the hopes of reaching a compromise on tax credit reform. Since early September, the Missouri House has worked diligently to pass an economic development package that creates jobs and ensures the effectiveness of our economic development tools. Last Thursday, the House took another step toward this goal by passing HJR 1 with a large, bipartisan vote. HJR 1 is a proposed constitutional amendment requiring the General Assembly to review all tax credit programs every four years. If approved, it would require the Majority Floor Leaders of the House and Senate to propose a separate bill or concurrent resolution ending each individual tax credit program. Each bill or resolution is required to quickly move through the legislative process to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote.

All tax credit programs should be reviewed periodically to make sure they are working as designed. The programs deserve an up or down vote by the General Assembly. HJR 1 ensures that each program lives or dies on its own merit by requiring the House and Senate to vote on each program with a recorded vote by the fiftieth legislative day. This keeps one member of the General Assembly from killing a program for political reasons.

We are committed to providing communities with the tools necessary to

help us grow as a state while making sure each program has merit. HJR 1 provides us with a review process that ensures each tax credit program works as it is designed without giving a single legislator the ability to kill a vital development tool.

The MOSIRA and Facebook fix bills have been passed through both houses and signed by the Governor. I have discussed the Facebook bill often enough in this forum for you to understand my position. The bill, as it was passed, will require each school board to have a policy on electronic communication in place by March 1, 2012. Many school boards already had these policies in place and all boards had the power to impose one before the bill was passed. The Missouri Science and Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA) will be a valuable tool to encourage more companies in technology and science to start up and expand in Missouri; it very well may be the only job creator that will pass during the Special Session. Special interest groups fought against the measure because it did not include anti-genetic engineering language. That language was not needed to insure right to life issues, it already exists in the Missouri Constitution and is added to appropriations bills automatically each year.

In conjunction with Missouri's State Health Insurance Program, I am sponsoring two free in district discussions to assist Medicare Part D enrollment. The first will be held in Carrollton at

COMMITTEES:**CHAIR:**APPROPRIATIONS—
EDUCATION,**MEMBER:**

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)

the public library (1 North Folger Street), November 1 from 9:30 to 11:30. The second meeting will be at the Chillicothe Senior Center (607 West Old Hwy 36), November 2 from 10:00 to noon. All are invited regardless of age, but for those 65 and older the open-enrollment period is from October 15 until November 7. Many of our “experienced citizens” are unaware of their eligibility or unsure how to sign up. If you have questions about Medicare Part D or want help enrolling, please plan to attend one of the events.

Another gathering that should interest many 7th District residents is a Town Hall Meeting hosted by Missouri Farmers Care and the Sante Fe Agri-Leaders at the Martin Community Center (1985 South Odell Avenue) in Marshall on this Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The meeting is billed as a discussion of HSUS and its attack on Missouri agriculture. On a related topic, the Missouri Farm Bureau issued a warning on the continued regulatory onslaught targeting agriculture as well. This time it is the Department of Labor’s proposed changes to the child labor rules. The new restrictions will impact what youth can do on the farm and even limit hands-on training during vocational agricultural classes in high school. I have added to my website www.RepMikeLair.com a memorandum containing background information and a side-by-side comparison of the current and proposed changes. The DOL is taking public comment until November 1.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you who have sent well wishes on my recovery from knee surgery espe-

cially Jana Shira’s entire class from Central School in Chillicothe. One constituent’s advice was particularly valuable, “do your exercises – no pain-no gain.” Great advice.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the citizens of the 7th District. 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.

Mike Lair

