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# Missouri Legislators Tour 25th District Education

APRIL 11TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Missouri Legislators Tour 25th District Education

*Submitted by*

*Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

**Poplar Bluff, Missouri** - During a meeting led by Sen. Doug Libla (R-Poplar Bluff) on Friday, April 5, at Three Rivers College, Poplar Bluff R-I Superintendent Chris Hon [left] tells a group of Missouri lawmakers—including [to right] Sens. Joe Keaveny and Jason Holsman; and Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis—about the school district’s digital transformation. Each junior high student will be issued a MacBook Air in August, and high schoolers will receive individual laptops during the 2014/15 school year under the one-to-one initiative recently approved by the Board of Education.

Also present were Reps. Steve Cookson, Todd Richardson and Noel Torpey; former legislators Franc Flotron and Billy Pat Wright; officials from Three Rivers and SRG Global of Portageville; and other regional leaders.

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## Kander Announces Marriage Record Indexing Project

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APRIL 08TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Kander Announces Marriage Record Indexing Project

*Submitted by*

*Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander today announced that the Missouri State Archives is working in conjunction with FamilySearch to create a free index to more than three million of the state's marriage records, from the territorial period through December 31, 1969.

Volunteers interested in assisting with online indexing of marriages are encouraged to contact the Missouri State Archives volunteer coordinator [atarchvol@sos.mo.gov](mailto:atarchvol@sos.mo.gov) or (573) 751-3280. This effort will make the majority of Missouri's marriage records accessible to researchers around the world. Although the records are now available at the county level and on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives, this project will create the first free, online statewide index. Once accessible through the Missouri Digital Heritage website, the index will link to digital images of the actual records, allowing instant access at no cost.

"Marriage records contain a wealth of information for genealogists and family historians," Kander said. "The index created by this project will join the Missouri Death Certificates, the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Records and other very useful collections on Missouri Digital Heritage."

Marriage records typically include the names of the bride, groom, person officiating the ceremony and witnesses; the location and date; and occasionally ages, parents' names and other interesting details. They provide a significant amount of information for those trying to learn more about their family history and are particularly important in researching maternal family lines where maiden names are hard to determine without documentation.

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## Kent Hampton's Capitol Report April 8, 2013

APRIL 08TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Kent Hampton's Capitol Report April 8, 2013](#)

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, Manager/Writer SMT*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - As the warm gentle breeze and the bright sunshine have made its way, it appears the groundhog from Pennsylvania has been given a stay of execution. People are moving activities to the outdoors, many mowing yards, planting gardens, baseball takes front stage on the sport scene, and farm equipment in the fields are preparing for a new year. The color green seems dominant now as the freshness of a new beginning occurs.

Several items to make you aware of, my assistant Shana and her husband, Clay, just celebrated the arrival of a new baby daughter this week and all are doing well. I'm so fortunate to have Irene Foster filling the role and meeting the needs of our constituents of the 150th District.

### The Missouri Solution: Market-Based Medicaid Transformation

As we undertake the challenge of transforming Missouri's Medicaid system, there are several key components that are critical to making the system the high-quality safety net it was meant to be:

Encourage free-market principles and competition to lower costs. Give Medicaid recipients the power to choose the plan that best fits their situation.

Incentivize preventative care.

Promote price transparency to allow recipients to shop for the most cost-effective medical solutions.

Demand less federal oversight and more flexibility. Empower our state to adapt the program to meet the needs of Missouri's growing population and an ever-evolving health care industry.

Reaffirm Medicaid's original purpose: to serve as a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

Medicaid was never meant to provide healthcare to everyone. Rather than expand the pool of recipients who receive increasingly diminished services, we need to transform Medicaid into a system that ably provides the highest quality care to those who need it most.

 /images/Kent Hampton 1.gif

The bill, HB 700, would move private insurers into a position of greater competition to provide coverage for low-income Missourians. It would empower Missourians, turning recipients into participants who actively make health care

decisions and not wait until their health care needs require the emergency room

## **House Supports Military Veterans with HB 168**

When veterans return home from service, they often make the decision to advance their education in support of their careers and families. Unfortunately, our public school system has residency requirements that sometimes force our returning veterans to pay out-of-state tuition rates.

### *What Does It Do?*

HB 168 waives residency requirements for all separating service members who are applying to our public four year institutions. It also waives those same requirements for our 2 year colleges so that the service member will receive the “in-district” rate rather than the higher “out-district” rate.

## **Consent Bills Move to the Senate**

This week the Missouri House took up its consent bill calendar. Consent bills must be considered non-controversial, cost nothing to implement, and not reduce revenues. While these bills may not bring overarching reform, they represent Missouri’s goals, values and commitments. The following list is a small sampling of consent bills that have passed the House this session.

HB 334 exempts children working on family farms from child labor laws. Farming parents depend on their children to help out with the family business, and kids gain lifelong skills and responsibility. Agriculture is Missouri’s biggest industry and this measure reaffirms the legislature’s commitment to continue our tradition of family owned and operated farms.

HB 440 enables cottage food producers to keep on selling without health department inspections. This means that home-canned jelly and home-dried herbs, among other products, can continue to be sold at farmers’ markets, fairs, and to friends, without government intervention.

Currently, counties are only allowed to increase their budgets annually, but not decrease them. HB 451 allows counties to amend their budgets during the middle of the fiscal year, if revenues decline dramatically. This allows counties to responsibly act in times of economic crises. Counties have no power other than that granted by the state, and so we want to grant them this power to keep themselves afloat in tough times.

The Missouri Rice Council held its annual legislative luncheon and it was an honor for me to present them with a courtesy resolution. Pictured with me are Representative Donna Lichtenegger, Representative Dennis Fowler, Chris Barry, Gary Murphy, Representative Shelley Keeney, Representative Steve Cookson, Representative Todd Richardson, Greg Yielding, BJ Campbell and Alex Clark.

As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Missouri House. If you would like to discuss any issue, please call 573-751-3629. You can also email me at [Kent.Hampton@house.mo.gov](mailto:Kent.Hampton@house.mo.gov).

I look forward to hearing from you.

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## Gov. Nixon Signs Legislation to Help Charitable Organizations Feed the Hungry

APRIL 04TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

## Gov. Nixon Signs Legislation to Help Charitable Organizations Feed the Hungry

**Cape Girardeau, Missouri** - Gov. Jay Nixon today visited the Southeast Missouri Food Bank in Cape Girardeau to sign legislation which reinstates or extends several targeted tax credit programs, including those that encourage private donations to charitable organizations such as food pantries and crisis nurseries.

"Continuing to move our state forward means making sure we don't leave our most vulnerable citizens behind," Gov. Nixon said. "That is why I am pleased to sign this bipartisan legislation that will help charitable organizations across Missouri feed the hungry, protect children in crisis, and assist families in need."

Senate Bill 20 reinstates or extends seven separate tax credit programs, including incentives for contributions to food pantries, crisis nurseries, child advocacy centers, and pregnancy resource centers. A donor who contributes financially to a qualifying charitable organization can receive a tax credit worth half of that contribution. By leveraging private donations, these tax credits can decrease the need for more costly state services.

The bill also renews property tax credits for the surviving spouses of public safety officers killed in the line of duty and extends tax credits that help low- and middle-income Missourians make their homes more accessible to loved ones with disabilities. For families adopting a child with special needs, the bill authorizes a tax credit of up to \$10,000 for non-recurring adoption expenses. Senate Bill 20 also authorizes an incentive for businesses to create jobs in distressed communities.

The bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate and 157-1 in the House, was

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sponsored by Sen. Bob Dixon and handled in the house by Rep. Eric Burlison.

"As we extend these tax credits that work, we must also acknowledge the unfinished business of reforming those that do not," Gov. Nixon said. "The Senate has passed a bill that reins in some of the state's most costly and least effective tax credit expenditures, and I urge the House to do the same. Comprehensive tax credit reform will create jobs, strengthen communities, and deliver the best possible return on investment for taxpayers."

Gov. Jay Nixon also signed Senate Bill 10, which authorizes a refundable tax credit aimed at attracting amateur sporting events to the state.

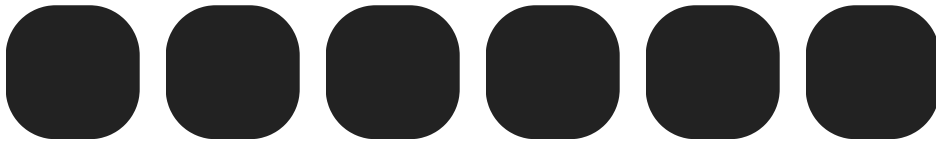
The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to promote food recovery; acquire and distribute food and household products; and provide community leadership and education

on issues of hunger and poverty in an effort to alleviate hunger in the region. Over 170 nonprofit hunger relief agencies in sixteen Southeast Missouri counties are members of the Southeast Missouri Food Bank's Hunger Relief Network.

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 04TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

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## Gov. Nixon Holds Easter Celebration for Children With Special Needs

MARCH 30TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

[Gov. Nixon Holds Easter Celebration for Children With Special Needs](#)

*Submitted by  
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

On Saturday (March 30), Gov. Jay Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon will continue a Missouri tradition by welcoming children from the Special Learning Center of Jefferson City, Kirchner School, Southwest Early Childhood Intervention and Vogelweid Learning Center to an Easter celebration. The event will be held in the



Rotunda of the Missouri Capitol, due to wet grounds from the snowfall earlier this week. Joined by their parents and family members, the children will enjoy an Easter egg hunt, music, a magic show and other fun activities. Again this year, the Easter eggs for the event are being provided by Sunny Bunny Easter Eggs, a program of Springfield Workshop, which employs Missourians with disabilities.

The celebration begins at 10:30 a.m., and the festivities will conclude about noon. Members of the media are invited to cover this event.

Saturday, March 30

WHO: Gov. Jay Nixon  
First Lady Georganne Nixon  
Children with special needs and their families

WHAT: Easter celebration at the Missouri State Capitol

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: First Floor Rotunda  
Missouri State Capitol  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 30TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

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