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Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 3, 2013

JULY 08TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 3, 2013

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

Celebrating Our Country's Independence

Although we look forward to the Fourth of July every year because it may mean firecrackers or eating hotdogs with our families and friends, we often overlook what the holiday truly signifies. So, as we celebrate our country's independence with barbeques, fireworks and parades, it is important to understand the sacrifices that were made so we could be a free nation.

On July 4, 1776, the visionary members of the Continental Congress voted to approve the Declaration of Independence. They recognized that by doing so, they were committing an act of treason against the British Empire. And yet, they believed so deeply in the "American experiment" -- the creation of a country where people were free and even guaranteed the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness -- that potential rewards far overshadowed potential risks. Such a promise had never been made before; and today, the United States is the most liberated country in the world.

Thomas Jefferson, our third U.S. president, was the Declaration's primary author. Perhaps the most famous and awe-inspiring line of the document says: "We

hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

We must not forget that the gift of freedom that has been handed down to us from our Founding Fathers and subsequent generations was earned, and continues to be earned, at a considerable cost. The courage shown more than 230 years ago lives on in our brave soldiers, who serve at home and abroad to protect the freedom our forefathers worked tirelessly to provide.

As we reflect on our history, it is important that we set aside our differences to celebrate this great country and honor the heroes who are serving and defending our freedom.

On this Independence Day, I encourage all Missourians to recognize the blessing of freedom that we have been granted and do our part to protect it for the next generation.

Remembering that freedom is not a guaranteed or written in stone, actions and attitudes impact the ability to continue to enjoy this way of life. So on this day celebrate with family and friends and remember our founding fathers for their commitment and sacrifices for a free society governed by their alliance through faith and higher authority.

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 . I look forward to hearing from you.

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Gov. Nixon Signs Four Bills Into Laws

JULY 07TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Gov. Nixon Signs Four Bills Into Laws

*Submitted by
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

Jefferson City, Missouri - Gov. Nixon has signed four bills related to taxes, elections and telecommunications.

Senate Bill 23, which modifies a number of laws relating to taxation, including extending the definition of "nexus" to level the playing field between Missouri businesses and out-of-state retailers.

The bill also addresses the Missouri Supreme Court's decision in *Street v. Director of Revenue* by replacing local use taxes with a local sales tax. Gov. Nixon had vetoed two previous legislative responses to the *Street* decision because the bills did not sufficiently protect Missourians' right to vote on tax policy. Senate Bill 23 addresses these concerns by requiring a public vote in local jurisdictions without a local use tax.

Senate Bill 99, which contains several provisions related to elections, including updating and repealing a number of obsolete election statutes.

House Bill 331 and House Bill 345, which relate to telecommunications, will provide the opportunity for expanded access and improved broadband and wireless service through

more rapid deployment of broadband and wireless network infrastructure.

LAST UPDATED ON JULY 07TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

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Jason Smith Meets With Kelcee Davault

JULY 03RD 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith Meets With Kelcee Davault

Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Advance, Missouri – Miss Kelcee Davault meets Congressman Jason Smith in Washington, D.C. Kelcee is from Advance, Missouri and was in Washington as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Youth Tour.

Each year electric cooperatives in Missouri sponsor essay contests to select delegates to travel on the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. These fortunate high school students represent their local cooperative on a whirlwind tour of the nation’s capital.

Over 1,500 students from all across America take part each year.

They tour museums, visit America’s most cherished monuments and even meet their elected officials. All the while they are learning about electric cooperatives and their role in the community.



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Jason Smith's Weekly Column

Jason Smith's Weekly Column

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

Missouri's 8th District - This week the United States Senate passed a bill that would provide a pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens. In my view, the Senate's immigration bill does not adequately secure our borders and it grants amnesty to people who knowingly break the law. I do not support the Senate amnesty bill and I am working to ensure it does not come to a vote in the House of Representatives.

The House has a much different approach to immigration reform than the 1,000 page amnesty bill passed in the Senate. The House is focused on securing our borders. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I voted for legislation that will provide a strong enforcement strategy and strengthen the security of our country. The Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act, also known as the SAFE Act, grants state and local law enforcement officials the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. It also strengthens national security, protects American communities from dangerous criminal aliens, improves visa security, aids U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in doing their jobs, and strengthens border security.

My view on immigration is simple and has not changed:

- *I am opposed to amnesty in any and all forms.*
- *Congress must secure our borders.*
- *I believe Congress must ensure that anyone who is here illegally is not receiving government entitlements.*
- *I believe a pathway to citizenship already exists for people who follow the law and special treatment should not be given to those who have knowingly broken the law.*

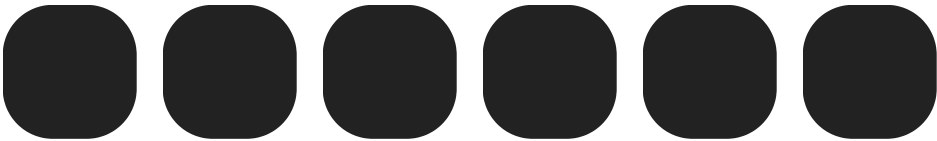
Like many of you, I am concerned about the U.S. Senate's controversial immigration bill. In contrast to the SAFE Act, the U.S. Senate's bill lacks sufficient border security and allows amnesty for illegal aliens. I oppose the Senate's

comprehensive approach to immigration reform. Please know I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to protect our Nation's borders, oppose amnesty for people who have knowingly broken the law and promote stronger immigration policy.

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Gov. Nixon Signs Several New Law Enforcement Bills

JUNE 30TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Gov. Nixon Signs Several New Law Enforcement Bills

Jefferson City, Missouri - Gov. Jay Nixon today signed into law several bills relating to law enforcement officers, local governments, tourism, pharmacy owners and transportation.

The Governor signed:

House Bill 418, which modifies the Kansas City Police Employee Retirement Systems to improve funded ratios and lower overall plan costs by creating a Tier II retirement benefit structure for officers and civilians hired on or after August 28, 2013.

House Bill 336, which protects Kansas City police officers and other police department employees' First Amendment rights by allowing them to engage in political activity when they are off duty and not in official uniform.

House Bill 722, which modifies the retirement system for the St. Louis Police Department by reducing the minimum years of service for officers to be eligible for disability retirement pension under certain circumstances and creating a three member medical board to review applications for disability retirement.

House Bill 404, which adds police officers to the list of workers who are eligible for workers' compensation benefits for medical conditions that are shown to have been directly caused by job-induced psychological stress.

House Bill 451, which allows a county governing body to amend its budget up to twice during the year if there is an unanticipated decline in revenues of two percent or more during the fiscal year.

Senate Bill 282, which, among other provisions, adds emergency medical technicians (EMT) to the list of those persons who may submit a report to the Director of the Department of Revenue regarding a person's competency to operate a motor vehicle.

House Bill 316, which extends the sunset on the funding formula for the Division of Tourism Supplemental Revenue Fund from June 2015 to June 2020.

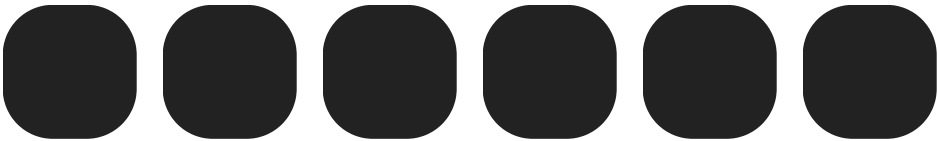
Senate Bill 126, which codifies in state law the rights of Missouri pharmacy owners to opt not to carry or maintain certain devices or pharmaceuticals within their particular pharmacy.

House Bill 349, which allows an individual licensing a vehicle for 12,000 pounds or greater to request a second license plate.

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