



State Capitol  
Room 224  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**PETER KINDER**  
Lieutenant Governor

Contact: Gary McElyea  
573-751-1088  
Gary.McElyea@ltgov.mo.gov

---

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 15, 2009

### **Lt. Governor Kinder Lauds 2009 Legislative Achievements**

*Recognizes responsible fiscal management by legislators*

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder lauded the Missouri General Assembly today for their work in passing important legislation to benefit seniors, veterans, public safety, tourism and education in Missouri. Today marked the close of the 2009 legislative session.

“Despite a weakening economy and challenging circumstances, legislators worked tirelessly to pass a sound fiscal budget on time while passing new legislation to help hard working Missourians,” said Lt. Governor Kinder. “This year we did see setbacks in funding for home delivered meals. But even with a weakening economy we were able to keep funding close to last year’s level.”

During the budget process, Lt. Governor Kinder was the only statewide elected official that offered an operating budget cut of 10% for the 2010 fiscal year.

Lt. Governor Kinder serves as the Official Senior Advocate for the State of Missouri. He is a member of the Missouri Development Finance Board, and also chairs the Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Tourism Commission.

Below is a summary of priority accomplishments from Lt. Governor Kinder’s 2009 legislative goals:

-MORE-

## **SENIORS**

### HB 62 – Strengthens laws relating to financial exploitation of seniors (Rep. Scott Lipke)

This act states that any person convicted of criminal securities fraud will be fined up to \$1 million, imprisoned for up to 10 years, or both. If the violation was committed against an elderly or disabled person, the fine shall not be less than \$50,000. An additional civil penalty of up to \$5,000 may be imposed for each violation against an elderly or disabled person.

### SB 1 – Established new requirements for preneed funeral contracts (Sen. Delbert Scott)

In 2008, following reports of preneed funeral contract terms not being met, Lt. Governor Kinder joined Gov. Blunt in requesting oversight of the preneed funeral industry. This bill would create new laws and statutes to regulate the preneed funeral contract industry in Missouri. This act will help protect consumers from fraud and protect their investments.

### HB 272 – Creates the Alzheimer’s State Plan Task Force (Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal)

This bill would establish the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force to assess the impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia on residents of Missouri. The task force will examine existing services and resources for individuals with dementia, their families, and caregivers and will develop recommendations. The task force will be chaired by Lt. Governor Kinder, the official senior advocate of Missouri.

## **TOURISM**

### HB 7 – Division of Tourism Budget (Rep. Allen Icet)

The budget for the Division of Tourism will be maintained at nearly \$24 million, the largest budget the division has seen. This will help grow the marketing programs to help promote the state as a world class tourism destination.

## **ECONOMY**

### SB 313 – Creates transparency for federal stimulus funds (Sen. Gary Nodler)

This act creates two separate funds, the Federal Budget Stabilization Fund and the Federal Stimulus Fund, within the state treasury to receive and retain funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These funds will help provide Missourians with transparency on how federal stimulus dollars are being used.

### HCR 5 – Rejects pay increases for state legislators (Rep. Mike McGhee)

The Missouri General Assembly voted to reject pay increase normally made automatically by a vote of the Missouri Citizens' Commission on Compensation of Elected Officials. With the state's current economic situation, lawmakers felt it was unacceptable to take pay raises while hard working Missourians are out of work.

HB 22 – Funding for the METRO transit system of St. Louis (Rep. Allen Icet)

This bill will provide \$12 million in funding for the transit system of St. Louis. Due to budget shortfalls, over 500 METRO employees were laid off in 2009. This funding will help restore many routes while creating new jobs. The restorations of these routes are critical for many disabled and handicapped residents in St. Louis. The improved METRO routes will also help employees reach their places of employment in St. Louis County.

HB 22 – Funding for the China Hub Export Center (Rep. Allen Icet)

This bill will provide \$12 million in funding for a direct export hub to for U.S. / China trade relations. The hub will be built at Lambert Airport in St. Louis and will help foster trade exports from Missouri manufactures directly to retailers in China.

**VETERANS**

HB 22 – Improvements to Missouri Veteran’s Homes, Cemeteries (Rep. Allen Icet)

This legislation will provide over \$16 million in funding for improvements and repairs to Missouri veteran’s homes and cemeteries. Missouri operates seven veterans’ home across the state and five veterans cemeteries.

HB 82 – Income Tax Deduction for Military Retirement Benefits (Rep. Will Kraus)

This legislation would provide a tax deduction from a taxpayer's Missouri income for 15% of any military retirement income, regardless of age or income. The tax deduction rate will increase by 15% annually until 2016 when it is fully phased in and all of the military retirement income will be deductible.

HB 12 – Missouri Veterans Stories (Rep. Allen Icet)

Legislators maintained \$600,000 in funding for the Veterans’ Video History Project. This is the fourth year that the State of Missouri will be filming veterans as they talk about their experiences serving in the military and fighting for our freedoms from World War II to the War on Terror. Preserving these American heroes’ firsthand accounts of their involvement in military history is crucial for archival and educational purposes.

HB 427 – Benefits and Services for Missouri Veterans (Rep. Scott Largent)

This legislation will create new membership guidelines for the Missouri Veterans Commission. The act also creates new educational grant programs for Missouri veterans. This bill would also put in place greater protection parental custody rights when military personnel are called to active duty or are serving abroad.

-MORE-

## **HEALTH CARE**

### SB 157 – Sets into law the five regional autism projects in Missouri (Rep. Eric Schmitt)

This act codifies the five regional autism projects currently serving persons with autism and their families through the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Mental Health. The regional projects provide services, including assessment, advocacy, communication and language therapy, crisis intervention, life skills, and respite care.

### HB 22 – Funding for the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center (Rep. Allen Icet)

This act will provide over \$31 million for construction of new facilities at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center in Columbia. This world-class cancer center provides state of the art cancer research and treatment for patients from every county in Missouri.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### HB 22 – Funding for Interoperable Communications (Rep. Allen Icet)

More than \$112 million in federal stimulus funds will be used for the implementation of an interoperable communications system that will allow local, county, state and federal authorities to communicate between agencies on new, state-of-the-art equipment.

###