

CAPITOL OFFICE

State Capitol – Room 403B
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City MO 65101-6806
Tele: 573-751-1344
Fax: 573-526-7739
E-Mail: tom.loehner@house.mo.gov

HOME ADDRESS

632 Loehner Ln.
Koeltztown MO 65048
Tele: 573-744-5516

Committees

Agriculture Policy
Appropriations-Transportation and Economic
Development
Conservation & Natural Resources

TOM LOEHNER
State Representative
District 112

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2007

For more information please contact Representative Tom Loehner at 573-751-1344

Hello from the capitol!

Happy belated Easter. I hope everyone had a great Easter weekend. I know it was a very cold one. I think we had 17 or 18 degrees on Saturday morning and a wind chill that must have been in the single digits.

The grass looked really bad on Monday but after a rain on Tuesday and warmer weather on Wednesday things are looking up. My dad always said grass won't grow unless the frost is washed off.

Our grape growers in the state suffered a serious loss with the hard freeze. Not only did they lose most of this year's crop, they fear that a large portion of their vines will die as well. This will affect grape and wine production for several years to come.

House committee action is slowing down with most of the activities focused on bills coming from the Senate because any House bill heard in committee now will not have enough time to make it through both the House and Senate.

We had our gravel bill, House Bill 628, passed out of the House Rules Committee. This bill is a result of a large amount of work between special interest, landowners, and several other interested groups.

On House floor debate this week we took up HCS HB 952 & 674 which deals with the requirement for sprinkler systems for long-term care facilities. This legislation requires all long-term care facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Senior Services to install and maintain approved sprinkler systems in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) by August 28, 2007. Residential care facilities and certain single-story assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities that were initially licensed and had approved sprinkler systems installed prior to August 28, 2007, must comply with the current regulations by August 28, 2012 when the facilities must comply with NFPA 13, National Electric Code. All long-term care facilities must also be equipped with a complete fire alarm system upon licensure or August 28, 2009, whichever comes

first. Each floor of any facility must also be divided by two one-hour rated smoke-stop partitions.

The department may require employees and contract personnel of any long-term care facility to be awake, dressed, and prepared to assist residents in case of an emergency and the facility to have an emergency preparedness plan.

There were several amendments. One amendment put a compliance date of existing nursing homes at 2019. This amendment also offered a plan for financial assistance to help bring these homes into compliance.

The House passed HB 182 this past week. This legislation establishes the Outside the Hospital Do-not-resuscitate Act which requires that a copy of a do-not-resuscitate order must be included as the first page of a patient's medical record. A patient or patient's representative and the patient's attending physician may execute an outside the hospital do-not-resuscitate order. The Department of Health and Senior Services must develop and approve uniform forms and personal identifiers. The identifiers must alert any emergency medical technician, paramedic, first responder, or other health care provider of the existence of this order for the patient.

Emergency medical technicians, paramedics, first responders, and other health care providers are required to comply with an outside the hospital do-not-resuscitate order or identifier unless the patient or patient's representative expresses to the personnel in any manner, before or after the onset of a cardiac or respiratory arrest, the desire to be resuscitated. A physician or a health care facility other than a hospital that is unwilling or unable to comply with this order must take all reasonable steps to transfer the patient to another physician or facility where the order will be followed.

House Bill 551 was passed out of the House. This legislation establishes the Line of Duty Compensation Act which allows a person designated by a law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or firefighter to file a claim for compensation with the Division of Workers' Compensation in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations within one year of the death of the law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or firefighter if he or she was killed in the line of duty. The amount of compensation for the claim will be \$100,000, subject to appropriation, for deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2009. A burial benefit of up to \$10,000 will also be payable to the surviving spouse or the estate of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who is killed in the line of duty.

The House also passed House Bill 224. This is a bill that restricts the driver's license of a convicted sexual offender to one year unless the license is issued for a shorter period of time due to other requirements of law. A license will be revoked if the offender fails to register on the Sexual Offender Registry as required by law.

The driver's license of a sexual offender will predominately display a unique code or identifier. The fee for the one-year license will be \$7.50.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina the people of New Orleans were left defenseless during a dangerous and confusing time. The people that remained in their homes or with their possessions were subjected to widespread looting, crime, and violence. The police abandoned the city and in essence marshal law took effect. It was every man, woman, and child for themselves. Sadly, these citizens who were already cut off from food, medical care, and in many cases escape, were left unarmed and defenseless. The New Orleans police chief made the decision that his officers would disarm the citizens of New Orleans and confiscate any weapon found on a New Orleans citizen. In the end the old saying rang frighteningly true, when guns are outlawed only the outlaws had the guns.

This horrible decision by the New Orleans police chief took a dangerous situation to the next level and placed more lives in danger. We all watched the news coverage of the area. Looters and gang members were seen firing upon med-evac helicopters and the military personnel trying to enter the city to help the stranded citizens. These defenseless, scared, desperate citizens were at the mercy of the gun carrying criminals bent on taking whatever they wanted from businesses, homes, and people on the street. Because of this decision to ban the ownership and carrying of firearms by law abiding citizens the city of New Orleans turned into a den of crime, violence, and increased danger.

The decision by the New Orleans police chief protected no one and did nothing to stop crimes from being committed. All it did was take a dangerous situation and make it even more dangerous for the average citizen and the police department. That is why we in the Missouri General Assembly passed a bill this week that would prevent something like that from happening in the State of Missouri during declared emergency situations.

We passed a very short, very simple bill, Senate Bill 257, that protects and reaffirms every law abiding Missourian's right to keep and bare arms. This one sentence bill states: *the state, any political subdivision, or any person shall not prohibit or restrict the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition during an emergency.* Missouri will not allow our citizens to be held at the mercy of criminals and violent law breakers during situations in which the attention of law enforcement must be directed toward more pressing issues, such as a state or national emergency.

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to serve as your state representative.