

2011 Missouri Recovery Network Advocacy Day

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



House Bill 75-Expungement of Criminal Records

Sponsored by: Senator Curls, District 41

What is does: This bill authorizes certain criminal records, including convictions for any non-violent felony crimes or misdemeanors, to be expunged after 8 years as long as the person has completed his or her imprisonment, period of probation or parole, and has not been convicted of or placed on probation for any misdemeanor or felony during that time.

Talking points:

- Expungement would allow those individuals who have worked hard to obtain long-term recovery, acquire better jobs, support themselves and/or their families without state assistance, and fight discrimination prevalent towards those in recovery.
- An individual's past addictions should not define his/her lifetime employment opportunities.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE/NOTES:

House Bill 509-Food Stamp Eligibility for Certain Felons

Sponsored by: Senator Curls, District 41

What is does: This bill specifies that certain felons of non-violent, drug-related crimes will be eligible for the Federal Food Stamp Program benefits if the individual is successfully participating in treatment, on a treatment waiting list, has satisfactorily completed a substance abuse treatment program approved by the Dept. of Mental Health, Division of ADA; or an ADA certified treatment provider determines that the individual does not need substance abuse treatment; or the individual is successfully complying with all obligations imposed by the court, ADA, and the Division of Probation and Parole with the Dept. of Corrections. The individual must also meet all other factors for food stamp program eligibility.

Talking points:

- No other felony conviction results in a loss of food stamp eligibility.
- Currently, the 1996 Federal Welfare Reform law created a lifetime ban on Food Stamps for individuals convicted of a drug related felony, including mothers in need of food stamps and WIC (the women's and infant's nutrition program).
- The state of MO would receive over \$7 million/ year in federal funds if this bill passes.
- 36 other states receive additional Federal food stamp dollars for "opting out"

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE/NOTES:



House Bill 641-Currently Untitled

Sponsored by: Rep. Ward Franz, District 151

What is does: This bill would add different forms of synthetic marijuana, K3, and bath salts to the list of illegal schedule 1 substance.

Talking points:

- In the first six weeks of 2011, the Missouri Poison Center has already documented twice as many exposures to “bath salts” compared to the entire 2010 year.
- “Bath salts” contain substances that can cause increased heart rate and blood pressure, as well as agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia, delusions, and death.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE/NOTES:

TANF Child Protection and Drug Free Home Act

Sponsored by: Senator Goodman, District 29

This act combines House Bills 73 and Senate bills 5, 7, 74, 169

What is does: Requires TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) case workers to report when a recipient fails or refuses a drug test in relation to work activities. Then, the recipient has two choices:

- 1) Be ineligible for TANF benefits for 2 years from the date of the administrative hearing
- 2) Continue to receive benefits while successfully completing a treatment program administered by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and not test positive for illegal drugs in the 6 month period beginning on the date the individual enters treatment. If the recipient tests positive for illegal drugs again, the recipient will be declared ineligible for TANF benefits for 2 years.

Talking points:

- While the intention of the bill is sound, the wording will add to the problem of long waiting lists for treatment
- A phone survey conducted in December 2010 for ADA providers found that there were **3,883** people on waiting lists for ADA services
- According to a fiscal note for HB 73, this would cost upwards of \$2 million per year. Where is that money coming from?
- Due to lack of funding and resources, substance abuse treatment facilities are at capacity and only priority populations are accepted.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE/NOTES:

House Bill 658– Creates the Meth Lab Elimination Act

Sponsored by: Rep, Schatz, District 11

What is does: This bill proposes that pseudoephedrine be available through prescription only, instead of over-the-counter. This bill would classify that all methamphetamine drugs in Schedule IV and V be moved to a Schedule III drug.

Talking points:

- Missouri ranked #1 in the country for meth lab seizures and incidents from 2001-2009
- Cities, counties, and states that require a prescription for pseudoephedrine have seen a dramatic decrease in meth labs
- Methamphetamine cannot be produced with out pseudoephedrine or ephedrine
- Meth prevalence rates in MO across all ages are high than the national estimate

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE/NOTES:
