



**Put In Your 2¢ Worth...**  
**About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually  
to reduce the impact of  
alcohol problems in Missouri.**

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**Question:**

Legislators rightfully ask about “compelling state interest” when they see proposed legislation, since not every problem requires a legislative solution. What is “compelling” about alcohol-related problems, and what “state interests” are affected?

**Answer:**

The state has a compelling interest in alcohol, as an intoxicating substance -- not just as a commercial enterprise, but as matters of essential public health, safety and well-being. This is clearly recognized in state law. Missouri’s official motto, visible on every state seal, is “*Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto*,” Latin for “Let the Welfare of the People Be the Supreme Law.” The Latin word *salus* has been translated as “health” and “safety” in other documents.

## MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #6

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The Missouri Revised Statutes contain more than 350 sections dealing with alcohol-related problems. Three entire chapters are devoted to prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, as well as control, licensing, excise charges, penalties and enforcement. No attempts have been made to repeal these statutes on a large scale since they were enacted. Each year a dozen or more alcohol-related bills are introduced. The most frequently enacted legislation in recent years liberalizes access to alcoholic products in terms of days, hours and locations at which alcohol may be sold at retail.

Two units of state government have wide-ranging mandates in this regard: the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the Department of Mental Health, and the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control in the Department of Public Safety. However, other divisions and departments have statutory mandates related to such alcohol-related matters as drunk driving and boating, education, medical exams and inquests, toxicology, law enforcement, military justice, conduct by public officials and professionals, emergency services, local governments, childrens services, weapons offenses, compensation of victims, and many others.

**The Coalition believes that the time for smarter government is now.**

***For more information call one of the  
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