



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

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

Question:

This is the final day of the 2005 Regular Session of the Missouri General Assembly, and the final Alcohol Impact Fact Sheet. What do you think you have accomplished?

Answer:

We have distributed directly to legislators' offices, and to the Capitol press corps, one brightly-colored fact sheet on each day the legislature has been in session (excepting technical sessions). 69 fact sheets, each one prepared especially for the occasion, i.e. not "canned" material. To the best of our knowledge, this has never been done before – in Missouri's capitol or any other state capitol – and may well never be done again.

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #69

- A "**two-penny post-mortem:**" The legislation which would have increased the state excise tax rates by the equivalent of two cents per drink, with proceeds applied to the reduction of alcohol-related problems, did not pass. **Fact:** The bill did not even get a public hearing. The rates on beer and liquor remain as set in December, 1970.
- This has been a **unique educational enterprise,** communicating the factual basis for a consideration of what the Coalition believes to be essential public policy concerns.
- Has everyone read the information provided? Of course not. The same question, and the same answer, could apply to *any* reading material. **Fact:** Some legislators did read them, in spite of their busy schedules. Some of the facts appeared in discussion of alcohol-related legislation debated **in committee or on the floor,** e.g. drunk driving, underage drinking, effects of alcohol problems on workers' compensation, school safety, etc. Several of the questions addressed in the series were asked by legislators during the course of the session.
- **Fact:** Legislators have expressed appreciation for having the fact sheets **available** in the files, ready for use in work with their constituents, in public presentations, campaign speeches, etc. Some have a new appreciated for the need to "connect the dots." They will also know where to go for further information.
- **Fact:** A number of the Legislative Assistants, Aides, and Interns (future legislators?) report that they have read most, if not all, of the fact sheets distributed. The Coalition applauds them. A "trivia contest" was even suggested, but rejected because it would have been too disruptive. We were asked whether there would be a "final exam" on the material (!?) The answer: We leave that to your constituents. They will have **the last word.**

For more information call one of the Missouri's Alcohol Impact Coalition members below:

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