

STORM LEGISLATIVE REPORT
March 10, 2008

Missouri – This week at Jefferson City was an exciting week. We met with not only Senator Shoemyer the sponsor of our bills but also with Senator Griesheimer the Co-sponsor. Unfortunately the Chairman of the Insurance Committee, Senator John Loudon had not yet set a date for a hearing on any of the bills. We also met with several of the key people concerning the legislation that has been introduced.

The Collision Industry has never had a day at the Capitol as an industry. Senator Shoemyer suggested that a “Collision Day at the Capitol” would be a positive approach to reaching many of the legislators. Tentative plans were discussed for such a day with key stakeholders. At moment a tentative date (subject to change) will be April 9, 2008 8:00 A.M.

A day at the capitol gives the industry a time to meet with their legislator or the legislator’s assistant and show support of the industry Bills that have been introduced. The industry will have a chance to make the statement that they are interested in the legislative process and united in helping their customer. What is extremely important is that chance for everyone’s voice to be heard while showing unity in the industry by delivering the Collision Industry message to someone associated with the legislative process. **Those wishing to participate should contact our office either by email or phone. Email, bobsmith@storminc.com Phone, 816-254-9900 – Above all watch our web site for date, time and agenda**

Kansas – Things were somewhat different in Kansas as they were on break this week. All bills to be considered this session had to clear committee before break. Unfortunately as we stated last week we have to report that because of a special interest group who had a problem, not related to the issues set forth in the bills, none of our bills made it off the committee chairman’s desk. It was unfortunate that bills affecting the consumer and independent business were not allowed a hearing because of their position.

The good is that the industry and its supporters are in a position to be ahead of the curve next session with additional support for next session.

It is felt these were extremely important consumer oriented bills which would have ensured that the consumer is correctly compensated for the damage to their vehicles as well as set guide lines for open business competition deserved a hearing before the committees. Plans are for re-introduction of these bills next session. They are important to the collision industry customer, the vehicle owner and will be pursued for the benefit of the consumer and unrestrained competition in the business of collision repair.

SPECIAL NOTE Missouri - *It is still very important for the collision repairer and any other supporters (shop owners have employee’s, friends, and neighbors) to contact their legislators and let them know that they support the bills relating to consumer issues in Missouri. In Missouri a bill may get a hearing before the committee up to the end of the session.*

As previously mentioned a “Collision Industry Day at the Capitol” is in the planning process. The time line on this “Day at the Capitol” will be short but it will set the norm for next years “Day”. It is important that as many attend as possibly so that the size and impact of your industry is realized within the Capitol. It also shows the support that those who champion our bills have from a united industry.

MISSOURI

SB 775 – Prohibits automobile insurers from requiring the use of specific repair shops and imposes certain conditions on physical damage appraisers.

Summary and Full Text of Bill may be found at
http://www.senate.mo.gov/08info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=149

SB 868 - Makes it an unfair practice for an insurance company not to follow all components of a repair manual when appraising a damaged vehicle

Summary and Full Text may be found at:
http://www.senate.mo.gov/08info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=116

SB986 – Under this act every physical damage appraiser is required to give the consumer a copy of the estimate of damage describing the labor and parts needed on the vehicle and use the manual or automated system in it's entirety without modification to establish the estimated price of repair. It also states the estimator will provide a copy of any additional amounts to the consumer. Most importantly it establishes that an appraiser shall not develop a pattern or practice of preparing estimates of damage that vary over 10% from the completed repairs.

Official Summary and Full Text may be found at

http://www.senate.mo.gov/08info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=47472

SB775 – SB868 – SB986 Sponsors and Hearing Committee

Sponsor – Senator Wes Shoemyer

wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov

Co-Sponsor – Senator John Griesheimer

JGriesheimer@senate.mo.gov

Small Business, Insurance & Industrial Relations Committee Chairman

john.loudon@senate.mp.gov

Other Bills

HB1486 – Exempts vehicles newer than 6 years from State Inspection. (Oppose) [Sponsor Rep. Jason Brown]

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/bills/hb1486.htm>

HB 1564 - Does away with vehicle safety inspection (Oppose) [Sponsor Rep. Paul LaVota]

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/bills/hb1564.htm>

These bills relate to the mechanical field but bear watching by the collision industry. The mechanical segment of the industry does not favor either of these bills.

As mentioned earlier contacting your local legislator and those who have support our industry at this point showing support of these bills is very important. In addition an email of support to Senator Shoemyer's office (wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov) will help show the unity of the industry and the concern for this legislation if you do not know who your legislator is, this link will help you locate them. www.moga.mo.gov you may go to the web site find your Representative or Senator and get contact information.

Any information relayed to us for your legislator will be sent directly to the proper legislator.

THINK of THIS – All the associations and those they represent account for approximately 16,000 professionals in the Missouri auto repair industry, this constitutes a large constituency to be considered.

KANSAS

HB2651 <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/2651.pdf>

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These bills did not receive a hearing for 2008 even though they were on the chairman's desk for hearing. These bills will be re-introduced, so let your legislator know of your concern they were not heard and support for these bills.

To find your legislator go to the Kansas Legislative web site and locate the proper legislator for your district. Kansas Legislative Web Site <http://www.kslegislature.org/redistricting.html>

How can you help?

1. Contact your local Representative or Senator expressing support for the bills in your state which effects the collision industry.
2. Email the Chairman of the proper committee expressing a desire to see that the bills to have hearings as soon as possible.

Be sure when you email your legislator you include the name of all those working for you in the signature if they agree because as a business owner you employ several people who should favor these bills also. You may also know others in the community that would support our efforts, in addition family members, remember they are consumers also, and should be willing to show support for this important legislation. Above all be sure to sign your emails, those without a signature line will likely (unfortunately) be ignored.

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