



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senate Considers Sen. Mayer's Proposal For Public School Collective Bargaining Process

JEFFERSON CITY – The Senate Education Committee considered a bill this week sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, that will establish statewide procedures for teaching groups and school districts involved in collective bargaining negotiations. Senate Bill 1158 creates the Professional Relationships Between Teachers and School Districts Act.

Last year, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled the state's public employees, including public school teachers, have the right to bargain collectively.

"This new era for public school collective bargaining is vital for better working and learning conditions in our Missouri schools," Sen. Mayer said. "Establishing an appropriate framework will help make this process more successful for elementary and secondary and junior college educators and their respective governing bodies."

Sen. Mayer's proposal will create an employee representation council, consisting of representatives of any or all associations within a school district, which will work with school district administrators to resolve salary, benefits and other issues. If issues cannot be resolved mutually, disputes will be settled by the State Board of Mediation, which will be given some oversight of the state's collective bargaining process. Any appeals will be considered by a circuit court.

Other provisions of the bill include a six-month time limit to file claims, with some exceptions, and the prevention of strikes and lockouts.

"As chair of the Senate Education Committee and as a longtime supporter of quality education for all students in our state, I believe this collective bargaining system will allow teachers and other school personnel a genuine voice at the bargaining table and contribute to greater public schools for Missouri students," Sen. Mayer said.

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Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.