



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senate Gives Sen. Mayer's Bill to Rebuild Disaster-Affected Schools First-Round Approval

JEFFERSON CITY — A bill sponsored by state Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, that would allow the state board of education to distribute no-interest loans to school districts that have incurred significant building damage or destruction due to catastrophic events, has received first-round approval by the Missouri Senate.

Sen. Mayer's [*Rebuild Missouri Schools Program*](#) (Senate Bill 1170) would allow school districts with one or more school facilities declared a disaster area by the governor or president to apply for no-interest loans through a 20-year repayment agreement.

"This measure will assist school districts in communities like Caruthersville that are struggling to come up with the money to rebuild their schools following a natural disaster," Sen. Mayer said.

Two years ago, a tornado ripped through Caruthersville and nearly destroyed the school. The school must be rebuilt to strict building codes in order to withstand an earthquake because it lies within the New Madrid Fault Zone.

Under the program, schools districts eligible for the *Rebuild Missouri Schools Program* must have experienced a pre-set level of damage or destruction as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to an act of God.

A second vote would move the proposed bill to the Missouri House for similar consideration. Sen. Mayer's measure was also included in a House omnibus education bill today moving through the legislature and appears to be on the fast track for approval.

"Equipping school districts with the means to recover and rebuild following a natural catastrophe is vital to keeping these schools open and available for students," Sen. Mayer said. "This will help ensure that school districts across the state that incur devastating property losses associated with such events will receive the financial assistance they need."

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