



# NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 2, 2003**

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## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION HOLDS FIRST MEETING ON MAKING STATE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT**

JEFFERSON CITY -- At its first meeting on Wednesday, members of the Subcommittee on Competition and Privatization learned that moving toward privatization in state government could be a complicated process, but may ultimately save the State of Missouri millions of dollars.

The scope of this committee's examination is government-wide. There are no specific targets for privatization among the states agencies and programs, nor are there any sacred cows.

The committee's task is to identify state government services that could be provided to Missouri citizens better and more efficiently through private resources. While cost savings is a goal, maintaining and improving quality is equally important.

"Obviously privatization can't be accomplished overnight, it will take time and hard work," said Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, chairman of the joint committee. "In the end, though, I believe the move will make state government both more efficient and more cost-effective."

The idea of privatization – the transfer of services or assets from the government to private firms – has been around since the 1960s.

A number of states including Texas, Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Michigan have begun privatizing some parts of state government.

Created under SCR 13, the joint committee has been charged with investigating ways to reduce costs in state government and increase quality of services to citizens through utilization of private resources with certain aspects of state government.

The committee is made up of a mix of members of the General Assembly and private citizens.

In addition to Nodler, committee members are: Sen. Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood; Sen. Joan Bray, D-St. Louis; Sen. Pat Dougherty, D-St. Louis; Rep. Mark Abel, D-Festus; Rep. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring; Rep. Allen Icet, R-Wildwood; Rep. Brian Yates, R-Lee's Summit; Nikki Sells, owner of Express Personnel Services, Springfield; Robert Vitale, Westgate Equity Partners, L.P., St. Louis; Carmen Schulze, executive director of Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies, Jefferson City; Greg Echele, executive director of Family Resources Center, St. Louis; Patty Boyer, vice president and chief financial officer of Boycom Cablevision, Poplar Bluff; Terry Dunn, president of JD Dunn Construction, Kansas City; Mark Levison, Lathrop and Gage, St. Louis; and Andre Williams, chief executive officer of St. Louis Fatburger, St. Louis.

"This committee's membership includes both lawmakers and private sector representatives," said Nodler. "We hope that this mix will incorporate the broadest possible perspective as we complete this task."

The committee has scheduled its next meeting for Dec. 15, at the State Capitol in Jefferson City.

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