



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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SEN. GARY NODLER'S EDUCATION BILL EARNS SOLID COMMITTEE APPROVAL

JEFFERSON CITY – Legislation drafted and advanced by Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, today earned resounding approval from the Senate's Pensions and General Laws Committee. The measure, Senate Bill 55, renames Missouri Southern State College to Missouri Southern State University-Joplin.

"This isn't a maneuver to try and 'outshine' other high caliber learning institutions in Missouri," Sen. Nodler said. "What it will do is help broadcast the merits of Missouri Southern's exceptional level of academic quality that the school has worked so hard and long at."

Sen. Nodler's senate measure also broadens residency requirements for appointees to Missouri Southern's board of regents by asking that candidates only be Missouri residents within a 60-mile radius of the college's district. Currently, regents must live within the district proper.

"What this does is open up the pool of qualified regents from which to choose from," Sen. Nodler said. "A higher caliber of regents and a higher caliber of school will then create a higher caliber of graduating young men and women."

Committee approval sends Sen. Nodler's education bill, which does not rely on state funds to enact, to the Senate floor for debate by the full body. Senate passage would send the bill to the House of Representatives, where it would undergo similar deliberations. Passage in both chambers would allow the bill to become state law.

"This legislation has already developed a strong base of support in the Senate," Sen. Nodler said. "I think Senators, Representatives and the Governor all understand how meaningful the potential impact of this bill is. It really has the power to improve the quality of education for today's students and for the students of tomorrow."

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