

## State Senator John Loudon's Job Creation Package Clears Committee

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*Early Legislative Success Allows Full Senate to Take Up Debate*

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JEFFERSON CITY – Two bills introduced and advanced by Senator John Loudon, R-Ballwin, designed to improve Missouri's business climate, and in turn the state's economy, earned committee approval this week.

"Several important economic indicators are showing the makings of a fiscal recovery on the local, state and national fronts, but we're still along way away from the vitality of the late 1990s," Loudon said. "To help strengthen and speed the recovery, I am advancing legislation that impels employers to hire people and grow their business, and prevents downsizing, layoffs, and lowered revenues for state services and programs."

Loudon wrote his Open Contracting Act (Bill 736) to stem the job-eroding power of project labor agreements (PLAs) by preventing cities, counties and the state from imposing PLA and PLA-type labor requirements as conditions for building public works projects.

"Organized labor routinely enters into PLAs to lock out non-union contractors from participating on public projects," Loudon said. "PLAs subvert the sound business principles of open competition and make a mockery of the once universally recognized definition of fair play."

“These mandates exponentially increase the price of public projects by disqualifying qualified, professional low bidders,” Loudon said. “And then these inflated costs are put on the backs of the taxpayers tapped to pay for the projects in the beginning.”

Loudon drafted Senate Bill 856 to reform Missouri’s workers’ compensation law. Among several provisions, the bill allows payment for an injury only if incurred in an on-the-job accident that was the dominant factor in causing the condition. The act also limits benefits for pre-existing conditions exacerbated in work-related injuries and voids claims on injuries occurring en route to work.

“Those harmed on the job warrant, and should receive workers’ compensation,” Loudon said. “But the system – and by extension, the employers funding the system – need safety checks in place that will catch and deny fraudulent claims.”

Loudon chairs the Senate’s Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations Committee, the panel approving SB 736 and SB 856. The swift action propels Loudon’s business development bills to the Senate floor for debate by the full body. Senate passage sends the measures to the House, and passage in both chambers puts the bills into effect.

“Forty-nine other states and countless nations are competing with Missouri in the economic development race,” Loudon said. “Now is the time to put the Show-Me State out in front of the pack by making it easier to create, do and grow business in Missouri.”

➤ Senator Loudon represents Missouri’s 7th Senate District.  
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