

Senator John Loudon's Nuisance Removal Bill Speeds Toward Law

Bill Extends Power of Derelict Vehicle Statute To 2008

JEFFERSON CITY – Having sped through the Senate, legislation advanced by Senator John Loudon, R-Ballwin, extending the sunset date of a state statute governing the removal of abandoned vehicles unanimously cleared a House panel and is now up for approval by the full chamber. As no opposition arose in committee, the measure is considered a “consent” bill, a status all but assuring final passage.

Last year, Loudon successfully shepherded into state law a bill (SB 621) allowing Hazelwood to remove derelict, or essentially abandoned cars, trucks and trailers considered public nuisances, and then charge the cost of the nuisance removal and disposal to the property owner. Loudon wrote the bill, which was originally slated to expire this August, in answer to a specific site in Hazelwood littered, ostensibly out of spite, with abandoned cars and other junk.

“We got this law on the books thinking a year would be enough time to clean this area up,” Loudon said. “But the absentee property owner has tied this up in the courts to the point where we’re running short of time before the law expires.”

Loudon’s current legislation (SB 1114) extends the expiration date of the nuisance statute (§ 82.291) to August of 2008.

“I’d rather have the mess already cleaned up than having to extend this customized nuisance law,” Loudon said. “But doing so gives us a better opportunity to return this land to a state compatible with the community.”