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**SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY  
SEN. MATT BARTLE THAT WOULD REDUCE LAWMAKERS' SALARIES**

JEFFERSON CITY -- A Senate committee today considered budget reduction legislation introduced by Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit, which would reduce the salaries of members of the General Assembly by 3 percent for the 2005 Fiscal Year.

"For the third consecutive year, we are being forced to make some difficult budget decisions," Bartle told the Senate Financial and Governmental Organization, Veterans' Affairs and Elections Committee. "I believe the General Assembly should take the lead and approve a small cut in their own salaries. It sends a strong message to the people of Missouri."

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives currently make a salary of \$31,351. A 3 percent cut would save the state \$217,126.

"In terms of the Missouri budget, this is not a significant amount," Bartle said. "But I think it's important that we make this cut. We have teachers and state employees who have not had a raise for years. We are going to share in their pain, this cut will affect our personal pocketbooks."

Last session, lawmakers rejected a 5.8 percent raise recommendation by the Missouri Citizens Commission on Compensation.