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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO LEGISLATION  
WHICH WILL SOLVE CRIMES AND KEEP MISSOURI SAFE**

JEFFERSON CITY -- The people of Missouri will be safer as the result of bipartisan legislation passed Tuesday by the Missouri General Assembly. Final passage was given to Senate Bill 1000, sponsored by Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit, which will allow Missouri to take a sample of DNA of all individuals convicted of a felony in the custody of the State Department of Corrections in order to assist federal, state and local law enforcement with solving and prosecuting crimes. House Majority Leader Jason Crowell served as House handler of this measure.

"This bill will literally save lives," said Bartle. "It will prevent murders, it will stop rapes and it will insure that those who commit a crime are convicted."

Ironically, Senate Bill 1000 received approval on the same day that a Kansas City man arrested for the murder of a dozen women over three decades pled innocent in a Jackson County courtroom. Kansas City police arrested Lorenzo J. Gilyard in April, after using money from a federal grant to begin DNA testing of evidence in the city's cold case files.

"This man is off the streets only because the police were able to match his DNA with DNA found at the crime scenes," Bartle said. "I believe hundreds of crimes across the state will be solved as a result of provisions included in SB 1000."

Missouri law currently allows for DNA samples to be taken from felons convicted of crimes involving sexual offenses but does not allow testing of other felons.

Under SB 1000, any individual who is convicted of a felony must provide a sample of DNA for profiling analysis. The DNA sample will be taken with a swab from the convicted felon's mouth.

DNA, the chemical that embodies a person's genetic programming, can be found almost everywhere. People shed a constant torrent of dead skin cells. Criminals leave

blood when breaking and entering; they shed hair and skin cells in fights, deposit saliva on glasses and leave sweat stains in head bands. From only a few cells in such sources, enough DNA can be extracted to identify the owner.

The cost of administering this test will be paid through a \$30 surcharge to be assessed in each circuit court proceeding filed in Missouri in a criminal case in which a defendant pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is convicted of a felony and a \$15 surcharge that will be assessed as a cost in cases in which the individual pleads or is convicted of a misdemeanor.

Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Mike Sanders, with whom Bartle worked closely in drafting SB 1000, stated, "As we've seen time and time again, advances in DNA technology have allowed us to reach back decades in order to solve crimes and bring about an increased sense of closure to victim's families. Additionally, DNA has been instrumental in exonerating those who have been wrongly convicted. This landmark legislation will be instrumental in our pursuit of justice. We have brought Jackson County as well as the State of Missouri into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by using advanced technology in the fight against crime. I am very proud to have supported this legislation."

All DNA records and biological material retained in the DNA profiling system will remain a closed record, and will be available only to law enforcement and other official uses.

"DNA databases are highly regulated and safeguards have been put in place to ensure that this genetic information is not accessed by unauthorized persons," Bartle said. "The only purpose of this database is to solve and prevent crimes."

Having been passed by the Missouri Legislature, SB 1000 will be sent to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

