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Senator John Cauthorn Prefiles Bill that Targets Methamphetamine Production

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Legislation vital to fighting the war on drugs is one of several bills prefiled by Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, in advance of the General Assembly's 2005 regular session. Beginning July 1, state senators could place bills with the senate secretary, who on December 1 began assigning official numbers to the prefiled legislation. After the session convenes on Jan. 5, senators must introduce bills on the chamber floor.

"I wanted to hit the ground running as I've done in years past," Cauthorn said. "There's a limited amount of time in the legislative session to get things done and prefiling expedites some lawmaking preliminaries."

Cauthorn took special care during the interim to draft and prefile a bill that requires that any compound, mixture, or preparation containing pseudoephedrine be dispensed, sold, or distributed by a pharmacist or licensed technician. Because off-the shelf ingredients as common as cold pills can be used in the production of methamphetamine, a dangerous and addictive drug it is becoming increasingly prevalent in our state. Cauthorn's drug war legislation makes it harder for those cooking methamphetamine to have access to the ingredients they need and therefore harder to produce this dangerous drug. Pseudoephedrine is a primary active ingredient found in many cold remedies and also used in methamphetamine production.

“The corrosive and pervasive scourge of meth warrants a further clamping down on all facets of the drug’s illegal production, distribution and use,” Cauthorn said. “Initiatives like this come from working with state public safety department officials, county sheriffs and methamphetamine taskforce members.”

Cauthorn, citing a Republican-led state senate, house and governor’s office, predicted his legislation will soon be another tool for our law enforcement to use to fight the scourge of methamphetamine.

“With a governor coming on board who will put the public’s safety and wellbeing ahead of politics, and a strengthened majority in the legislature, Missourians are on course to a brighter, safer and stronger future,” Cauthorn said.

The First Regular Session of Missouri’s 93rd General Assembly convenes at noon, Jan. 5 and adjourns at 6 p.m., May 13.

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