



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Senator John Cauthorn's State Employee Act Signed Into Law

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*Those Working Overtime Will Now Get Paid Overtime*

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MEXICO, MISSOURI -- Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, today expressed satisfaction in knowing legislation he supervised, enabling state employees to receive fair and actual compensation for working added hours, was signed into law by the governor early this morning.

"A lot of times what happens is an employee will accumulate dozens, even hundreds of hours of authorized compensatory time, but is then unable to take the comp time because of schedules that forced the person to work the added hours to begin with," Cauthorn said. "This legislation directs departments to compensate employees for overtime hours monetarily, instead of having workers rack up time off hours that are very often hard to use. I.O.U.s don't pay the bills."

The basis for the law stems from components of a bill introduced by Cauthorn during the year's legislative session that subsequently moved through the legislature as House bill that Cauthorn handled in the Senate. Among several other provisions, HB 1548 shields state employees discussing department operations with lawmakers and state officials from punitive "whistle blower" retributions.

"The ones who really know what's going on in the state agencies are the men and women on the front lines," Cauthorn said. "There should be no fear of reprisals for informing elected office holders on things that are going right, and wrong in the machinery of state government."

The governor's June 8 signature puts Cauthorn's legislation into effect August 28, after which several provisions are in force, with the complete act applied in full beginning January 1, 2006.