



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Gary Nodler Secures Adoption of Privatization and Competition Panel's Final Report

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, today presided over a conference-call meeting of the Missouri General Assembly's Subcommittee on Competition and Privatization and secured the adoption of the panel's final report.

"Today represents the culmination of an incredible body of work expended by committee members, staff and private sector representatives," said committee chairman Sen. Nodler. "This collective effort is the catalyst that will spark an ongoing drive toward leaner, more responsive and more effective state programs and services."

Established by a senate resolution drafted and advanced in 2003's legislative session by Sen. Nodler, the competition and privatization panel subcommittee sought ways to reduce state government costs while increasing the quality of state services; primarily through the utilization of private-sector resources, and employing the tenets of competitive bidding.

"Most would agree that many elements of state administration could be more efficiently carried out through increased participation from the private sector," said Sen. Nodler. "A heavier reliance in state government on the principles of competition and supply and demand will benefit those who pay for state services, and those who receive state services."

Senator Gary Nodler

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Among many findings, the panel suggests that:

- While state government does do some things better than the private sector, the private sector does many other things better than state government.
- While all states currently contract with the private sector to some degree, Michigan, Texas and other states serve as privatization models for Missouri to follow.
- Concise, agency-wide criteria, policies and procedures are needed for Missouri to effectively contract with the private sector.
- Establishing a permanent competition and review board overseeing both strategy and implementation is warranted.
- Transition time, personnel impact and quality control issues must be factored into gains projected to accrue through privatization.

The bipartisan committee of eight legislators and eight representatives from Missouri's business community filed an initial report with the General Assembly in January of this year. A series of public hearings held around the state and numerous work sessions led to today's adoption of the draft final report. Minor corrections and revisions identified during the adoption proceedings along with comments from panel members will be incorporated into a perfected final report, which will be submitted to lawmakers by or before Dec. 31.

“Our work as a panel may be largely complete, but our work as legislators has just begun as we look to incorporate the report's sound recommendations into meaningful legislation,” said Sen. Nodler, who is slated to enter the 2005 session as assistant majority floor leader. “Now is the time for us to put our words into action.”

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