



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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John Loudon  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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## Sen. John Loudon Introduces Legislation Strengthening Laws Against Sex Offenders

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JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, filed a comprehensive sex crimes bill today, the first day to pre-file legislation for the 2006 legislative session. Sen. Loudon, whose brother is a probation officer in charge of sex offenders in St. Charles County, spent months drafting the measure in the wake of several high-profile child murders and sex crimes.

“It has become clear that while other crime rates are down after peaking in the late 80s, child abduction and sex abuse remains every parent’s darkest fear,” Sen. Loudon said. “People sense that our state is not doing enough to protect children and they are right. When someone as high-profile as Bill O’Reilly singles out your state and verifies what your brother has been telling you for years, it gets your attention. By strengthening our hand in dealing with these criminals, we really can better protect our citizens.”

Sen. Loudon’s legislation enhances penalties against sexual predators who target children. The measure imposes the sentence of life in prison for sex offenders who commit forcible rape or sodomy or statutory rape or sodomy of children age 11 or younger. Parole is only possible after perpetrators have served 25 years of their sentence. After that period, they must be under supervision for the rest of their lives. Individuals convicted of child kidnapping would be required to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence before they are eligible for parole.

Probation and parole officers also are given permission to search the computer hard drives of sex offenders for evidence of child pornography or other sex crimes. The penalty for using the Internet to entice a child under age 15 to engage in sexual conduct is raised from a C felony (one to seven years in prison) to a B felony (five to 15 years). The aggravated crime is raised from a B felony to an A felony (10 to 30 years or life imprisonment).

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The measure also prohibits suspended imposition of sentencing (SIS) for a number of felony sex crimes in Missouri. SIS is the process of imposing probation instead of a sentence in return for a guilty plea. Under Sen. Loudon’s legislation, sex offenders would be required to serve their time.

Sen. Loudon’s wide-ranging legislation also institutes a toll-free sex offender hotline to be operated by the Missouri Highway Patrol, requires sex offenders to register motor vehicle information, and makes other needed changes to state law.

“Missouri law has to be able to keep up with the criminals in this state,” Loudon said. “New technologies such as the Internet allow these dangerous individuals to threaten the safety of Missouri families, and we have to be able to take the fight to them if we want to be protected.”

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