



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW MISSOURI LAW REQUIRING DNA TESTING OF FELONS
IDENTIFIES RAPIST DUE TO BE RELEASED THIS MONTH**

JEFFERSON CITY – Today Sen. Matt Bartle announced that Missouri’s new all-felon DNA testing law has identified its first violent criminal. “I am pleased to report to that our new law is having immediate positive effects,” said Bartle. “A cold hit in recent days from a DNA sample has been matched with evidence from a violent crime that has until now gone unsolved. Justice can now be done and one more violent predator will be kept off our streets.”

In 2004 Sen. Bartle sponsored and passed SB 1000 which requires that all felons incarcerated in Missouri be required to submit a DNA sample to the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP). These samples are then cross-checked against DNA evidence left at the scene of unsolved crimes for matches. The new law went into effect on January 1 of this year and there have already been positive matches.

Jackson County Prosecutor Mike Sanders, who was instrumental in pushing for the legislation, was elated by the news. “This is a real victory for law enforcement and for the citizens of Missouri,” said Sanders. “Although this law has only been in operation for a matter of days we are already reaping the benefits of catching criminals who have long hidden from their crimes.”

Since January 1, the MSHP Crime Lab has collected samples from 688 offenders at state correctional institutions who are now eligible for collection under the new "all felon" law. So far, 364 samples have been analyzed and uploaded to the computer database known as CODIS to be cross-checked for matches with DNA evidence already on file. The rate of collection and testing of DNA samples from inmates is expected to increase in coming weeks as thousands of inmates await testing.

The inmate identified for the unsolved rape was scheduled to be released later this month. "It is chilling to think that in just a few days the violent rapist and sodomist discovered under this new law would have walked out the door of the prison back into society perhaps to commit further heinous crimes," said Bartle.

"Although I am gratified by the quick results of the DNA testing law so far, I have high expectations that many more unsolved crimes will finally be able to be prosecuted thanks to this new system," said Bartle. "I am pleased by the results so far and commend the hardworking team at the MSHP lab who are shining the light of day on the hidden deeds of these criminals."

Thanks to the positive match, the rape case is being reopened by law enforcement authorities.