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that is morally wrong.*

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CONTACT: Todd Scott (888) 711-9278

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Senators Announce Another Case Solved Using Missouri's New DNA Testing Program
Evidence Linked to Convict in St. Louis Area Eight Year-old Murder Case

JEFFERSON CITY – In an attempt to solve more crimes, Missouri lawmakers voted last year to expand Missouri's DNA database to include samples from all convicted felons in the state. The practice, which was implemented in January, has shed new light on a 1997 case where an elderly St. Louis woman was brutally murdered and raped by an unknown attacker in her apartment. In its first five months of inception, the program has produced more hits than a more limited system found in 2004. The positive match from the new all-felon DNA testing program to evidence gathered from the St. Louis murder "cold" case is the newest success in a stream of positive matches to criminals involved in burglaries, 14 rapes (including three tied to a serial rapist), and two murders.

Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit, sponsored the bill in 2004 and Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, handled it in the House when he was serving as Majority Floor Leader.

"This type of case is exactly why we were so passionate about expanding the DNA database to all felons," Bartle said. "For too long, too many dangerous criminals have been able to run from their crimes. Justice has been delayed but justice will no longer be denied."

At the time of the murder, the felon whose DNA matched that found at the St. Louis crime scene had escaped custody for a work-release program while serving time in a state prison on an unrelated conviction. This March, prior to being released from prison by the Department of Corrections for a separate crime he had committed, he was required to give a DNA sample under the new provisions of the DNA testing program for all felons.

The new program broadened old requirements of only collecting samples of certain violent and sexual offenders. The new program requires that any individual convicted of a felony submit a DNA sample.

"The rationale behind 'all-felon' testing is that many individuals who are incarcerated for lesser crimes are often also guilty of violent crimes that have not yet been solved," Crowell. "The program is proving that rationale true and giving much-needed closure to victims of crimes that have gone unsolved for too long."

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