



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 08, 2005

## **Missouri Senate Passes The “Missouri Quality Jobs Program”**

JEFFERSON CITY -- The Missouri Senate gave final approval yesterday, April 7, to the “Missouri Quality Jobs Program.” This legislation, Senate Bill 343, sponsored by Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee’s Summit in coordination with Governor Blunt’s office, provides important incentives for businesses looking to relocate to, or expand their operations in the “Show-Me” State.

“For too long Missouri has stood on the sidelines and watch economic growth opportunities go to other states,” said Bartle. “Now, with the passage of meaningful tort and workers’ compensation reform earlier this session, combined with the incentives proposed in the ‘Missouri Quality Jobs Program,’ we are poised to jumpstart our state’s economy like never before.”

The program offers a variety of incentives for businesses of all sizes in both rural and urban areas. The primary mechanism of the legislation is a provision that allows eligible businesses to keep the employee withholding taxes they would otherwise have to pay to the state. This would give new or expanding businesses a considerable economic boost during the financially tenuous years immediately following the start of a new business or expansion of an existing one.

Businesses participating in the “Missouri Quality Jobs Program” would be required to offer health insurance to their employees and pay at least half the cost of this benefit. In addition, companies would only be eligible for this program if they create at least 20 new jobs in rural areas and at least 40 in urban areas. Companies that bring over 100 new jobs to the state will be allowed to keep a percentage of their employee’s state withholding tax as well and can qualify for other benefits such as refundable tax credits if their home community also offers local incentives.

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## QUALITY JOBS

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“I am excited about this bill because it induces companies to add high paying jobs in Missouri. That is what Missourians want – more high paying jobs,” said Senator Bartle.

In addition, the program contains a special benefit for tech companies looking to relocate to, or expand in Missouri. Qualifying businesses are allowed to keep withholding taxes and are given refundable tax credits up to 5 percent of their payroll.

“The tech and biotech industry is of critical importance to Missouri if we want to be competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Bartle. “I am pleased to sponsor legislation that commits our state to firmly supporting the growth of this important sector of our economy. Senate Bill 343 demonstrates our resolve by providing significant state investment in each of these valuable companies.”

Senate Bill 343 is now in the Missouri House of Representatives for debate.

Note: Please call Senate Communications at (573) 751-3824 or Senator Matt Bartle’s office at (573) 751-1464 to obtain a two-page summary of the Missouri Quality Jobs Program.

Both this release and the summary will be posted online at:

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/05info/members/newsrel/nr08.htm>

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