



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**For Immediate Release:
Oct. 14, 2005**

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Sen. Barnitz Announces Help for Missourians Hurt by New Driver's License Laws

JEFFERSON CITY – In response to growing concerns that a new Missouri law keeps too many citizens, especially seniors, from obtaining driver's licenses, non-driver's licenses and instructional permits, Sen. Frank A. Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, is glad to announce a new review process for individuals who cannot meet the new requirements.

Under the new law, Missouri resident seeking a driver's license must provide one of the following forms of identification: a U.S. birth certificate issued by the state or local government; a valid U.S. passport; or a certificate of citizenship, naturalization or birth abroad.

If an applicant's name has changed through marriage, a marriage certificate must also be provided. If a woman's name has changed because of a divorce, she must present her birth certificate, an official copy of her marriage license and an official copy of her divorce decree.

"My office has received many calls from folks who cannot provide the required documentation," Barnitz said. "Seniors seem to be especially hurt by this new law, because many of them were never issued birth certificates."

Sen. Barnitz announced today that in exceptional circumstances where proof of lawful presence, identity, Social Security number, and/or residency are not available, personnel authorized by the director of revenue may accept alternative documents as proof of identification.

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The Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) will now allow older citizens and others who do not have a birth certificate or passport to submit other documents such as school records, baby books, baptismal records or U.S. military records as an alternative as proof of lawful presence. Fee office agents have been given a special telephone number to initiate an appeal in exceptional circumstances where a birth certificate or passport is unavailable. DOR has stated that 60-day extensions will be given if the three-member review committee cannot issue a determination on the day that a citizen applies for a driver's license.

Documents acceptable as proof of lawful presence are available on the DOR Web site, www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/idrequirements or by mailing a written request to the Missouri Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 200, Jefferson City, MO. Citizens may call (573) 751-2730 with any questions.

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