



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Jason Crowell Named to State Retirement Consolidation Commission

JEFFERSON CITY—State Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, announced today that he has been named as a member of the State Retirement Consolidation Commission. The commission's main task is to consider the effects of combining Missouri's two retirement systems for state employees.

Approximately 16,000 employees from the Missouri Department of Transportation and the State Highway Patrol Members are under the Missouri Patrol and Employee's Retirement System (MPERS). The Missouri State Employee Retirement System (MOSERS) covers the more than 81,000 other state employees.

"The main problem with having two retirement systems in Missouri is that there is an unnecessary duplication of services," said Sen. Crowell, who chairs the Senate Pension's, Veteran's Affairs and General Laws Committee. "We have two boards, two offices and two staffs with the same responsibilities and duties."

Gov. Matt Blunt recently issued an Executive Order establishing the State Retirement Consolidation Commission to study the possible effects of consolidating on such aspects as administrative boards, funding, investments, retirement plan provisions, benefit services and membership.

"Many states are feeling the pressures of increasing costs and are resorting to drastic measures, such as raising taxes, to keep their retirement systems afloat," Crowell said. "Fortunately, Missouri's systems are sound and healthy, which allows us to be proactive to prevent being faced with financial troubles down the road."

Sen. Crowell, as the only representative from the Missouri Senate on the 14-member commission, is also a member of the MOSERS board and the Joint Committee on Employee Retirement.

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