



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Sen. Jason Crowell

February 17, 2005  
Phone: 573-751-2459

**Senate Gives Final Approval to Legislation Eliminating  
Outrageous Pensions for Administrative Law Judges and Commissioners**

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate gave final approval to legislation that eliminates the Administrative Law Judge and Legal Advisors Retirement Plan (ALJLAP). Senator Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, said the action was needed to stop special treatment of employees and commissioners who were receiving ridiculously large retirement pensions for as little as one day of work.

“These outrageous pensions must end,” Crowell said. “Taxpayers will no longer read about former Republican and Democrat politicians benefiting from these sweetheart retirement deals at their expense.”

The legislation places all new administrative law judges and all new commissioner positions, formerly covered by the ALJLAP, under the Missouri State Employees Retirement System (MOSERS). Currently, administrative law judges and legal advisors become vested immediately upon employment, unlike all other state employees who must work five years before becoming vested in the state system. With MOSERS now encompassing all new administrative law judge and commissioner positions, they would now be required to serve the state for five years before eligibility of retirement benefits would begin, just as all state employees.

“Pensions in the private sector are based on length of service and that’s the way it should be in state government, too,” Crowell said. “Taxpayers should not bear the cost of these golden parachutes.”

-MORE-

The ALJLAP was created in 1984 and covered administrative law judges and legal advisors. It expanded over the next two decades to include the following employees and commissioners:

- 1987: Labor and Industrial Relations
- 1988: Chairman of the State Board of Mediation
- 1994: Legal Counsel for the Division of Labor Standards
- 1997: Administrative Hearing Commissioners
- 1999: Former Administrative Hearing Commissioners

Some of the more recent examples of those benefiting from the Administrative Law Judge and Legal Advisors Retirement Plan include term-limited Senator Ken Jacob, D-Columbia, who was appointed to Labor and Industrial Relations Commission in August of 2004. Jacob served four months before retiring at taxpayer expense. His pension jumped from \$28,739 as a legislator to \$47,615 annually. John Boyd was replaced by Jacob after only 14 days on the same commission. He will receive \$26,783 annually in retirement pensions starting in 2014 for his two weeks of state service.

The bill will next move to the House where it will receive similar consideration. If passed there, it will move to the governor's office where it will take effect upon the governor's signature.

*Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.*