



STATE SENATOR JASON CROWELL - ROOM 323, STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
January 25, 2005

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Senator Jason Crowell's Senate Panel Hears Pension Reform Bills

Outrageous Pensions Must End

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today convened the Senate's Pensions, Veterans' Affairs and General Laws Committee to hear public testimony on a number of bills focused on reforming the Administrative Law Judges and Legal Advisors Retirement Plan (ALJLAP).

Last year Governor Holden appointed term-limited state senator Ken Jacobs to chair the state's Labor and Industrial Relations Commission. Sen. Jacob served for four months on the Commission before retiring with a taxpayer paid \$47,615 annual pension, compared to the \$28,739 pension he would have received as a member of the General Assembly.

"These sweetheart retirement deals that Republicans and Democrats have benefited from must end. We must eliminate this taxpayer funded waste, fraud, and abuse," said Crowell, who noted that, under current law, pension hikes in these circumstances apply whether service on the commission was months, weeks or even a day. "Pensions in the private sector are based on length of service and that's the way it should be in state government, too," Crowell continued. "Taxpayers should not bear the cost of these golden parachutes."

The following legislation was discussed in today's hearing to close this expensive pension loophole:

- Senate Bill 202 merges the state's ALJLAP retirement system into the state employees' retirement system, which has more stringent eligibility standards.
- Senate Bill 183 also merges the ALJLAP retirement system into the state employees' retirement system.
- Senate Bill 33 requires appointees to the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission, the State Board of Mediation, and the Administrative Hearing Commission to serve for 3 years before becoming eligible for the ALJLAP system.
- Senate Bill 45 requires that persons appointed to both the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission and the State Board of Mediation serve 75 percent of a term in order to participate in the ALJLAP system.

Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate and can be reached at (573) 751-2459.