



## Senator Crowell Promotes State Pension Reform

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### *Outrageous Pensions for Politicians Must End*

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The Missouri Senate Committee on Pensions, Veterans' Affairs, and General Laws met for the first time this past week, during which time we discussed the direction of the committee for this new session. There are many issues that the committee, I am honored to Chair, will address, but I wanted to take this time to share with you one important issue relating specifically to waste, fraud, and abuse within the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (MOSERS).

MOSERS was established in 1957 to administer retirement, life insurance, and long-term disability benefits to state employees, including members of the Missouri General Assembly, elected state officials, and judges. The plan originally covered administrative law judges and legal advisors until 1984, when the Administrative Law Judges and Legal Advisors Retirement Plan (ALJLAP) was established. This latter grew to include the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission in 1987, the Chairman of the State Board of Mediation in 1988, Legal counsel for the Division of Labor Standards in 1994, Administrative Hearing Commissioners in 1997, and Former Administrative Hearing Commissioners in 1999.

We all remember the most recent sweetheart retirements of former legislatures. In August of 2004, former State Senator Ken Jacob was appointed by Governor Holden to replace John Boyd on the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission. John Boyd only served a total of 14 days on the Commission, but at taxpayer expense received a \$26,783 annual pension beginning in 2014 (compared to \$153 annually he would have received for prior state service). 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. In 2002, a similar abuse occurred when former State Senator David Klarich served only six months on the Commission and became eligible for a \$47,104

annual pension, compared to the \$18,288 pension he earned as a member of the General Assembly. That same year, former State Representative Kenny Legan began serving as an Administrative Law Judge. Rep. Legan served for 20 months, and his annual pension increased from \$28,739 to \$47,115. These outrageous pensions must end and as Chair of the Missouri Senate's Committee on Pensions, Veterans' Affairs, and General Laws I am committed to eliminating this taxpayer funded waste, fraud, and abuse.

## **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459 or you may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>. Once again, my office staff for the upcoming session consists of Bev Scheulen and Andrew Green. They are available to help you with any of your constituent needs.

Thank you for your time.

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