



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Jason Crowell's Airport Funding Bill To Be Heard in Committee

JEFFERSON CITY – A bill sponsored by Senator Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, that sustains and expands an important funding source for the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

Senate Bill 396 extends the expiration date for the use of jet fuel sales tax revenue in covering aviation maintenance and storage costs for airports from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2013. The measure would also increase the maximum amount that Cape Girardeau's airport can receive for the operations of its air traffic control tower from \$125,000 to \$167,000 per year.

"This legislation benefits the Southeast Missouri area," Crowell said. "Airports are dealing with safety issues and the need for up-to-date equipment and facilities. Having a steady, sufficient amount of funding is very important to the subsistence of airports and the viability of our economy."

Cape Girardeau is the only community in the state that still owns and operates its air traffic control tower. Crowell's bill would increase the amount it receives to operate its air traffic control tower, as well as ensure that the city's airport would continue receiving money generated from the jet fuel sales tax.

"Uninterrupted financial support is needed to maintain funding for a handful of projects such as the construction of a new general aviation terminal at the Cape Girardeau's Regional Airport," Crowell said. "Maintenance and development costs are escalating, and our airports need to keep up with the competitive aviation industry so that they can continue to be an integral part of the state's economy."

Committee approval sends the bill to the Senate floor for debate by the full body.