



MISSOURI SENATE

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Jason Crowell
27th Senate District

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Sen. Jason Crowell Proposes Enhancing Academic Scholarship

JEFFERSON CITY— In support of Missouri's higher education system, Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today announced his plan to improve Missouri's Bright Flight program, which annually provides \$2,000 scholarships to Missouri's top-ranking high school seniors who will attend approved postsecondary institutions in the state.

Crowell will pre-file a measure doubling the scholarship amount to \$4,000 and adding an inflationary index to maintain the future of the scholarship's buying power. When the Bright Flight Scholarship program was developed in 1987, tuition at the University of Missouri was only \$1,485, so the scholarship covered all tuition, fees and some books.

"But considering that each undergraduate today must spend approximately \$8,000 a year on his or her education, the scholarship is outdated," Crowell said. "If we want to encourage Missouri's best academic performers to continue their education in the state of Missouri, the scholarship needs to reflect the rising costs of tuition."

Students with a composite SAT or ACT score in the top 3 percent of all Missouri students qualify for the scholarship. Last year, Missouri awarded 8,390 seniors with the scholarship.

"There are a handful of excellent institutions of higher education in Missouri that our brightest young citizens can attend," Crowell said. "This measure will help retain and maintain the state's educated workforce, which will result in a promising future for all of Missouri."

Lawmakers can begin pre-filing legislation December 1. The Second Regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly will convene Jan. 4, 2006.

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