



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Norma Champion
30th Senate District

For Immediate Release:
March 1, 2005

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House Approves Senator Norma Champion's Name-Change Bill

JEFFERSON CITY— The Missouri House, after several hours of debate, approved a measure sponsored by State Sen. Norma Champion, R-Springfield, that changes the names of up to five institutions of higher education, including Southwest Missouri State University to Missouri State University.

“This legislation is good for Missouri State University, but it is great for the state of Missouri,” Champion said. “Governor Blunt has provided tremendous leadership by consistently demonstrating how this measure is good for our entire state and specifically higher education.”

Since elected to the Missouri Senate in 2002, Champion has made the SMSU name change her top priority. She admits that the legislative process for this bill was challenging.

“One of our biggest hurdles in the name change was overcoming a historic all-night filibuster in the Senate,” Champion said. “I am grateful my colleagues stayed the course and in the end, voted 25 to 7 for the changes.”

The House's equally strong vote of 120 to 35 sends the legislation to the governor who has long supported the measure and is expected to be signed into law.

Senate Bill 98 also renames Missouri Western State College as Missouri Western State University, Harris-Stowe State College as Harris-Stowe State University, and Missouri Southern State University-Joplin as Missouri Southern State University. Central Missouri State University also has the prerogative to change its name to the University of Central Missouri within two years.

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