



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Chris Koster's Military Commission Bill Moves to Governor's Desk

JEFFERSON CITY – Legislation sponsored by Sen. Chris Koster, R-Cass, protecting, retaining and strengthening ties between the armed services and our state received final legislative passage yesterday (4/27) and now awaits only the governor's signature to become law.

Senate Bill 252 establishes the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission, a nine-member panel designed to apprise the governor and the General Assembly on military-related issues such as ongoing developments in the economic and industrial sectors. Commission members will also develop plans bolstering long-term plans for Missouri's military installations that could include strategic regional alliances extending across state lines.

“Along with supporting the defense of our nation, Missouri's military installations and military-based companies provide considerable drive to our local and regional economies,” Koster said. “During a time in which the federal government is again evaluating base consolidations and closures, the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission will play a vital role in illustrating the importance of our state's two military bases.”

Composed of five members to be appointed by the governor and two members each from the House and Senate, the commission will keep the state's communities, legislature, congressional delegation and agencies informed of federal actions affecting Missouri military installations and missions. The commission will also work to improve private and public employment opportunities for former military personnel living in Missouri, and devise strategies and incentive programs for attracting new defense contractors to the state.

Having earned Senate and House approval, the military commission measure is the first of Senator Koster's bills to move to the desk of the governor, whose signature would put the legislation immediately into effect, and the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission into action.

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