

Chris Koster
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 225 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Aaron Washburn (573) 751-1430

## Governor Signs Military Commission Bill Sponsored by Sen. Koster and Rep. Pearce

JEFFERSON CITY – Legislation sponsored by Sen. Chris Koster, R-Cass, and Rep. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, protecting, retaining and strengthening ties between the armed services and our state was signed into law today by the governor.

Senate Bill 252 establishes the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission, a ninemember panel designed to advise 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 regarding community relations and interstate cooperation on military issues.

"The members of our armed forces who serve on one of Missouri's military bases are important to our communities and vital to our economies," Koster said. "I look forward to working with the commission to continue fostering a productive and lasting relationship between the military and military-related businesses."

The commission will devise strategies and incentive programs for attracting new defense contractors to the state, help communities that might be affected if a base relocates or closes, and aim to improve private and public employment opportunities for former military personnel living in Missouri.

Five members appointed by the governor and two members each from the House and Senate will make up the commission. Because the legislation contains an emergency clause, the governor's signature put the bill into effect immediately.

Picture on following page



An electronic copy ("jpeg" format) of this photo showing Governor Blunt signing SB 252 into law can be obtained by calling Sen. Koster's capitol office at: (573) 751-1430.