



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 225
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Chris Koster
31st Senate District

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Contact: Aaron Washburn
(573) 751-1430

Sen. Koster's Expansion of Cass County Judiciary Resources Advances to Governor

JEFFERSON CITY—Legislation authorizing the addition of a new associate circuit judge for Cass County received final passage today from both chambers of the General Assembly.

The provision, which Sen. Chris Koster, R-Harrisonville, offered as an amendment to Senate Bill 420 & 344, creates a new position in the 17th Judicial Circuit District for a much-needed associate circuit judge.

“For nearly a decade people in Cass County have tried to bring attention to this important judicial need,” Koster said. “I am pleased that my colleagues in the House and Senate have recognized the need to improve our judiciary and adopted this provision.”

The 17th Judicial Circuit District has one of the highest case loads per judge in the state. Such a high case load can slow the progress of important cases. “I am confident an additional associate judge would help clear up the logjam and ensure an effective, efficient response for the judicial needs of Cass County,” Koster added.

In 1999 the citizens of Cass County recognized the need for additional judicial resources and approved the construction of a new Judicial Center. “The people recognized that without a new courthouse we would never be able to get a new judge,” Koster said. “Today the legislature has completed the work that began with the construction of that facility.”

The bill will now be sent to the governor. Upon approval, the new position will be open as of Jan. 1, 2006.

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