



# State Senator Harry Kennedy

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## Sen. Kennedy Pre-files Bill to Help Disabled Homeowners

*Bill Would Help Pay for Home Modifications*

JEFFERSON CITY— State Senator Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, has pre-filed legislation to help Missourians pay for disability modifications to their homes.

This bill would allow an individual to receive a tax credit to modify their home for disabled accessibility. These modifications can include: constructing entrance or exit ramps, widening exterior or interior doors, widening hallways, installing handrails or grab bars, moving electrical outlets and switches, installing stairway lifts, installing or modifying fire alarms, smoke detectors and other alerting systems, modifying hardware of doors and modifying bathrooms.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development administers a program called *Rebuilding Communities*. Under the program, up to \$10 million dollars in tax credits may be issued each year. Every year, whether the tax credits are used or not, the program begins again. If halfway through a program year tax credits are unused, they are brought back into the state and reissued to someone else. Sen. Kennedy's legislation would direct those unused funds to the Disability Home Modification Program.

The legislation does set limitations, such as maximum annual income caps, a total program cap, and a cap on individual tax credits of \$2,500, in order to allow more individuals to take advantage of this program.

“This bill is a beginning,” Kennedy said. “This bill is a beginning for the state to recognize that individual mobility and independence is important not just to the individual, but to the community and also for the economic vitality of our state.”

Key points of Sen. Kennedy’s proposed legislation include:

- Maximum \$100,000 reallocation within the Rebuilding Communities Tax Credit Program
- Taxpayers earning less than \$30,000 are eligible for 100% of the modification costs with a tax credit worth up to \$2,500 maximum.
- Taxpayers earning between \$30,000-60,000 are eligible for a tax credit worth 50% of the cost of modification, up to \$2,500.

***Senator Kennedy can be contacted at the State Capitol – Phone: 573-751-2126.***

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